

SUMMARY

The total number of international tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka during September 2018 was 149,087. In comparison to September last year, there was a growth of 2.8% when the arrivals were 145,077.

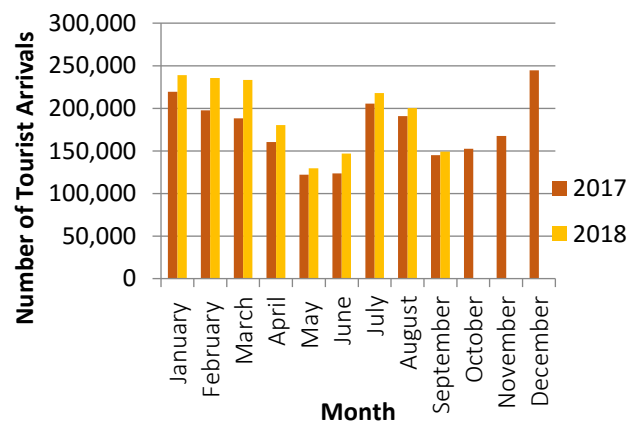
This month, the largest source market for tourists was India, followed by China and United Kingdom.

Almost 98% of tourists travelled by air to Sri Lanka.

As at 30th September 2018, 1,731,922 tourists had visited Sri Lanka for this year. It is a 11.6% growth over last year when 1,551,931 tourists had visited the country during the same period.

| Month | 2017 | 2018* | % Change 2017/ 2018 |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| January | 219,360 | 238,924 | 8.9 |
| February | 197,517 | 235,618 | 19.3 |
| March | 188,076 | 233,382 | 24.1 |
| April | 160,249 | 180,429 | 12.6 |
| May | 121,891 | 129,466 | 6.2 |
| June | 123,351 | 146,828 | 19.0 |
| July | 205,482 | 217,829 | 6.0 |
| August | 190,928 | 200,359 | 4.9 |
| September | 145,077 | 149,087 | 2.8 |
| October | 152,429 | | |
| November | 167,511 | | |
| December | 244,536 | | |
| TOTAL | 2,116,407 | | |
| Up to September | 1,551,931 | 1,731,922 | 11.6 |

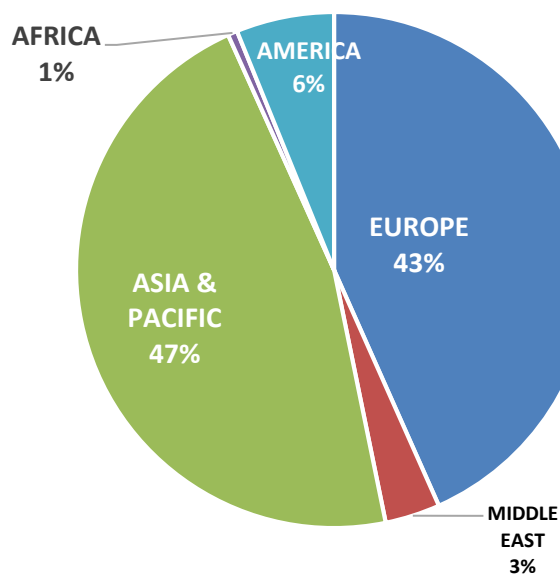
*Rebased



TOURIST ARRIVALS BY REGION

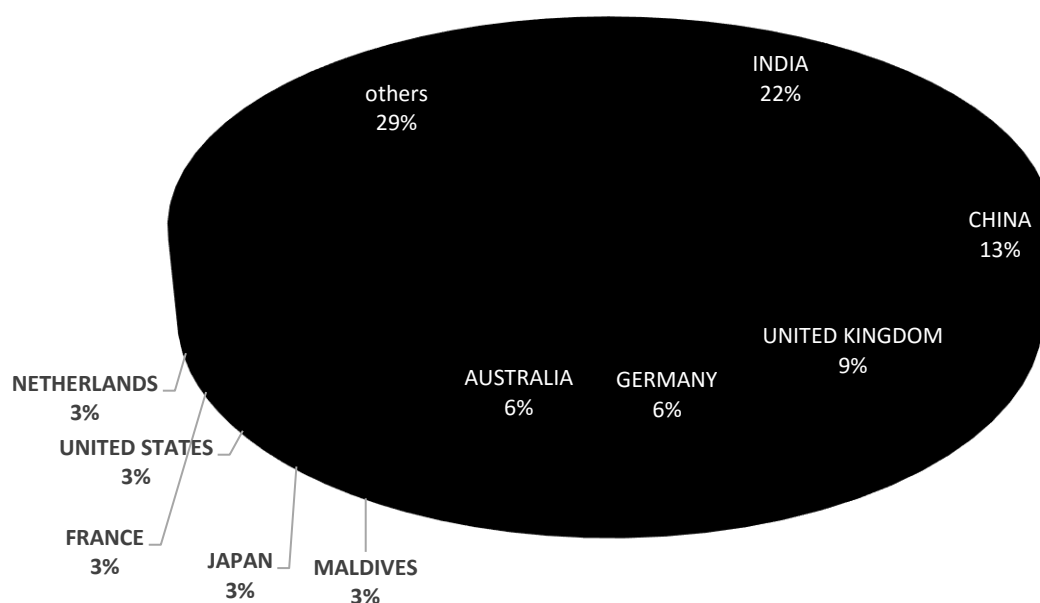
Asia and Pacific continued to be the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 47% of the total traffic received in September 2018.

