



# Monthly Tourist Arrivals Report:

A Monthly Snapshot of International Arrivals to  
Sri Lanka from Immigration Statistics

**August 2022**

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority



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## Introduction

The following document provides a synthesis of the most recent August, 2022 international visitor arrivals data sourced from the Department of Immigration & Emigration. The data is current as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, and subject to change. The data provides an overview of month-on-month and annual changes in visitor arrivals to Sri Lanka from international source markets. The data is meant to provide an overview of how travel and tourism is performing to Sri Lanka.

This report is developed by the Research & International Relations Division at Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), with the technical support from the Australian Government funded Market Development Facility (MDF Sri Lanka) and Twenty31 Consulting Inc. Questions, comments and feedback are welcome and will support the future amendment and enhancement of the report to ensure it meets the data and insights needs of Sri Lanka's Government and industry stakeholders.





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## Summary

The total number of international tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka during August 2022 was 37,760. Tourist arrivals for the month of August have plunged by almost 65.5%, in comparison to March 2022, which recorded the highest number of tourist arrivals up to August, 2022. This could be a result of the effects of the current economic and political situation in Sri

Lanka, and the gradual cessation of the peak travel season.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, 496,430 international tourists had visited Sri Lanka for this year. The largest source markets recorded for the month of August were the United Kingdom, India, Germany followed by France and Canada.

**Table 1. Monthly tourist arrivals, August 2022**

Month	2018	2021	2022	% change 2022/21	% change 2022/18
January	238,924	1,682	82,327	4,794.6	(65.5)
February	235,618	3,366	96,507	2,767.1	(59.0)
March	233,282	4,581	106,500	2,224.8	(54.3)
April	180,429	4,168	62,980	1,411.4	(65.1)
May	129,466	1,497	30,207	1,917.8	(76.7)
June	146,828	1,614	32,856	1,935.7	(77.6)
July	217,829	2,429	47,293	1,847.1	(78.3)
August	200,359	5,040	37,760	649.2	(81.5)
September	149,087	13,547	-	-	
October	153,123	22,771	-	-	
November	195,582	44,294	-	-	
December	253,169	89,506	-	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,333,796</b>	<b>194,495</b>			



