



# Monthly Tourist Arrivals Report:

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

**September 2022**

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority



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## Introduction

The following document provides a synthesis of the most recent September, 2022 international visitor arrivals data sourced from the Department of Immigration & Emigration. The data is current as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 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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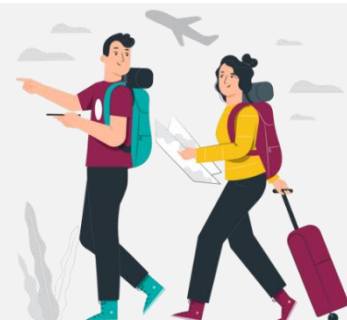
## Summary

The total number of international tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka during September 2022 was 29,802. Tourist arrivals for the month of September have plunged by almost 21%, in comparison to August 2022. September is considered an off season month for tourism in Sri Lanka and the decline, recorded for the month of September in comparison to August in 2018 is 26%.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 526,232 international tourists had visited Sri Lanka for this year. The largest source markets recorded for the month of September were India, the United Kingdom, Australia, followed by Germany and Russian Federation.

**Table 1. Monthly tourist arrivals, September 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	29,802	119.9	(80.1)
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>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



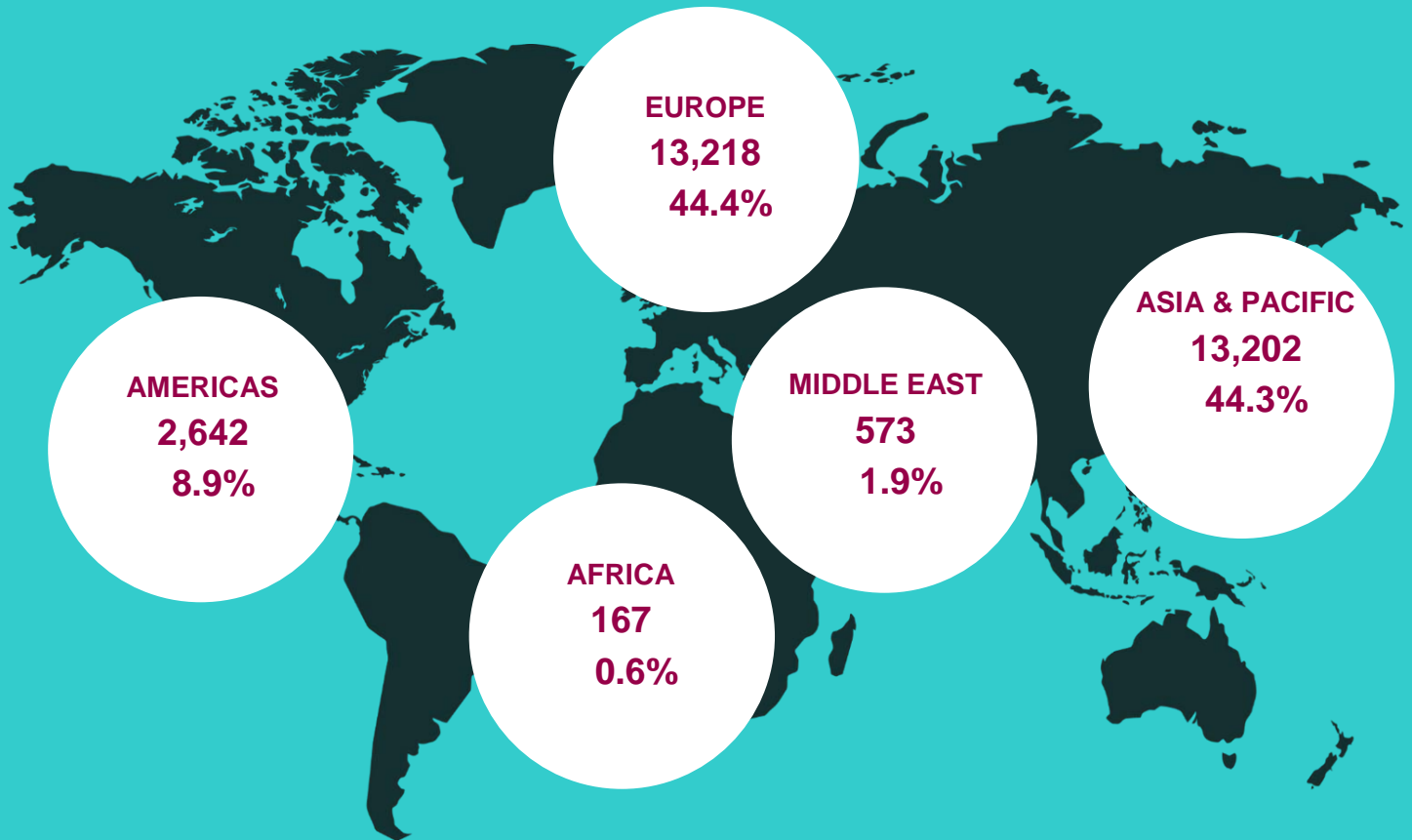
**Tourist Arrivals | September 2022**

**29,802**



## Tourist arrivals by region and percentage share September 2022

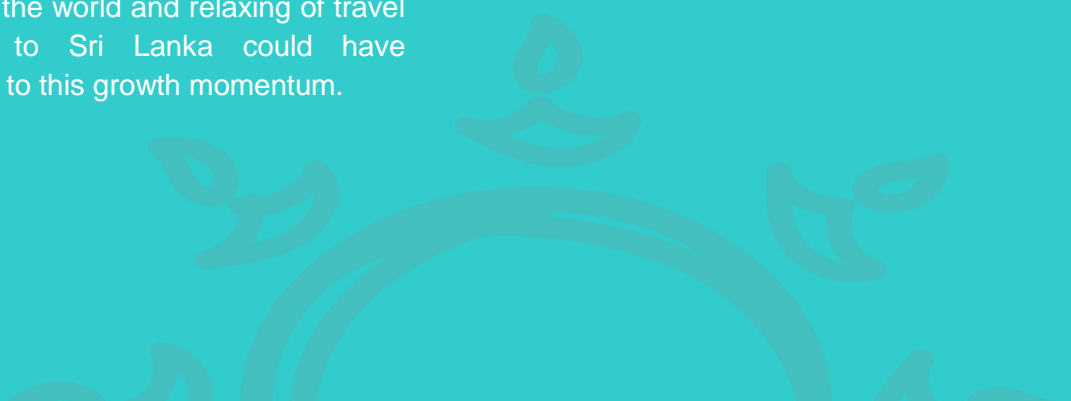
Map 1. Tourist arrivals by region and percentage share



Europe became the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 44.4% of the total traffic received in September 2022. Pent up demand especially from countries such as the United Kingdom and Germany is likely to have driven this growth momentum. Asia and the Pacific accounted for 44.3% of total arrivals. It is noteworthy, as regions Europe and Asia & Pacific record equal market shares. The easing and lifting of travel restrictions throughout the world and relaxing of travel advisories to Sri Lanka could have contributed to this growth momentum.

The Americas accounted for 8.9% of the total traffic while the Middle East accounted for 1.9%.

Generally, the challenging economic environment including high inflation and escalating oil prices caused by the war in Ukraine continues to hinder the recovery of tourism as depicted in the arrival figures.







## Top primary markets and top potential markets

### Top primary markets - January ~ September 2022



Note: The top primary markets for Sri Lanka have been identified using visitor arrivals data, during the last eight months. The previous methodology used to identify the markets was altered due to the current arrival trends in the source markets and the economic and other conditions 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 ~ September 2022



Note: The top primary markets for Sri Lanka have been identified using visitor arrivals data, during the last eight 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.



