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# Monthly Tourist Arrivals Report:

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

**September 2023**

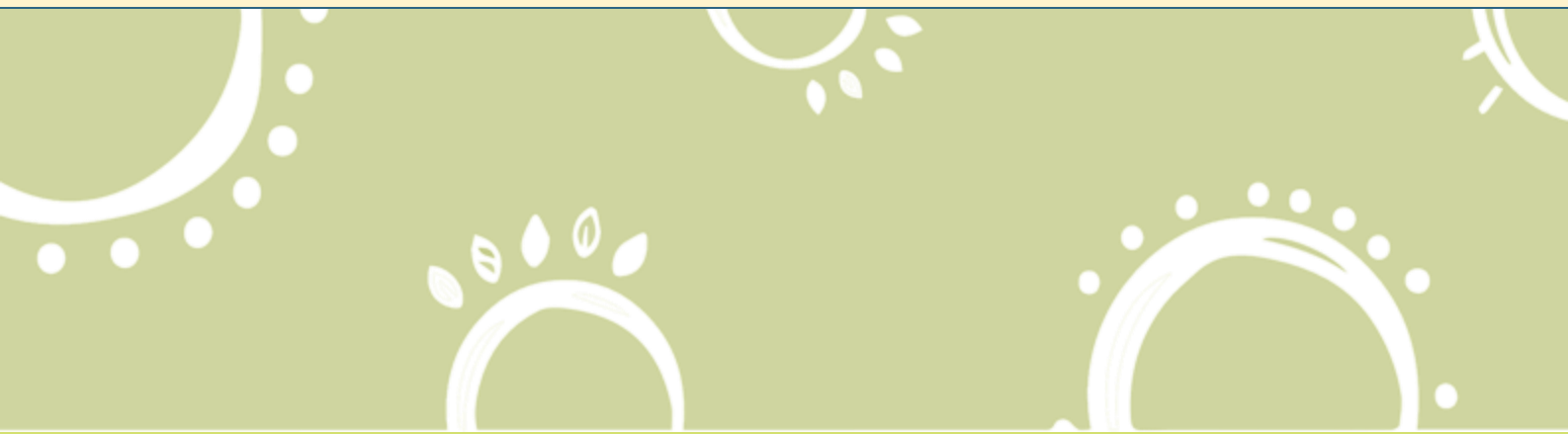
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

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## Introduction

The following document provides a synthesis of the most recent September, 2023 international visitor arrivals data sourced from the Department of Immigration & Emigration. The data is current as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 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). 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

In September 2023, Sri Lanka witnessed an upswing in the number of international tourist arrivals compared to the same period in 2022. The influx of foreign tourists surged by an impressive 275.6% year-on-year, totaling 111,938 visitors.

However, the month of September traditionally experiences lower tourism numbers, and the decrease in arrivals compared to August reflects this pattern. This underscores the importance of promoting Sri Lanka as an attractive year-round destination for future growth and development in the tourism sector.

From January to September 2023, Sri Lanka's cumulative tourist arrivals reached an outstanding milestone of 1,016,256, surpassing the previous year's figure of 526,232 arrivals, and

surpassing the significant one million tourist arrivals mark.

During September 2023, the tourism sector in Sri Lanka experienced a substantial influx of visitors, with India, China, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia emerging as the top five source markets. These nations played a pivotal role in driving the surge in tourist arrivals, significantly contributing to the overall recovery of Sri Lanka's tourism sector.

It is noteworthy that September 2023 recorded the highest percentage change in arrivals compared to the same month in the previous year, highlighting the impressive growth in Sri Lanka's tourism industry during that period.

**Table 1. Monthly tourist arrivals, September 2023**

Month	2022	2023	% change 2023/22
January	82,327	102,545	24.5
February	96,507	107,639	11.5
March	106,500	125,495	17.8
April	62,980	105,498	67.5
May	30,207	83,309	175.8
June	32,856	100,388	205.5
July	47,293	143,039	202.4
August	37,760	136,405	261.2
September	29,802	111,938	275.6
October	42,026	-	-
November	59,759	-	-
December	91,961	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>719,978</b>	<b>1,016,256</b>	<b>-</b>