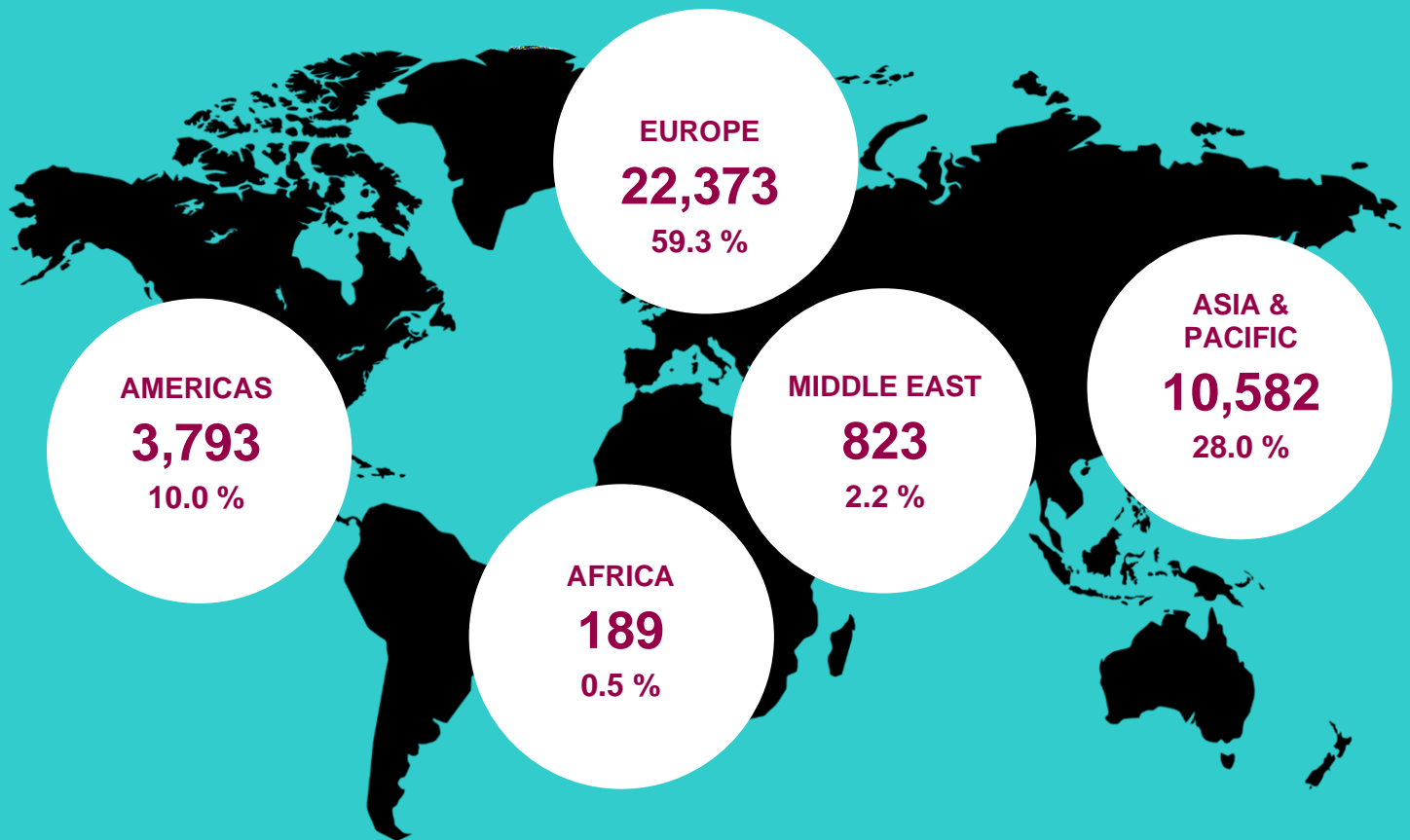
**Tourist Arrivals | August 2022**

**37,760**



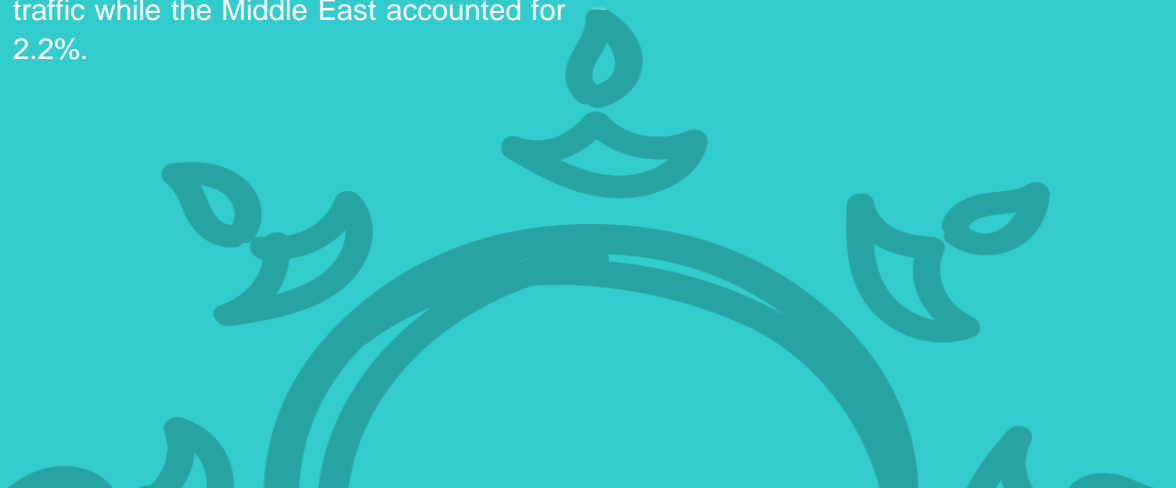
## Tourist arrivals by region and percentage share August 2022

Map 1. Tourist arrivals by region and percentage share



Europe became the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 59.3 % of the total traffic received in August 2022 as a up demand especially from countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany and France is likely to have driven this growth momentum. Asia and the Pacific accounted for 28.0% of total arrivals. The Americas accounted for 10.0% of the total traffic while the Middle East accounted for 2.2%.

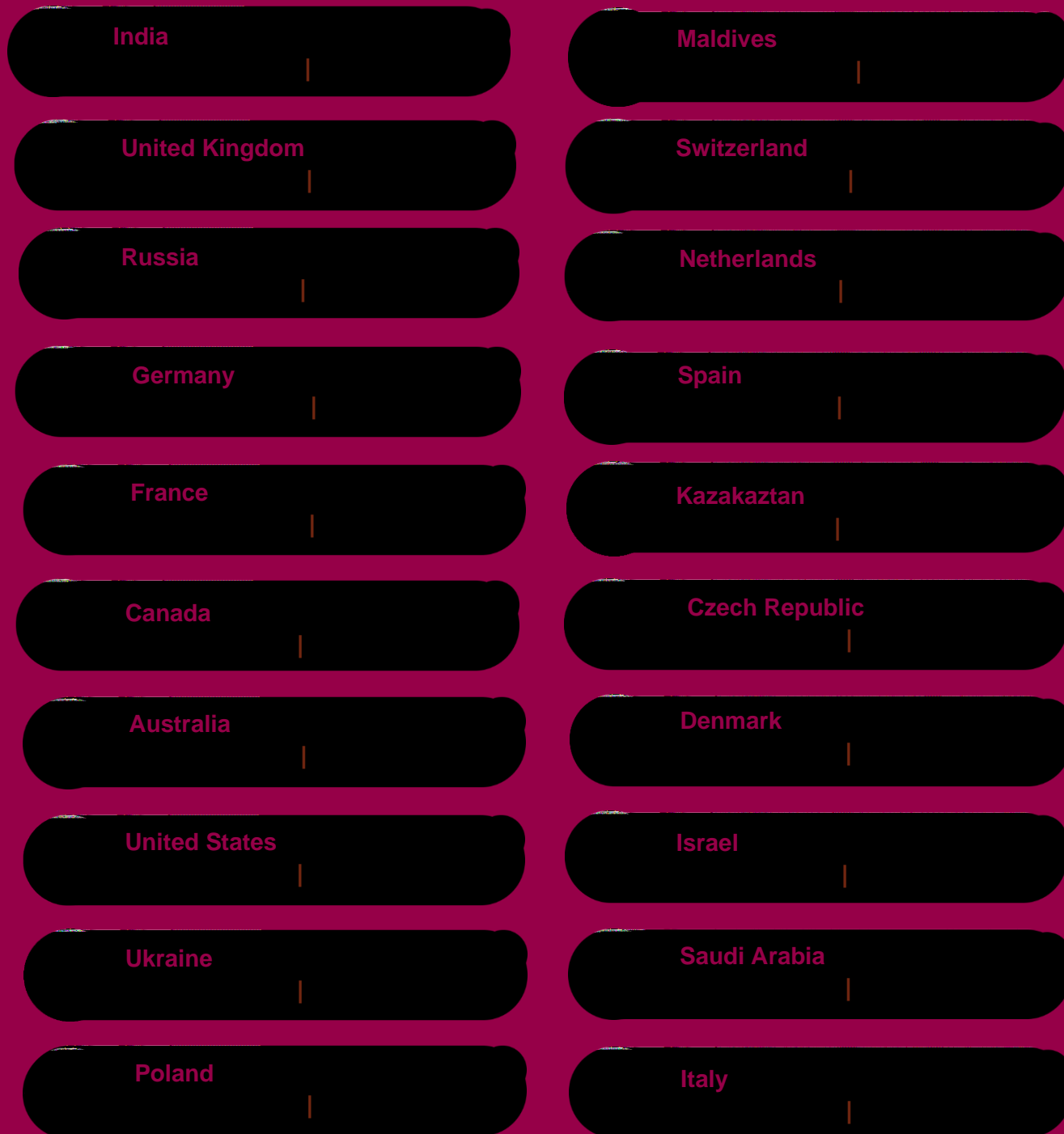
The gradual improvement in international travel was once again threatened by external factors such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, coupled with the related challenging economic environment, and internal factors such as the economic crisis in Sri Lanka .