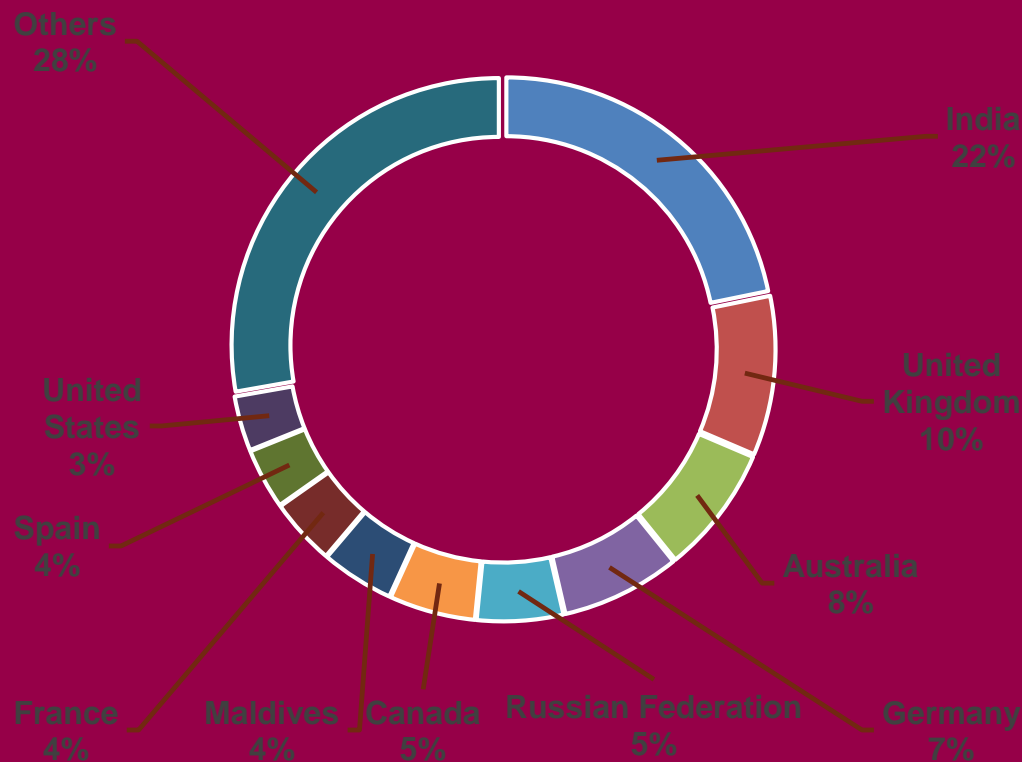
## Top ten source markets

### September 2022

India, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, and Russian Federation were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets for the month of September this year. India was the largest source of tourist visits to Sri Lanka with 22% of the total traffic received in September. The United Kingdom and Australia accounted for 10% and 8% of the total traffic respectively while Germany and Russian Federation accounted for 7% and 5%.

In comparison to last month, India has moved up to the top position. With 86,625 tourist arrivals for the period, January to September this year, India has emerged as the top source market, followed by the UK with 68,527 tourist arrivals for the same period. The spike in demand could be owing to factors such as the easy access, preference for short haul travel and consumer confidence which is gradually building up with the recent marketing and promotional initiatives.

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





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

Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (September 2022)			Tourist Arrivals (September 2021)
		By Air	By Sea	Total	
1	India	6,493	-	6,493	8,528
2	United Kingdom	2,872	-	2,872	309
3	Australia	2,309	-	2,309	27
4	Germany	2,149	-	2,149	466
5	Russian Federation	1,553	-	1,553	304
6	Canada	1,552	-	1,552	265
7	Maldives	1,314	-	1,314	146
8	France	1,201	-	1,201	181
9	Spain	1,091	-	1,091	182
10	United States	991	-	991	150

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

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

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

Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (Jan ~ September 2022)	Tourist Arrivals (Jan ~ September 2021)
1	India	86,625	10,060
2	United Kingdom	68,527	2,142
3	Russian Federation	51,300	1,253
4	Germany	42,508	2,704
5	France	29,436	1,457
6	Australia	20,721	231
7	Canada	20,608	1,525
8	United States	15,250	1,489
9	Ukraine	13,977	2,742
10	Poland	13,562	155
11	Others	163,718	14,166
<b>Total</b>		<b>526,232</b>	<b>37,924</b>