Europe accounted for 43% of the total traffic, America 6%, Middle East 3% and Africa 1%.



TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS

India, China, United Kingdom, Australia and Germany were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in the month of September this year. India was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 22% of the total traffic received in September 2018. China accounted for 13% of the total traffic, while United Kingdom, Australia and Germany accounted for 9%, 6% and 6% respectively.



| Rank | Country of Residence | Tourist Arrivals September 2018 | | | Tourist Arrivals September 2017 | % Change September 2017/2018 |
|------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | By Air | By Sea | Total | | |
| 1 | INDIA | 31,658 | 642 | 32,300 | 34,481 | (6.3) |
| 2 | CHINA | 19,511 | 89 | 19,600 | 18,939 | 3.5 |
| 3 | UNITED KINGDOM | 14,007 | 219 | 14,226 | 12,593 | 13.0 |
| 4 | GERMANY | 9,659 | 9 | 9,668 | 8,574 | 12.8 |
| 5 | AUSTRALIA | 8,665 | 81 | 8,746 | 6,310 | 38.6 |
| 6 | MALDIVES | 4,695 | 0 | 4,695 | 5,522 | (15.0) |
| 7 | JAPAN | 4,479 | 1 | 4,480 | 4,254 | 5.3 |
| 8 | UNITED STATES | 3,793 | 613 | 4,406 | 3,204 | 37.5 |
| 9 | FRANCE | 4,308 | 8 | 4,316 | 4,637 | (6.9) |
| 10 | NETHERLANDS | 4,037 | 12 | 4,049 | 3,818 | 6.1 |

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

| | | SEPTEMBER 2018 | | | Total Tourist Arrivals September 2017 | % Change September (2017/2018) | Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to September 2018 |
|--|--|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | | Tourist Arrivals ¹ | | | | | |
| | | By Air | By Sea | Total | | | |
| AMERICAS | | 7,145 | 657 | 7,802 | 6,020 | 29.6 | 106,380 |
| North America | | 6,726 | 656 | 7,382 | 5,615 | 31.5 | 100,242 |
| Canada | | 2,861 | 42 | 2,903 | 2,328 | 24.7 | 42,099 |
| Mexico | | 72 | 1 | 73 | 83 | (12.0) | 1,196 |
| United States | | 3,793 | 613 | 4,406 | 3,204 | 37.5 | 56,947 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Caribbean & Central America | | 67 | 1 | 68 | 69 | 1.4 | 679 |
| Jamaica | | 7 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0.0 | 87 |
| Costa Rica | | 26 | 0 | 26 | 9 | 188.9 | 103 |
| Others | | 36 | 1 | 37 | 53 | (30.2) | 491 |
| | | | | | | | |
| South America | | 352 | 0 | 352 | 336 | 4.8 | 5,459 |
| Argentina | | 92 | 0 | 92 | 68 | 35.3 | 1,450 |
| Brazil | | 102 | 0 | 102 | 127 | (19.7) | 2,082 |
| Chile | | 55 | 0 | 55 | 61 | (9.8) | 735 |
| Colombia | | 43 | 0 | 43 | 34 | 26.5 | 484 |
| Others | | 60 | 0 | 60 | 46 | 30.4 | 708 |
| AFRICA | | 1,059 | 10 | 1,069 | 933 | 14.1 | 10,343 |
| North Africa | | 291 | 3 | 294 | 228 | 28.9 | 2,210 |
| Morocco | | 63 | 0 | 63 | 62 | 1.6 | 735 |
| Sudan | | 141 | 1 | 142 | 95 | 49.5 | 674 |
| Others | | 87 | 2 | 89 | 71 | 25.4 | 801 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | | 768 | 7 | 775 | 705 | 9.4 | 8,133 |
| Kenya | | 55 | 0 | 55 | 51 | 7.8 | 510 |
| Mauritius | | 79 | 0 | 79 | 49 | 61.2 | 497 |
| Nigeria | | 47 | 0 | 47 | 33 | 42.4 | 312 |
| South Africa | | 410 | 3 | 413 | 320 | 29.1 | 4,930 |
| Others | | 177 | 4 | 181 | 252 | (29.0) | 1,884 |