## Top primary markets and top potential markets

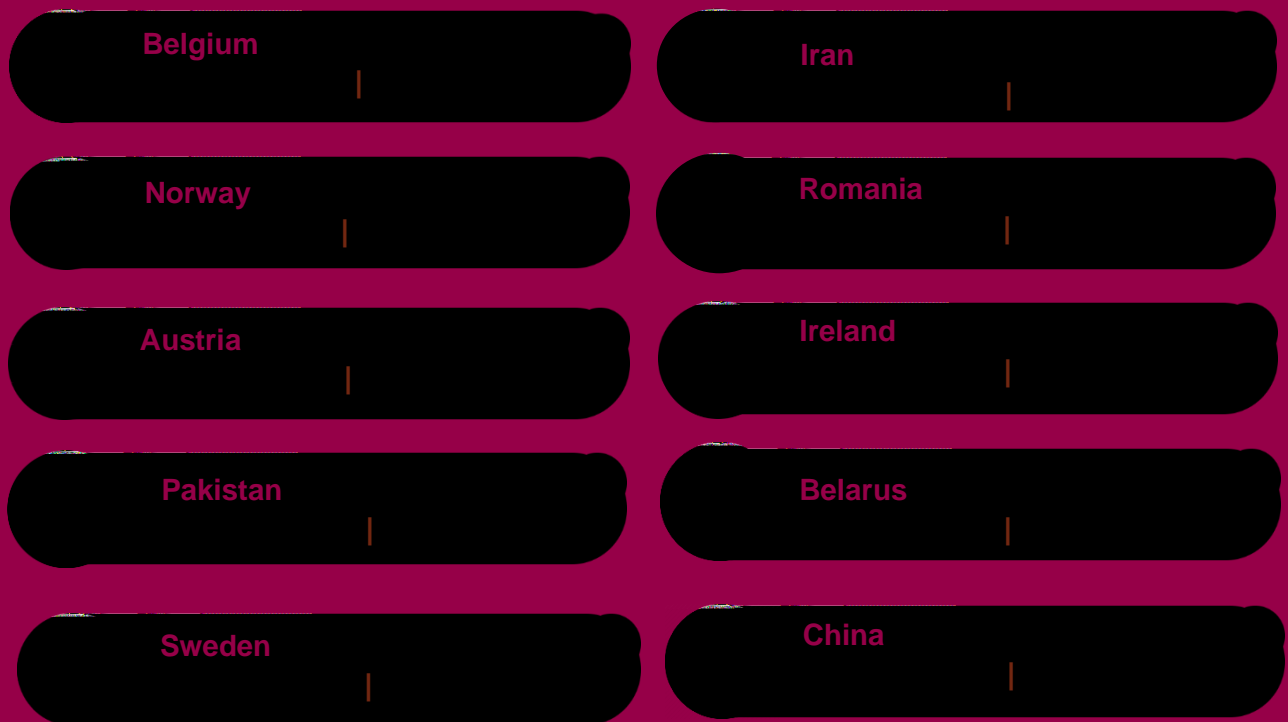
### Top primary markets - January ~ August 2022



Note: The top primary markets for Sri Lanka have been identified using visitor arrivals data, during the last six months. The previous methodology used to identify the markets was altered due to the current arrival trends in the source markets and the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The intention is to track these source markets on a go-forward basis to understand future performance for Sri Lanka's tourism economy, including during the projected international tourism recovery period, 2022-2025.



## Top Potential markets - January ~ August 2022



Note: The top primary markets for Sri Lanka have been identified using visitor arrivals data, during the last six months. The previous methodology used to identify the markets, was altered due to the current arrival trends in the source markets and the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The intention is to track these source markets on a go-forward basis to understand future performance for Sri Lanka's tourism economy, including during the projected international tourism recovery period, 2022-2025.