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

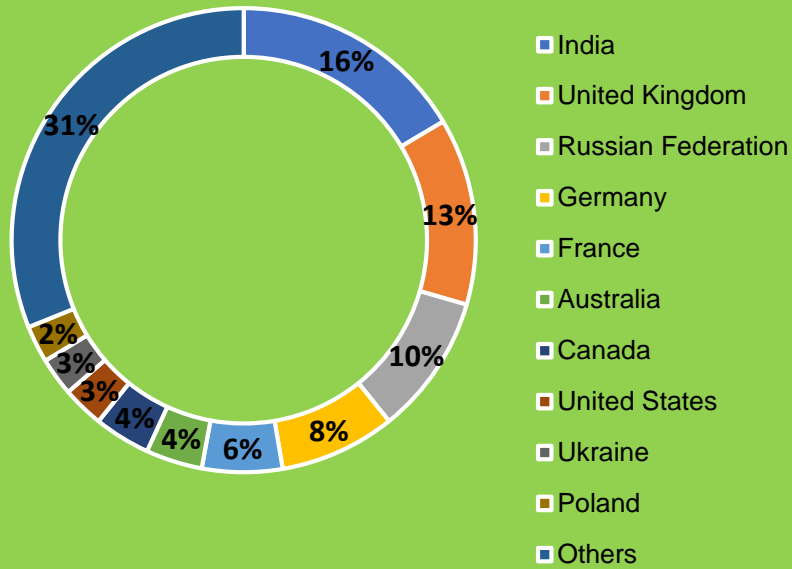
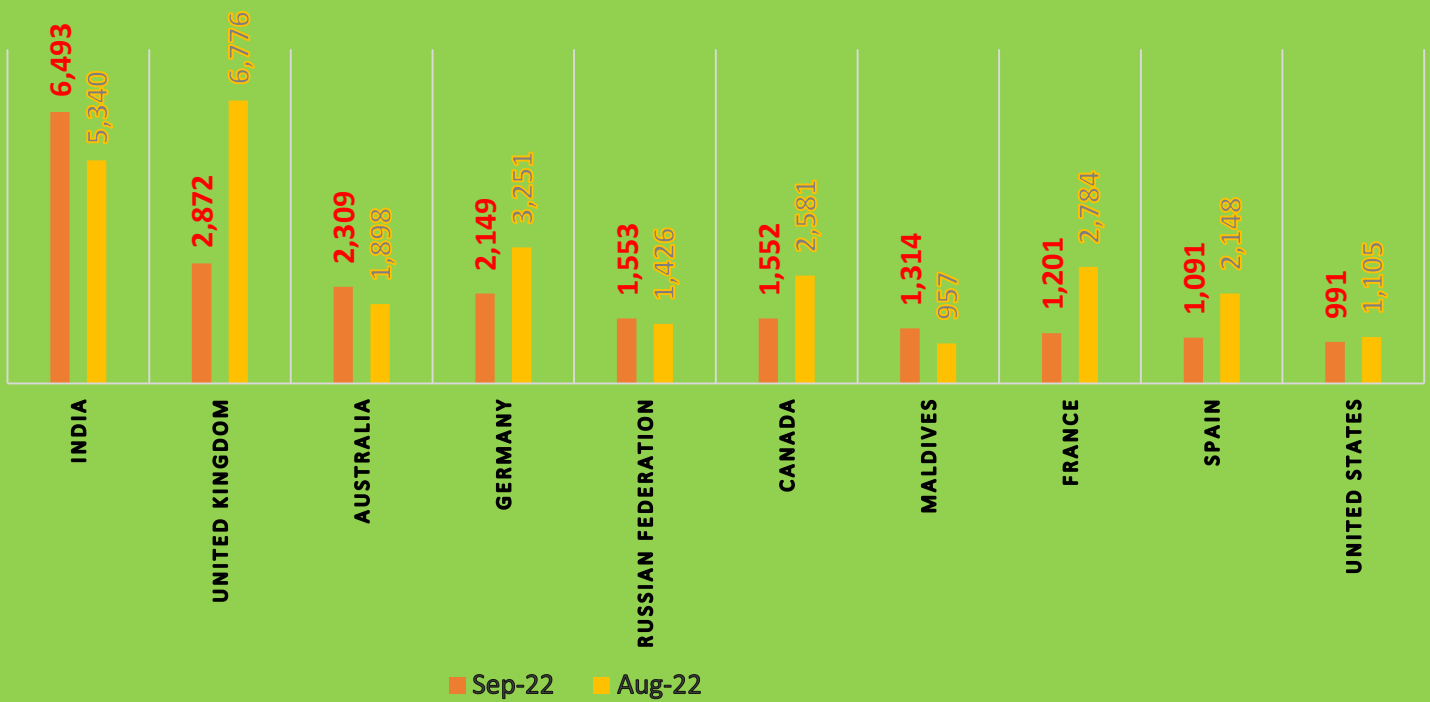


Chart 3. Comparison of arrivals from top ten markets to Sri Lanka, Aug 2022 / Sep 2022