| | | SEPTEMBER 2018 | | | Total Tourist Arrivals September 2017 | % Change September (2017/2018) | Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to September 2018 |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| | | Tourist Arrivals ¹ | | | | | |
| | | By Air | By Sea | Total | | | |
| <u>ASIA & PACIFIC</u> | | 79,832 | 1,282 | 81,114 | 83,815 | (3.2) | 804,871 |
| | | | | | | | |
| North East Asia | | 25,437 | 115 | 25,552 | 24,862 | 2.8 | 267,854 |
| China | | 19,511 | 89 | 19,600 | 18,939 | 3.5 | 209,912 |
| Japan | | 4,479 | 1 | 4,480 | 4,254 | 5.3 | 39,304 |
| South Korea | | 949 | 21 | 970 | 1,150 | (15.7) | 11,927 |
| Taiwan | | 470 | 4 | 474 | 488 | (2.9) | 6,556 |
| Others | | 28 | 0 | 28 | 31 | (9.7) | 155 |
| | | | | | | | |
| South East Asia | | 5,876 | 324 | 6,200 | 6,270 | (1.1) | 62,936 |
| Cambodia | | 37 | 0 | 37 | 39 | (5.1) | 660 |
| Indonesia | | 350 | 31 | 381 | 561 | (32.1) | 3,965 |
| Malaysia | | 1,889 | 14 | 1,903 | 1,564 | 21.7 | 16,963 |
| Myanmar | | 138 | 21 | 159 | 174 | (8.6) | 2,300 |
| Philippines | | 1,063 | 243 | 1,306 | 1,583 | (17.5) | 14,856 |
| Singapore | | 1,510 | 10 | 1,520 | 1,336 | 13.8 | 14,449 |
| Thailand | | 655 | 3 | 658 | 692 | (4.9) | 6,973 |
| Vietnam | | 220 | 2 | 222 | 290 | (23.4) | 2,531 |
| Others | | 14 | 0 | 14 | 31 | (54.8) | 239 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Oceania | | 9,598 | 94 | 9,692 | 7,150 | 35.6 | 88,805 |
| Australia | | 8,665 | 81 | 8,746 | 6,310 | 38.6 | 78,756 |
| New Zealand | | 911 | 12 | 923 | 813 | 13.5 | 9,811 |
| Others | | 22 | 1 | 23 | 27 | (14.8) | 238 |
| | | | | | | | |
| South Asia | | 38,921 | 749 | 39,670 | 45,533 | (12.9) | 385,276 |
| Afghanistan | | 34 | 0 | 34 | 74 | (54.1) | 696 |
| Bangladesh | | 749 | 22 | 771 | 1,344 | (42.6) | 7,838 |
| Bhutan | | 38 | 0 | 38 | 34 | 11.8 | 467 |
| India | | 31,658 | 642 | 32,300 | 34,481 | (6.3) | 301,784 |
| Iran | | 194 | 36 | 230 | 684 | (66.4) | 5,021 |
| Maldives | | 4,695 | 0 | 4,695 | 5,522 | (15.0) | 51,413 |
| Nepal | | 337 | 40 | 377 | 372 | 1.3 | 3,789 |
| Pakistan | | 1,216 | 9 | 1,225 | 3,022 | (59.5) | 14,268 |