## Top ten source markets

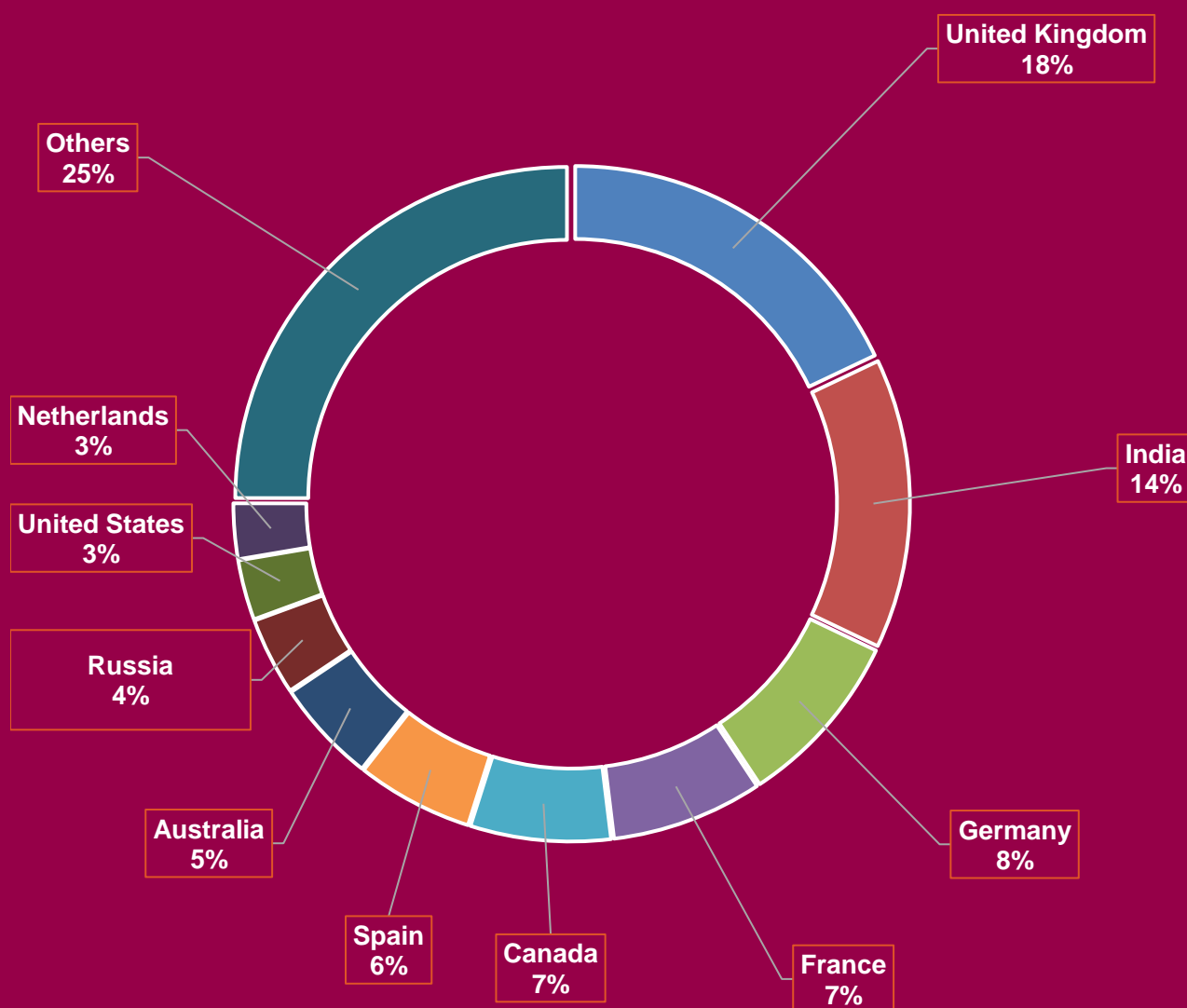
### August 2022

The United Kingdom, India, Germany, France and Canada were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets for the month of August this year. The United Kingdom was the largest source of tourist visits to Sri Lanka with 17.9 % of the total traffic received in August. India and Germany accounted for 14.1% and 8.6 %

of the total traffic respectively while France and Canada accounted for 7.4% and 6.8%.

In comparison to last month the source markets such as United Kingdom, India, Germany, France and Canada have kept their positions as per the same.

Chart 1. Top ten source markets to Sri Lanka, August 2022





**Table 2. Top ten source markets to Sri Lanka, August 2022**

Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (August 2022)			Tourist Arrivals (August 2021)
		By Air	By Sea	Total	
1	United Kingdom	6,776	-	6,776	489
2	India	5,340	-	5,340	405
3	Germany	3,251	-	3,251	515
4	France	2,784	-	2,784	248
5	Canada	2,581	-	2,581	594
6	Spain	2,148	-	2,148	78
7	Australia	1,898	-	1,898	26
8	Russian Federation	1,426	-	1,426	247
9	United States	1,105	-	1,105	311
10	Netherlands	1,021	-	1,021	115

**Top ten source markets, January to August 2022**

India, the United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Germany and France were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist-generating markets from January to August this year.

**Table 3. Top ten markets to Sri Lanka, January to August 2021 & 2022**

Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (Jan ~ August 2022)	Tourist Arrivals (Jan ~ August 2021)
1	India	80,132	1,532
2	United Kingdom	65,655	1,833
3	Russian Federation	49,747	949
4	Germany	40,359	2,238
5	France	28,235	1,276
6	Canada	19,056	1,260
7	Australia	18,412	204
8	United States	14,259	1,339
9	Ukraine	13,908	2,699
10	Poland	13,334	135
11	Other	153,333	10,912
<b>Total</b>		<b>496,430</b>	<b>24,377</b>