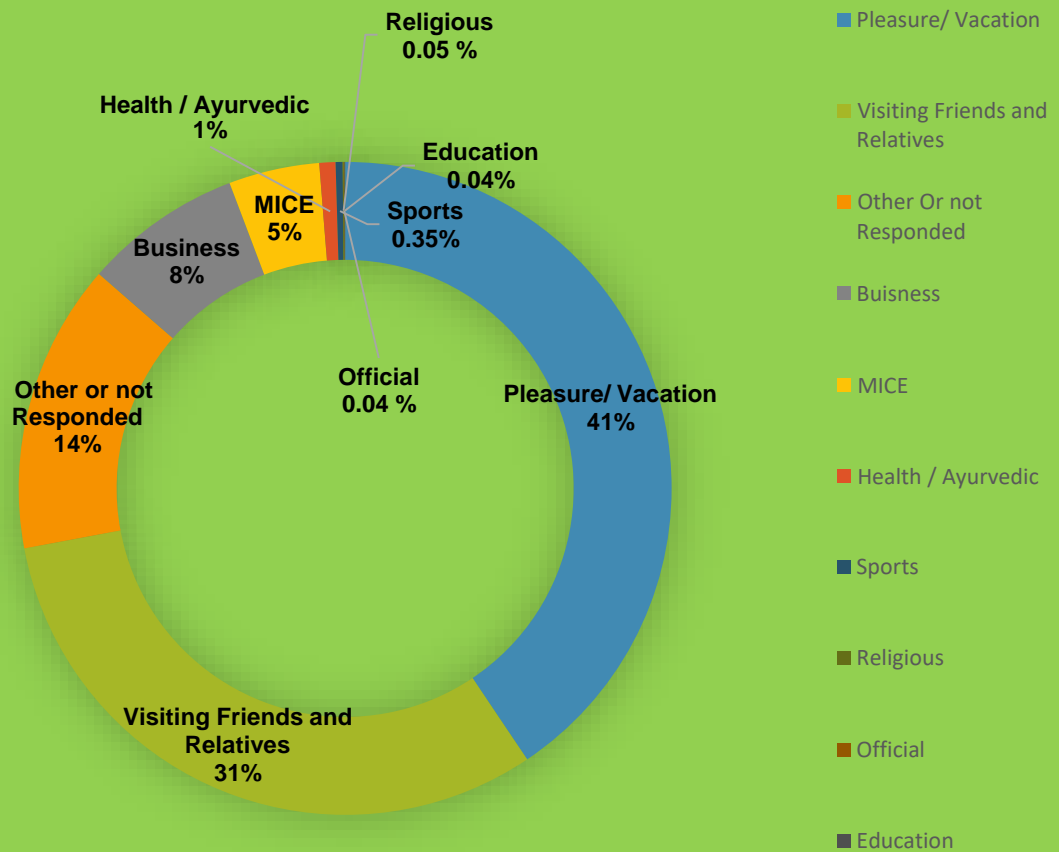


# Tourist arrivals by purpose of visit

## September 2022

An analysis of tourist arrivals by purpose of visit reveals that a majority (41%) of tourists had visited Sri Lanka for pleasure, while for 31% of tourists the main purpose was visiting friends and relatives. 8% of tourists had visited for business related purposes. 1% had visited for health related purposes, while 0.35% and 0.04% had visited for purposes such as sports and education.

Chart 4. Tourist arrivals by purpose of visit, September 2022





## International tourist arrivals by country of residence

	September 2022			Tourist Arrivals Sep. 2021	% Change Sep. (22/21)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep. 2022	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep. 2021	% Change up to Sep. (20/21)
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>2,642</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,642</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,508</b>	<b>3,108</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,066</b>	<b>3,028</b>	<b>-</b>
Canada	1,552	-	1,552	265	-	20,608	1,525	-
Mexico	13	-	13	4	-	208	14	-
United States	991	-	991	150	-	15,250	1,489	-
<b>Carribbean &amp; Central America</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>
Costa Rica	0	-	0	0	-	31	0	-
Jamaica	1	-	1	0	-	11	1	-
Others	10	-	10	7	-	181	22	-
<b>South America</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-</b>
Argentina	4	-	4	3	-	156	10	-
Brazil	40	-	40	6	-	494	25	-
Chile	7	-	7	0	-	124	1	-
Colombia	11	-	11	0	-	237	14	-
Others	13	-	13	3	-	208	7	-
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,319</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-</b>
Morocco	10	-	10	1	-	324	7	-
Sudan	36	-	36	1	-	675	8	-
Others	19	-	19	3	-	399	9	-
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>-</b>
Kenya	6	-	6	1	-	144	4	-
Mauritius	7	-	7	1	-	68	7	-
Nigeria	1	-	1	1	-	19	3	-
South Africa	34	-	34	4	-	1061	77	-
Others	54	-	54	4	-	629	36	-