| | | SEPTEMBER 2018 | | | Total Tourist Arrivals September 2017 | % Change September (2017 /2018) | Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to September 2018 |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | Tourist Arrivals ¹ | | | | | |
| | | By Air | By Sea | Total | | | |
| EUROPE | | 54,847 | 869 | 55,716 | 47,056 | 18.4 | 750,594 |
| Northern Europe | | 16,837 | 233 | 17,070 | 14,807 | 15.3 | 248,907 |
| Denmark | | 571 | 5 | 576 | 420 | 37.1 | 15,278 |
| Finland | | 231 | 0 | 231 | 143 | 61.5 | 5,972 |
| Norway | | 598 | 7 | 605 | 550 | 10.0 | 13,454 |
| Sweden | | 651 | 0 | 651 | 547 | 19.0 | 18,183 |
| United Kingdom | | 14,007 | 219 | 14,226 | 12,593 | 13.0 | 187,704 |
| Others | | 779 | 2 | 781 | 554 | 41.0 | 8,316 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Western Europe | | 22,135 | 29 | 22,164 | 20,436 | 8.5 | 296,941 |
| Austria | | 875 | 0 | 875 | 658 | 33.0 | 14,578 |
| Belgium | | 1,384 | 0 | 1,384 | 1,119 | 23.7 | 13,939 |
| France | | 4,308 | 8 | 4,316 | 4,638 | (6.9) | 85,365 |
| Germany | | 9,659 | 9 | 9,668 | 8,574 | 12.8 | 111,590 |
| Netherlands | | 4,037 | 12 | 4,049 | 3,818 | 6.1 | 46,295 |
| Switzerland | | 1,824 | 0 | 1,824 | 1,593 | 14.5 | 24,363 |
| Others | | 48 | 0 | 48 | 36 | 33.3 | 811 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Central / Eastern Europe | | 7,235 | 359 | 7,594 | 5782 | 31.3 | 121,292 |
| Belarus | | 174 | 0 | 174 | 85 | 104.7 | 3,287 |
| Czech Republic | | 889 | 0 | 889 | 558 | 59.3 | 12,786 |
| Estonia | | 30 | 4 | 34 | 38 | (10.5) | 1,708 |
| Hungary | | 147 | 0 | 147 | 144 | 2.1 | 3,246 |
| Kazakhstan | | 132 | 0 | 132 | 107 | 23.4 | 2,070 |
| Lithuania | | 141 | 1 | 142 | 89 | 59.6 | 2,445 |
| Poland | | 1,079 | 38 | 1,117 | 735 | 52.0 | 14,078 |
| Romania | | 278 | 25 | 303 | 269 | 12.6 | 4,057 |
| Russian Federation | | 1,532 | 58 | 1,590 | 1521 | 4.5 | 42,053 |
| Slovakia | | 205 | 0 | 205 | 152 | 34.9 | 3,950 |
| Ukraine | | 2,084 | 208 | 2,292 | 1687 | 35.9 | 25,545 |
| Others | | 544 | 25 | 569 | 397 | 43.3 | 6,067 |

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|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------|---------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | Tourist Arrivals ¹ | | | | | |
| | | By Air | By Sea | Total | | | |
| Southern / Mediterranean Europe | | 8,640 | 248 | 8,888 | 6,031 | 47.4 | 83,454 |
| Greece | | 328 | 183 | 511 | 360 | 41.9 | 5,644 |
| Italy | | 1,644 | 10 | 1,654 | 1,365 | 21.2 | 29,687 |
| Portugal | | 333 | 1 | 334 | 343 | (2.6) | 3,896 |
| Spain | | 2,926 | 0 | 2,926 | 2,115 | 38.3 | 22,175 |
| Turkey | | 165 | 16 | 181 | 172 | 5.2 | 3,161 |
| Israel | | 2,778 | 0 | 2,778 | 1,170 | 137.4 | 11,539 |
| Others | | 466 | 38 | 504 | 506 | (0.4) | 7,352 |
| | | | | | | | |
| MIDDLE EAST | | 3,375 | 11 | 3,386 | 7,253 | (53.3) | 59,734 |
| Bahrain | | 99 | 0 | 99 | 291 | (66.0) | 2,357 |
| Egypt | | 224 | 6 | 230 | 309 | (25.6) | 2,772 |
| Iraq | | 125 | 1 | 126 | 108 | 16.7 | 819 |
| Jordan | | 200 | 0 | 200 | 368 | (45.7) | 2,289 |
| Kuwait | | 154 | 0 | 154 | 281 | (45.2) | 2,894 |
| Lebanon | | 366 | 1 | 367 | 407 | (9.8) | 4,270 |
| Oman | | 305 | 0 | 305 | 458 | (33.4) | 6,053 |
| Qatar | | 56 | 0 | 56 | 106 | (47.2) | 1,455 |
| Saudi Arabia | | 1,432 | 0 | 1,432 | 4,003 | (64.2) | 30,168 |
| United Arab Emirates | | 279 | 0 | 279 | 556 | (49.8) | 4,535 |
| Others | | 135 | 3 | 138 | 366 | (62.3) | 2,122 |
| | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | 146,258 | 2,829 | 149,087 | 145,077 | 2.8 | 1,731,922 |

¹ Rebased

* All visitor arrival statistics in this report are from the Department of Immigration & Emigration.