Chart 2. Top ten source markets to Sri Lanka, January to August 2022

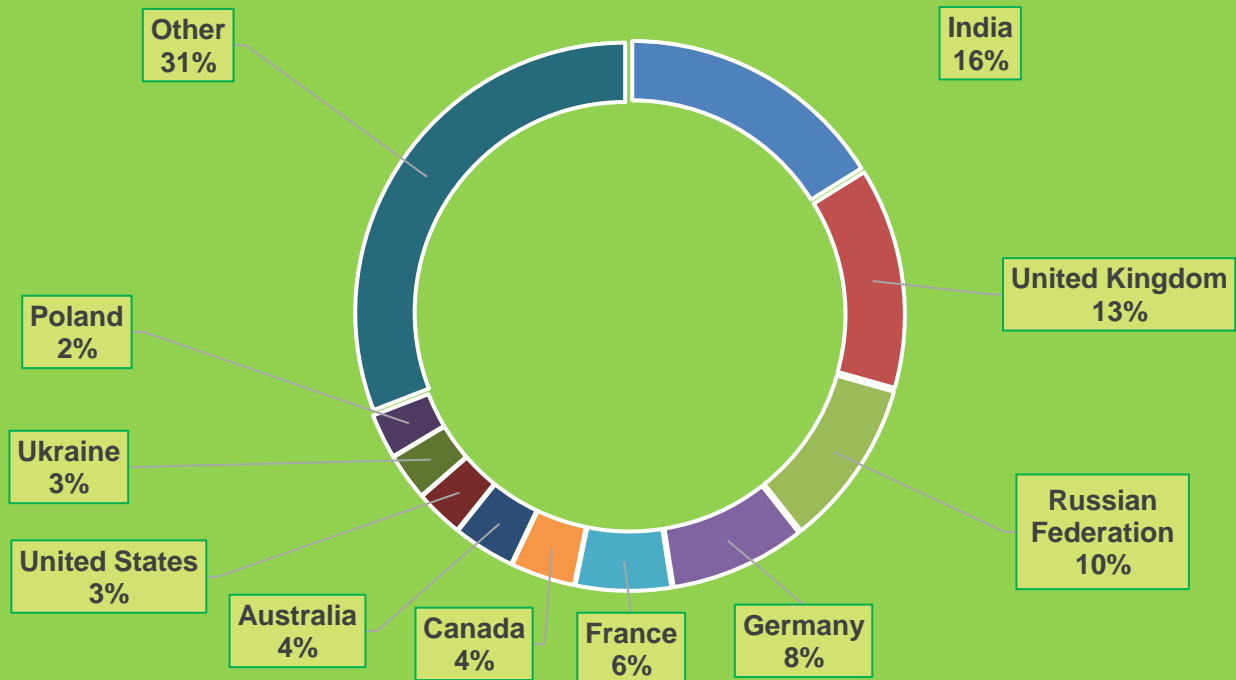
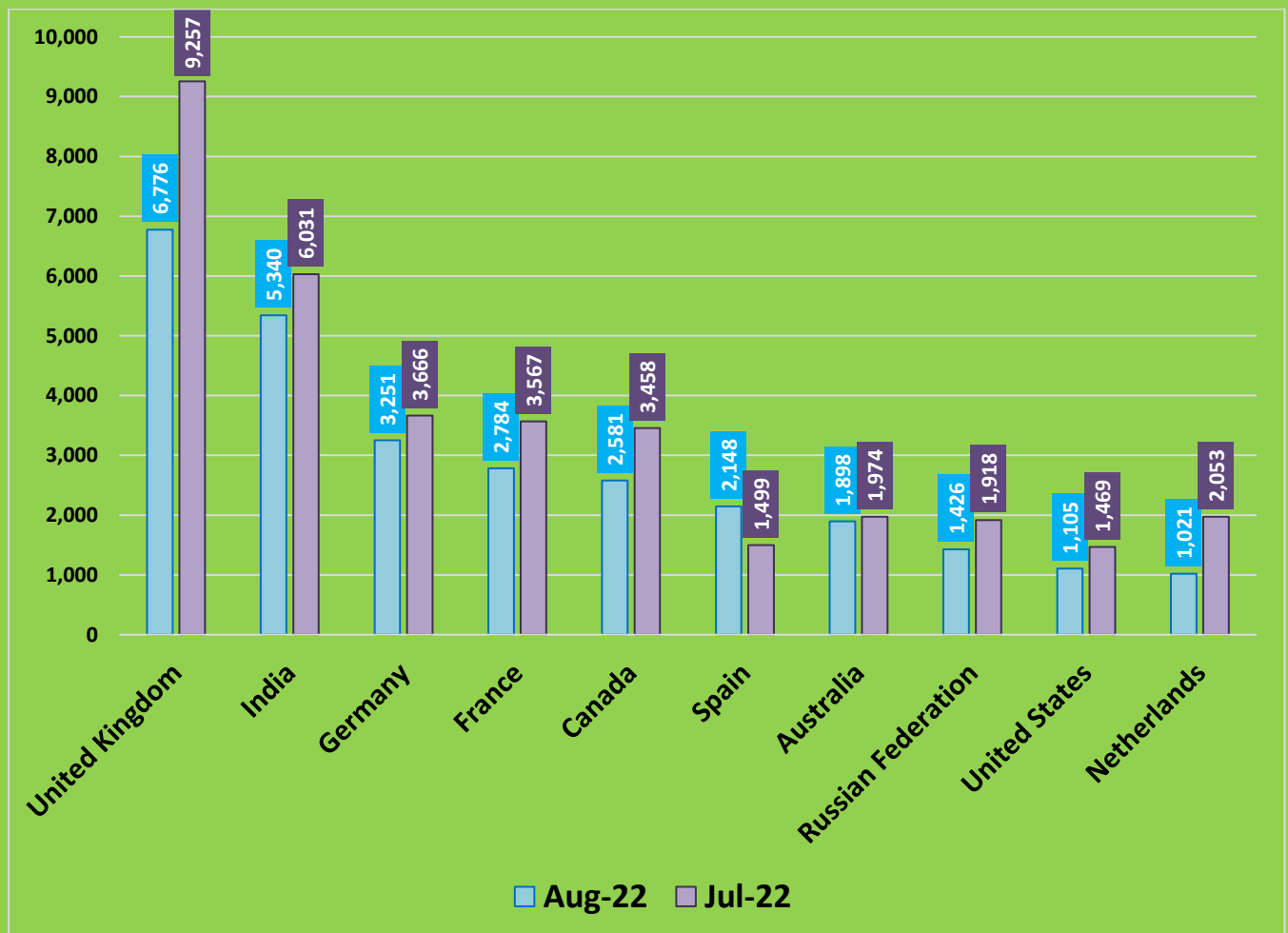


Chart 3. Comparison of arrivals from top ten markets to Sri Lanka, July / August 2022