	September 2022			Tourist Arrivals Sep. 2021	% Change Sep. (22/21)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep. 2022	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep. 2021	% Change up to Sep (20/21)
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>ASIA &amp; PACIFIC</b>	<b>13,202</b>	-	<b>13,202</b>	<b>10,685</b>	-	<b>145,275</b>	<b>16,191</b>	-
<b>North East Asia</b>	<b>1,027</b>	-	<b>1,027</b>	<b>199</b>	-	<b>6,029</b>	<b>1,907</b>	-
China	637	-	637	176	-	3,021	1,776	-
Japan	226	-	226	9	-	1,684	85	-
South Korea	138	-	138	11	-	1,073	31	-
Taiwan	22	-	22	3	-	203	15	-
Others	4	-	4	0	-	48	0	-
<b>South East Asia</b>	<b>834</b>	-	<b>834</b>	<b>304</b>	-	<b>7,552</b>	<b>689</b>	-
Cambodia	8	-	8	0	-	82	1	-
Indonesia	71	-	71	245	-	578	389	-
Malaysia	207	-	207	3	-	1,646	24	-
Myanmar	33	-	33	2	-	186	20	-
Philippines	115	-	115	31	-	1,414	159	-
Singapore	262	-	262	16	-	2,321	53	-
Thailand	89	-	89	5	-	922	27	-
Vietnam	41	-	41	2	-	372	16	-
Others	8	-	8	0	-	31	0	-
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>2,506</b>	-	<b>2,506</b>	<b>30</b>	-	<b>22,513</b>	<b>290</b>	-
Australia	2,309	-	2,309	27	-	20,721	231	-
New Zealand	186	-	186	3	-	1,743	54	-
Others	11	-	11	0	-	49	5	-
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>8,835</b>	-	<b>8,835</b>	<b>10,152</b>	-	<b>109,181</b>	<b>13,305</b>	-
Afghanistan	0	-	0	4	-	21	9	-
Bangladesh	338	-	338	235	-	2,227	307	-
Bhutan	8	-	8	0	-	94	2	-
India	6,493	-	6,493	8,528	-	86,625	10,060	-
Iran	214	-	214	7	-	3,543	94	-
Maldives	1,314	-	1,314	146	-	11,867	949	-
Nepal	47	-	47	7	-	668	22	-
Pakistan	421	-	421	1,225	-	4,136	1,862	-
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>13,218</b>	-	<b>13,218</b>	<b>2,350</b>	-	<b>326,269</b>	<b>17,987</b>	-
<b>Northern Europe</b>	<b>3,513</b>	-	<b>3,513</b>	<b>495</b>	-	<b>87,121</b>	<b>2,872</b>	-
Denmark	164	-	164	62	-	6,150	171	-
Finland	28	-	28	20	-	1,186	49	-
Norway	250	-	250	56	-	4,986	245	-
Sweden	145	-	145	29	-	3,576	169	-
United Kingdom	2,872	-	2,872	309	-	68,527	2,142	-
Others	54	-	54	19	-	2,696	96	-