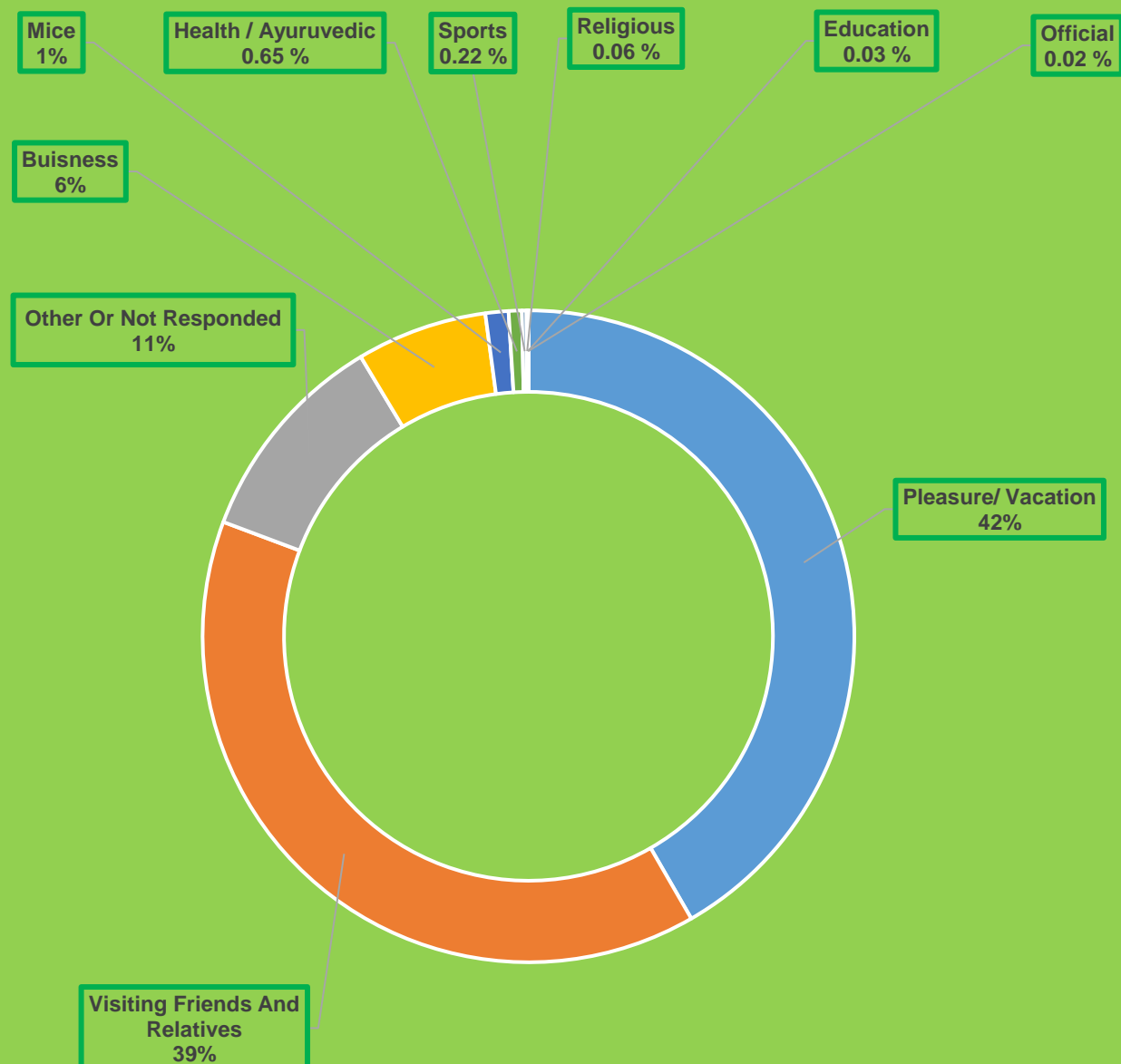


## Tourist arrivals by purpose of visit

### August 2022

An analysis of tourist arrivals by purpose of visit reveals that a majority (42%) of tourists had visited Sri Lanka for pleasure/vacation, while for 39% of tourists the main purpose was visiting friends and relatives. In comparison to July 2022, the tourists who had visited Sri Lanka for VFR purposes had decreased while tourists who came for pleasure/vacation purposes increased. The reason could be the Kandy Esela Perahera and it is considered to be one of the most beautiful cultural events in Asia. Only 6% of tourists had visited for business related purposes. 1% had visited for MICE purposes, while 0.65% and 0.22% had visited for purposes such as Health & Ayurveda and sports.

**Chart 4. Tourist arrivals by purpose of visit, August 2022**





## International tourist arrivals by country of residence

	August 2022			Tourist Arrivals August 2021	% Change August (22/21)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to August 2022	Total Tourist Arrivals up to August 2021	% Change up to August (20/21)
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
AMERICAS	3,793	-	3,793	914	-	34,866	2,670	-
North America	3,701	-	3,701	908	-	33,510	2,609	-
Canada	2,581	-	2,581	594	-	19,056	1,260	-
Mexico	15	-	15	3	-	195	10	-
United States	1,105	-	1,105	311	-	14,259	1,339	-
Carribean & Central America	18	-	18	1	-	212	16	
Costa Rica	2	-	2	0		31	0	-
Jamaica	1	-	1	0	-	10	1	-
Others	15	-	15	1	-	171	15	-
South America	74	-	74	5	-	1,144	45	-
Argentina	4	-	4	0		152	7	-
Brazil	32	-	32	4	-	454	19	-
Chile	4	-	4	0	-	117	1	-
Colombia	20	-	20	1	-	226	14	-
Others	14	-	14	0	-	195	4	-
AFRICA	189	-	189	15	-	3,152	135	-
North Africa	69	-	69	4	-	1,333	19	-
Morocco	28	-	28	1	-	314	6	-
Sudan	21	-	21	3	-	639	7	-
Others	20	-	20	0	-	380	6	-
Sub-Saharan Africa	120	-	120	11	-	1,819	116	-
Kenya	9	-	9	1	-	138	3	-
Mauritius	3	-	3	2	-	61	6	-
Nigeria	1	-	1	0	-	18	2	-
South Africa	51	-	51	4	-	1027	73	-
Others	56	-	56	4	-	575	32	-



	August 2022			Tourist Arrivals August 2021	% Change August (22/21)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to August 2022	Total Tourist Arrivals up to August 2021	% Change up to August (20/21)
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
ASIA & PACIFIC	10,582	-	10,582	1,602	-	132,073	5,506	-
North East Asia	957	-	957	192	-	5,002	1,708	-
China	534	-	534	178	-	2,384	1,600	-
Japan	294	-	294	9	-	1458	76	-
South Korea	111	-	111	3	-	935	20	-
Taiwan	17	-	17	2	-	181	12	-
Others	1	-	1	0	-	44	0	-
South East Asia	637	-	637	140	-	6,718	385	-
Cambodia	3	-	3	0	-	74	1	-
Indonesia	36	-	36	96	-	507	144	-
Malaysia	135	-	135	2	-	1,439	21	-
Myanmar	10	-	10	3	-	153	18	-
Philippines	125	-	125	21	-	1,299	128	-
Singapore	182	-	182	12	-	2,059	37	-
Thailand	97	-	97	5	-	833	22	-
Vietnam	46	-	46	1	-	331	14	-
Others	3	-	3	0	-	23	0	-
Oceania	2,069	-	2,069	37	-	20,007	260	-
Australia	1,898	-	1,898	26	-	18,412	204	-
New Zealand	166	-	166	11	-	1,557	51	-
Others	5	-	5	0	-	38	5	-
South Asia	6,919	-	6,919	1,233	-	100,346	3,153	-
Afghanistan	0	-	0	1	-	21	5	-
Bangladesh	168	-	168	19	-	1,889	72	-
Bhutan	30	-	30	0	-	86	2	-
India	5,340	-	5,340	405	-	80,132	1,532	-
Iran	88	-	88	7	-	3,329	87	-
Maldives	957	-	957	341	-	10,553	803	-
Nepal	50	-	50	4	-	621	15	-
Pakistan	286	-	286	456	-	3,715	637	-
EUROPE	22,373	-	22,373	2,425	-	313,051	15,637	-
Northern Europe	7,551	-	7,551	634	-	83,608	2,377	-
Denmark	235	-	235	27	-	5,986	109	-
Finland	40	-	40	4	-	1158	29	-
Norway	295	-	295	64	-	4,736	189	-
Sweden	124	-	124	40	-	3,431	140	-
United Kingdom	6,776	-	6,776	489	-	65,655	1,833	-
Others	81	-	81	10	-	2,642	77	-



	August 2022			Tourist Arrivals August 2021	% Change August (22/21)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to August 2022	Total Tourist Arrivals up to August 2021	% Change up to August (20/21)
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
Western Europe	8,450	-	8,450	1,141	-	96,743	4,763	-
Austria	206	-	206	55	-	4,107	213	-
Belgium	475	-	475	54	-	4,783	113	-
France	2,784	-	2,784	248	-	28,235	1,276	-
Germany	3,251	-	3,251	515	-	40,359	2,238	-
Netherlands	1,021	-	1,021	115	-	9,350	344	-
Switzerland	695	-	695	152	-	9,708	560	-
Others	18	-	18	2	-	201	19	-
Central/ Eastern Europe	2,302	-	2,302	403	-	107,693	7,728	-
Belarus	46	-	46	7	-	2,386	88	-
Czech Republic	95	-	95	30	-	6,263	177	-
Estonia	2	-	2	1	-	771	35	-
Hungary	17	-	17	3	-	1,791	24	-
Kazakhstan	13	-	13	7	-	7,657	3,197	-
Lithuania	29	-	29	2	-	1,682	27	-
Poland	261	-	261	34	-	13,334	135	-
Romania	117	-	117	20	-	2,573	66	-
Russia	1,426	-	1,426	247	-	49,747	949	-
Slovakia	50	-	50	18	-	1,902	122	-
Ukraine	68	-	68	20	-	13,908	2,699	-
Others	178	-	178	14	-	5,679	209	-
Southern/ Mediterranean Europe	4,070	-	4,070	247	-	25,007	769	-
Greece	49	-	49	3	-	605	16	-
Italy	937	-	937	54	-	4,792	233	-
Portugal	113	-	113	6	-	1390	27	-
Spain	2,148	-	2,148	78	-	9,266	207	-
Turkey	42	-	42	8	-	1028	56	-
Israel	643	-	643	78	-	5,938	159	-
Others	138	-	138	20	-	1,988	71	-
MIDDLE EAST	823		823	84	-	13,288	429	-
Bahrain	22	-	22	5	-	361	31	-
Egypt	41	-	41	5	-	1,757	31	-
Iraq	59	-	59	0	-	867	15	-
Jordan	154	-	154	16	-	1634	107	-
Kuwait	53	-	53	3	-	714	10	-
Lebanon	58	-	58	6	-	1105	128	-
Oman	55	-	55	11	-	551	13	-
Qatar	9	-	9	0	-	190	3	-
Saudi Arabia	220	-	220	36	-	4,827	60	-
United Arab Emirates	110	-	110	0	-	890	20	-
Others	42	-	42	2	-	392	11	-
TOTAL	37,760	-	37,760	5,040	-	496,430	24,377	-



## Main last departure airports and airlines to Sri Lanka August 2022

An analysis of the last departure airports to Sri Lanka reveals the vital importance of air connectivity in the tourism industry. As depicted in the below Chart 5, for around 50% of tourists the last airports had been Dubai, Doha and Chennai. Further, in terms of airlines, Sri Lankan Airlines, Qatar Airways and Emirates were the top airlines, handling 79.2 % of tourists to Sri Lanka.

Chart 5 Main last departure airports to Sri Lanka, August 2022

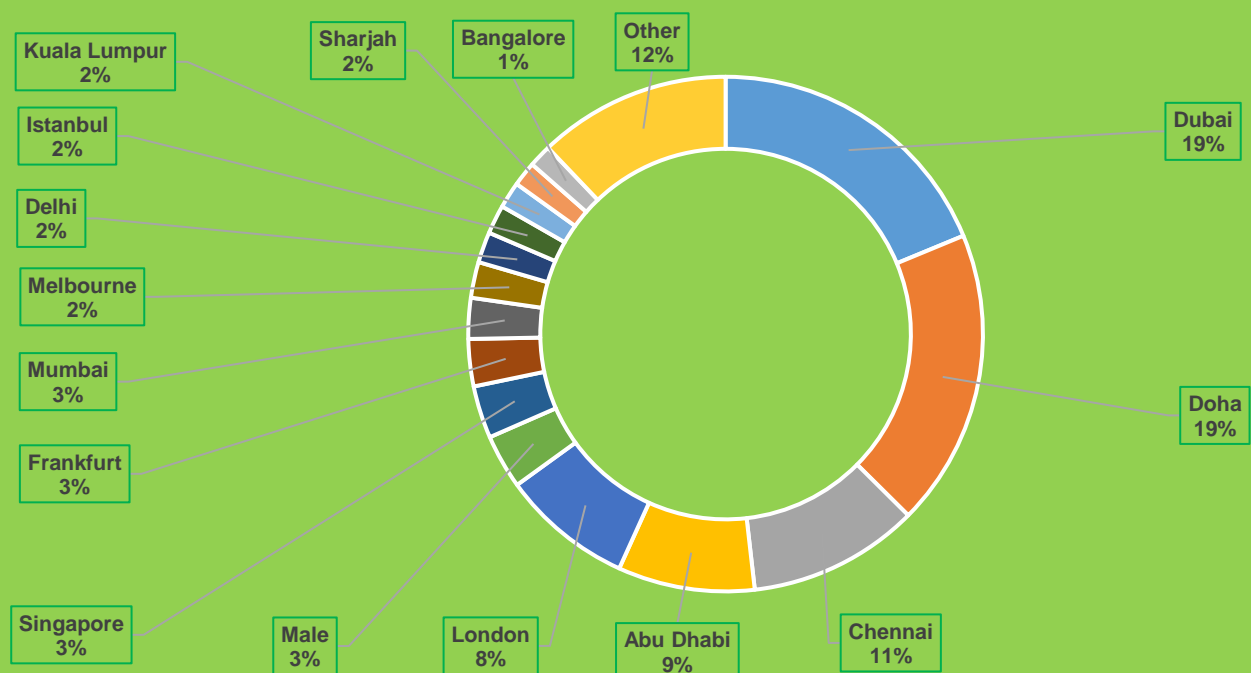
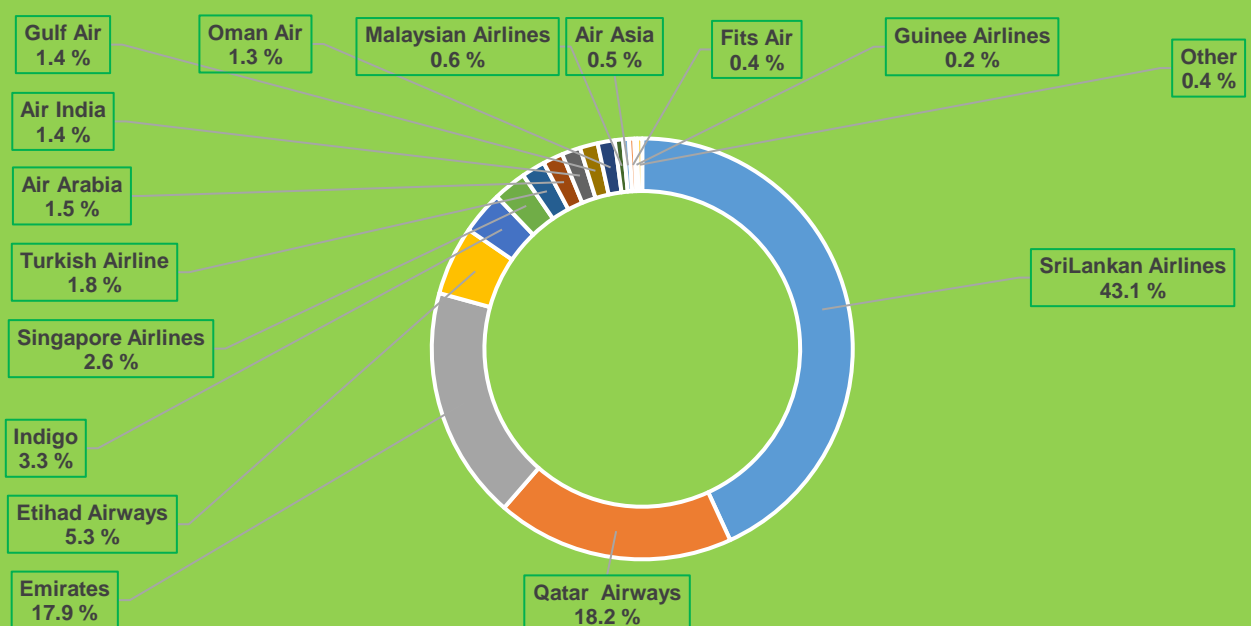