	September 2022			Tourist Arrivals Sep. 2021	% Change Sep. (22/21)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep. 2022	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep. 2021	% Change up to Sep. (20/21)
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>4,882</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,882</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101,625</b>	<b>5,697</b>	<b>-</b>
Austria	152	-	152	44	-	4,259	257	-
Belgium	316	-	316	61	-	5,099	174	-
France	1,201	-	1,201	181	-	29,436	1,457	-
Germany	2,149	-	2,149	466	-	42,508	2,704	-
Netherlands	473	-	473	94	-	9,823	438	-
Switzerland	583	-	583	88	-	10,291	648	-
Others	8	-	8	0	-	209	19	-
<b>Central/ Eastern Europe</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>109,993</b>	<b>8,211</b>	<b>-</b>
Belarus	54	-	54	13	-	2,440	101	-
Czech Republic	53	-	53	39	-	6,316	216	-
Estonia	10	-	10	0	-	781	35	-
Hungary	31	-	31	12	-	1,822	36	-
Kazakhstan	27	-	27	3	-	7,684	3,200	-
Lithuania	21	-	21	11	-	1,703	38	-
Poland	228	-	228	20	-	13,562	155	-
Romania	77	-	77	7	-	2,650	73	-
Russia	1,553	-	1,553	304	-	51,300	1,253	-
Slovakia	38	-	38	21	-	1,940	143	-
Ukraine	69	-	69	43	-	13,977	2,742	-
Others	139	-	139	10	-	5,818	219	-
<b>Southern/ Mediterranean Europe</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,530</b>	<b>1,207</b>	<b>-</b>
Greece	27	-	27	14	-	632	30	-
Italy	352	-	352	47	-	5,144	280	-
Portugal	95	-	95	17	-	1485	44	-
Spain	1,091	-	1,091	182	-	10,357	389	-
Turkey	47	-	47	16	-	1075	72	-
Israel	826	-	826	147	-	6,764	306	-
Others	85	-	85	15	-	2,073	86	-
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,861</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>-</b>
Bahrain	14	-	14	0	-	375	31	-
Egypt	53	-	53	8	-	1,810	39	-
Iraq	10	-	10	2	-	877	17	-
Jordan	145	-	145	8	-	1779	115	-
Kuwait	43	-	43	4	-	757	14	-
Lebanon	58	-	58	4	-	1163	132	-
Oman	26	-	26	5	-	577	18	-
Qatar	21	-	21	0	-	211	3	-
Saudi Arabia	118	-	118	23	-	4,945	83	-
United Arab Emirates	53	-	53	0	-	943	20	-
Others	32	-	32	4	-	424	15	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,802</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,802</b>	<b>13,547</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>526,232</b>	<b>37,924</b>	<b>-</b>





### Main last departure airports and airlines to Sri Lanka, September 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 43% of tourists the last airports had been Doha, Dubai and Chennai. Further, in terms of airlines, Sri Lankan Airlines, Qatar Airways and Emirates were the top airlines, handling 79% of tourists to Sri Lanka.