Chart 6. Main airlines to Sri Lanka, August 2022





## Top ten markets versus main last departure airports and main airlines to Sri Lanka

August 2022

The below tables depict the main last departure airports and airlines analyzed by top markets to Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan Airlines and Emirates are the most popular airlines for britannians and Sri Lankan Airlines and IndiGo are the most popular airlines for Indians. For majority of travellers from Germany, France and Canada, Sri Lankan airlines and Qatar Airways is the most preferable airlines and Doha is the main last departure airport.

Table 4. Top ten markets vs. main last departure airports to Sri Lanka, August 2022

Country	Dubai	Doha	Chennai	Abu Dhabi	London	Male	Singapore	Frankfurt	Mumbai	Melbourne	Delhi	Istanbul	Kuala Lumpur	Sharjah	Bangalore	Muscat	Paris	Bahrain	Bangkok	Sydney	Others	Total
United Kingdom	1,507	1,263	270	437	2,487	61	94	4	48	22	13	74	53	10	16	74	6	202	19	4	112	6,776
India	103	22	3,041	13	13	24	18	0	395	4	415	1	10	12	321	10	0	2	16	1	919	5,340
Germany	564	770	73	228	103	35	16	913	77	2	33	71	15	2	34	189	23	52	9	2	40	3,251
France	697	933	106	179	39	24	16	35	68	5	37	62	26	1	14	43	415	45	16	0	23	2,784
Canada	344	1,024	266	231	173	18	76	39	168	3	29	7	30	0	50	17	19	0	19	0	68	2,581
Spain	529	711	5	591	48	50	4	19	3	1	13	132	10	5	1	5	3	4	2	1	11	2,148
Australia	31	13	36	7	50	23	518	5	5	756	6	2	113	1	3	0	10	1	12	286	20	1,898
Russia	284	26	7	676	1	16	1	0	5	0	13	46	10	304	0	0	0	23	5	0	9	1,426
United States	207	447	49	75	28	53	84	0	11	2	19	12	13	3	14	3	5	1	24	1	54	1,105
Netherlands	419	153	13	86	28	23	6	53	85	5	5	18	27	2	43	9	0	6	23	0	17	1,021

Top ten markets vs. main airlines to Sri Lanka, August 2022

Country	Sri Lankan Airlines	Qatar Airways	Emirates	Etihad Airways	Indigo	Singapore Airlines	Turkish Airline	Air_Arabia	Air India	Gulf Air	Oman Air	Malaysian Airline	Air Asia	Fits Air	Guinee Airlines	Neos Airline	Other Airline	Total
United Kingdom	45.7	18.6	22.1	6.2	0.4	0.6	1.1	0.1	0.4	3.2	1.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6,776
India	65.1	0.4	1.6	0.2	20.7	0.2	0.0	0.2	7.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.1	0.0	0.9	5,340
Germany	44.0	23.4	16.9	4.2	0.6	0.2	2.2	0.1	0.1	1.7	5.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	3,251
France	29.0	33.1	24.6	4.5	0.9	0.3	2.2	0.0	0.3	1.9	1.5	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6	2,784
Canada	42.6	38.4	7.7	6.7	0.5	1.7	0.3	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	2,581
Spain	21.9	31.9	24.4	14.2	0.0	0.1	6.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	2,148
Australia	67.6	0.7	1.1	0.3	0.3	23.9	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	4.9	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1,898
Russia	36.3	1.8	19.5	14.9	0.0	0.1	3.2	21.3	0.4	2.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1,426
United States	30.3	36.3	18.3	5.2	0.5	6.4	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	1,105
Netherlands	35.9	14.9	37.4	5.3	0.1	0.1	1.8	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.5	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,021





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