Chart 5. Main last departure airports to Sri Lanka, September 2022

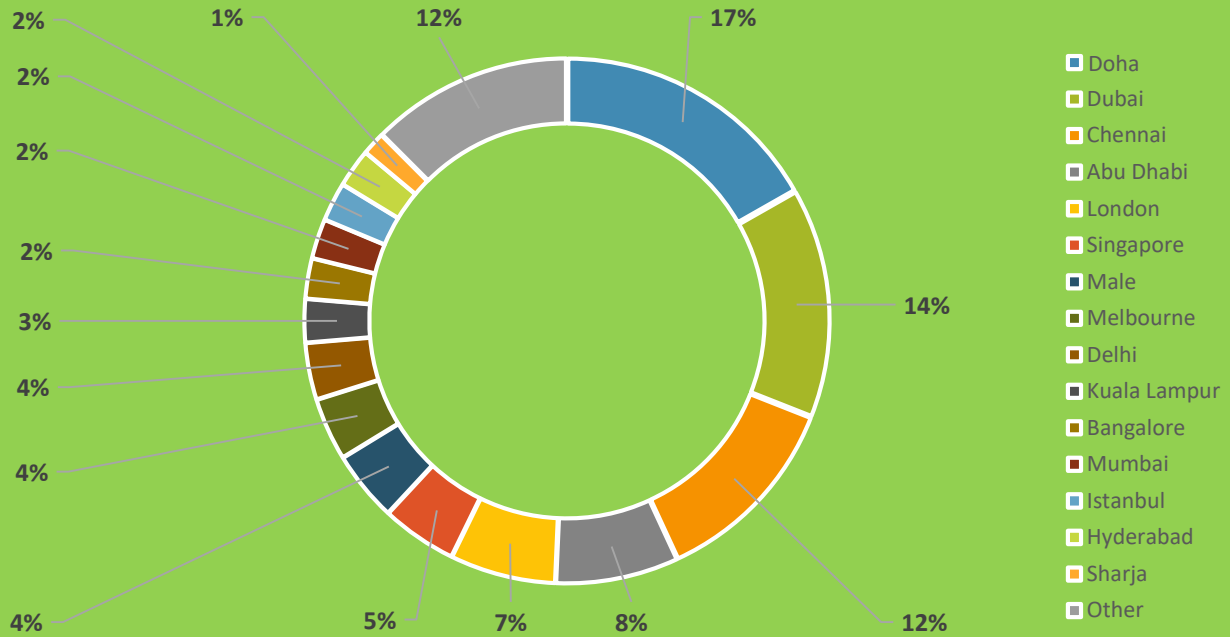
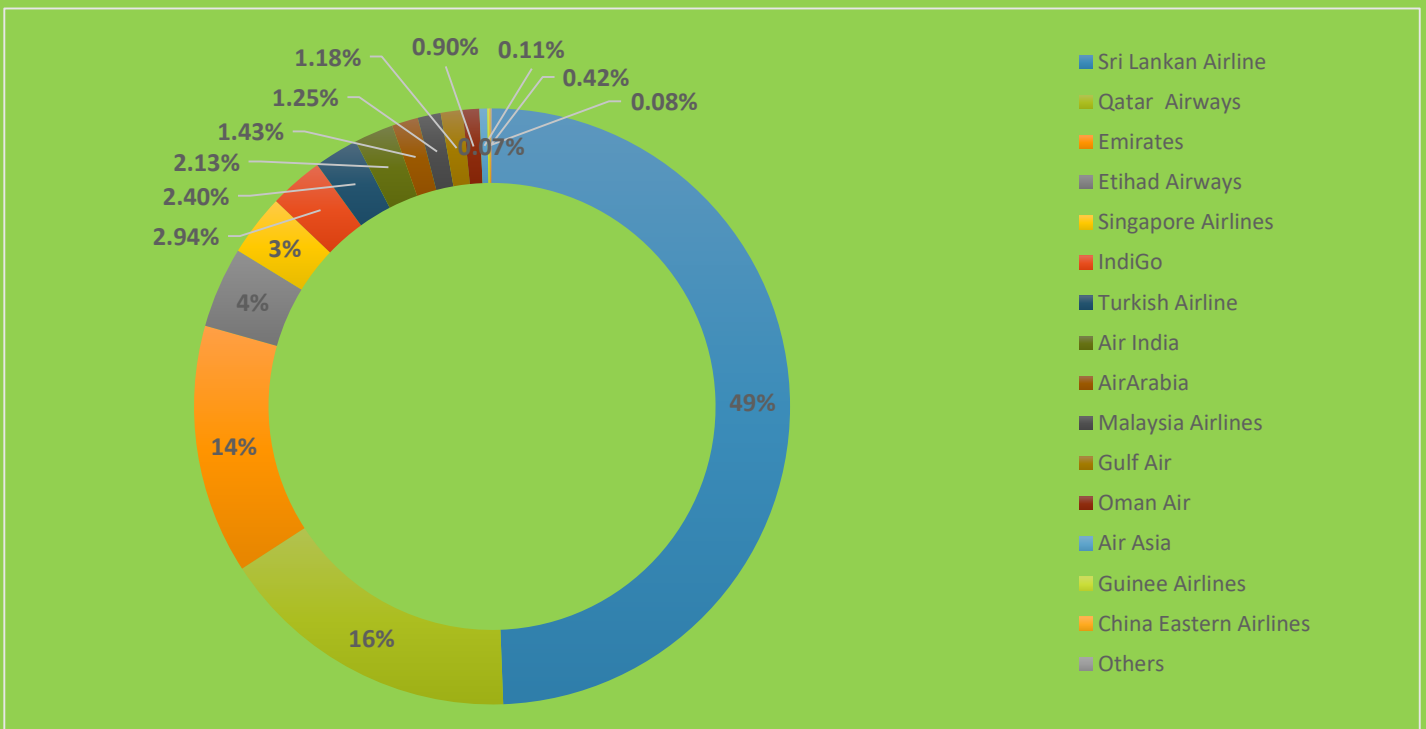


Chart 6. Main airlines to Sri Lanka, September 2022





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

## September 2022

The below tables depict the main last departure airports and airlines analyzed by top markets to Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan Airlines and IndiGo are the most popular airlines for Indians. For majority of travellers from France, Spain and United States, Qatar Airways is the most preferable airline and Doha is the main last departure airport. The figures further indicates that for tourists from the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Russian Federation, Canada and Maldives Sri Lankan Airlines is the most preferable Airline indicating the importance of destination accessibility in driving visitation.

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

Country	Chennai	Doha	Dubai	London	Abu Dhabi	Melbourne	Male	Delhi	Singapore	Bangalore	Hyderabad	Mumbai	Kuala Lumpur	Istanbul	Paris	Sydney	Bahrain	Sharja	Frankfurt	Tiruchchirapalli	Others	Total
India	3,020	33	132	10	13	36	58	713	32	569	668	480	22	1	1	0	5	30	0	167	503	6,493
United Kingdom	89	427	440	1,272	255	20	31	23	29	17	6	21	41	62	2	4	42	3	7	13	68	2,872
Australia	56	21	52	31	12	997	30	6	537	9	16	13	215	2	9	258	4	1	5	4	31	2,309
Germany	54	651	409	79	277	1	13	21	19	40	1	65	27	89	63	0	42	4	202	3	89	2,149
Russian Federation	17	186	319	2	533	14	8	46	5	2	1	2	15	89	2	1	109	189	0	0	13	1,553
Canada	123	532	201	347	122	2	13	18	22	20	0	36	14	4	40	2	3	2	17	3	31	1,552
Maldives	7	5	363	0	5	1	787	5	14	5	0	6	24	0	0	0	24	1	0	1	66	1,314
France	24	441	217	49	91	1	14	11	13	11	1	8	21	67	148	0	11	7	2	0	64	1,201
Spain	7	534	226	22	199	0	19	12	3	3	0	4	4	36	0	0	6	0	2	0	14	1,091
United States	48	376	127	40	53	2	21	29	137	27	10	13	11	15	3	1	5	3	3	0	67	991

**Table 5. Top ten markets vs. main airlines to Sri Lanka, September 2022**

Country	Sri Lankan Airline	Qatar Airways	Emirates	Etihad Airways	Indigo	Singapore Airlines	Air_India	Turkish Airline	Gulf Air	Air Asia	Air_Arabia	Malaysian AI	Oman Air	Others	Total
India	77.34	0.51	1.52	0.06	11.46	0.18	7.89	0.02	0.08	0.05	0.46	0.09	0.11	0.23	6,493
United Kingdom	55.71	14.69	15.04	8.08	0.31	0.38	0.45	2.16	1.46	0.38	0.10	0.35	0.70	0.17	2,872
Australia	67.13	0.87	1.73	0.39	0.26	20.14	0.82	0.09	0.17	0.30	0.04	7.80	0.17	0.09	2,309
Germany	32.85	30.34	18.71	6.47	0.28	0.74	0.51	4.14	1.95	0.47	0.19	0.51	2.84	0.00	2,149
Russian Federation	26.72	11.98	19.38	14.87	0.71	0.19	0.19	5.73	7.02	0.39	12.17	0.32	0.13	0.19	1,553
Canada	47.23	33.38	9.21	4.83	1.35	1.16	1.29	0.26	0.19	0.19	0.13	0.58	0.19	0.00	1,552
Maldives	69.18	0.38	27.63	0.38	0.08	0.38	0.00	0.00	1.83	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.08	0.00	1,314
France	29.06	36.64	17.82	3.16	0.25	0.42	0.33	5.58	0.92	1.00	0.58	0.33	3.83	0.08	1,201
Spain	17.14	48.30	20.71	9.07	0.09	0.18	0.27	3.30	0.55	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	1,091
United States	32.29	32.90	12.11	4.34	1.11	12.31	1.51	1.51	0.50	0.10	0.30	0.81	0.20	0.00	991



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