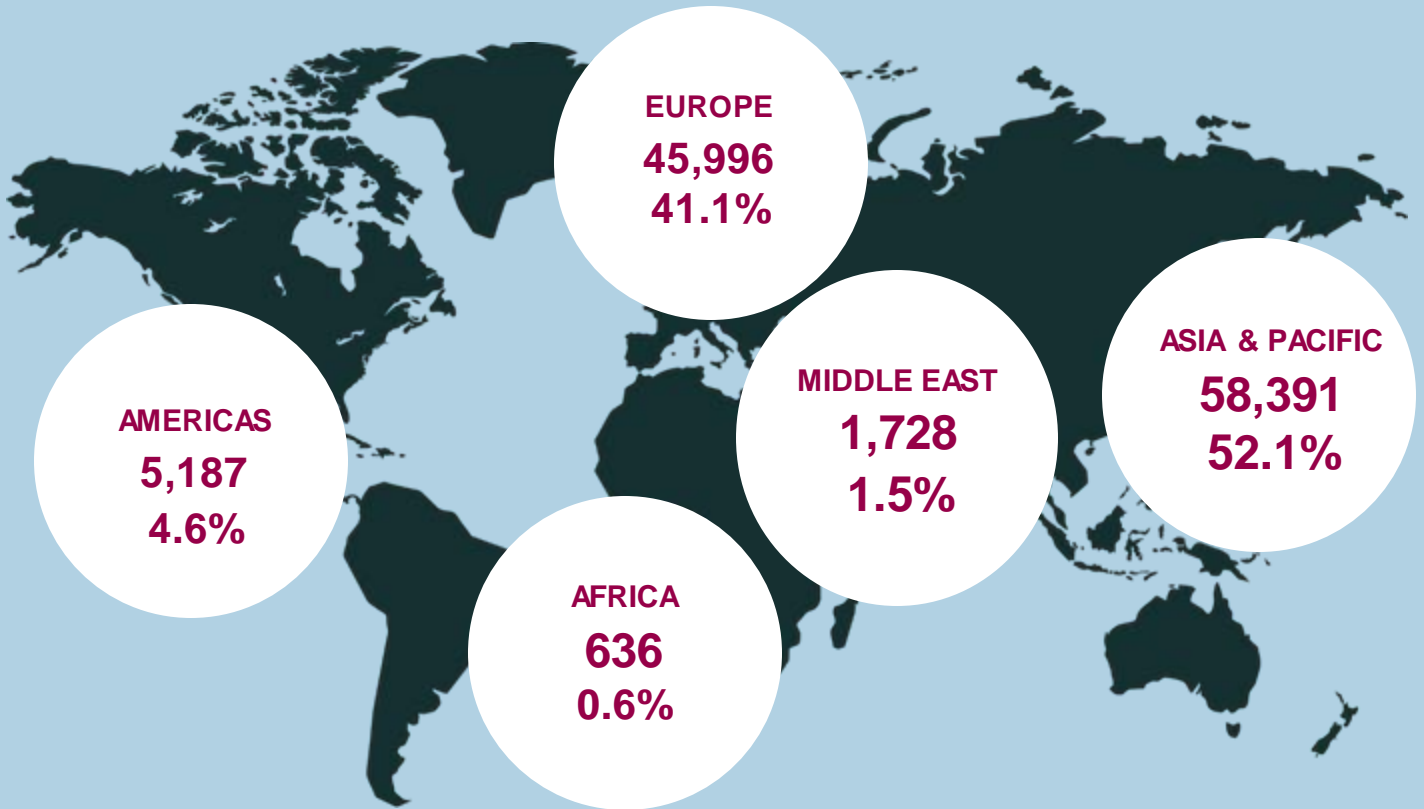
**Tourist Arrivals | September 2023**

**111,938**



# Tourist arrivals by region and percentage share September 2023

Map 1. Tourist arrivals by region and percentage share



The tourism landscape in Sri Lanka saw a notable influence from Asia and the Pacific, making up a substantial portion of tourists, comprising 52.1% of the total arrivals. Concurrently, Europe took the forefront as the primary source market for tourists visiting Sri Lanka, accounting for 41.1% of the overall influx. This transformation in the origins of tourists underscores the changing dynamics within Sri Lanka's tourism industry, with Asia and the Pacific being a significant contributor and Europe emerging as a vital source of tourists.

The rise in tourism can be credited to increasing demand from nations such as India, China, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia, all of which have

significantly bolstered Sri Lanka's tourism industry.

To delve deeper into these contributions, the Americas have made up 4.6% of the total tourist arrivals, while the Middle East has contributed 1.5%. These regions have each played distinctive roles in influencing the dynamics of Sri Lanka's tourism landscape.

The latest UNWTO Confidence Index suggests that the period from September to December 2023 indicates ongoing recovery in the tourism sector. However, this recovery is expected to occur at a more gradual pace compared to the peak travel season of June to August.




# Top primary markets and top potential markets


## Top primary markets, September 2023




**India**  
Arrivals : **30,063** | % Share: **26.8** 1



**Spain**  
Arrivals: **2,414** | % Share : **2.1** 11



**China**  
Arrivals: **8,445** | % Share: **7.5** 2




**United States**  
Arrivals: **2,357** | % Share : **2.1** 12



**United Kingdom**  
Arrivals: **7,504** | % Share : **6.7** 3




**Maldives**  
Arrivals: **2,287** | % Share : **2.0** 13



**Germany**  
Arrivals : **7,231** | % Share : **6.4** 4



**Japan**  
Arrivals: **1,830** | % Share : **1.6** 14




**Russia Federation**  
Arrivals: **7,163** | % Share : **6.3** 5




**Switzerland**  
Arrivals: **1,638** | % Share : **1.4** 15



**Australia**  
Arrivals: **5,969** | % Share: **5.3** 6



**Poland**  
Arrivals: **1,599** | % Share: **1.4** 16



**Israel**  
Arrivals: **4,162** | % Share : **3.7** 7




**Iran**  
Arrivals: **1,593** | % Share : **1.4** 17




**Netherlands**  
Arrivals: **3,177** | % Share: **2.8** 8




**Bangladesh**  
Arrivals: **1,441** | % Share: **1.2** 18




**France**  
Arrivals: **2,661** | % Share: **2.3** 9



**Pakistan**  
Arrivals: **1,391** | % Share: **1.2** 19



**Canada**  
Arrivals: **2,426** | % Share: **2.2** 10




**Italy**  
Arrivals: **1,257** | % Share : **1.1** 20

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



## Top potential markets, September 2023




**Belgium**  
Arrivals: **1,061** | % Share: **0.9**

1



**South Korea**  
Arrivals : **656** | % Share: **0.5**

6




**Malaysia**  
Arrivals: **924** | % Share: **0.8**

2




**New Zeland**  
Arrivals: **648** | % Share: **0.5**

7




**Belarus**  
Arrivals: **778** | % Share: **0.6**

3




**Taiwan**  
Arrivals: **616** | % Share : **0.5**

8




**Singapore**  
Arrivals: **759** | % Share : **0.6**

4




**Nepal**  
Arrivals: **593** | % Share: **0.5**

9



**Austria**  
Arrivals: **726** | % Share: **0.6**

5



**Norway**  
Arrivals: **547** | % Share: **0.4**

10

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





# Top ten source markets

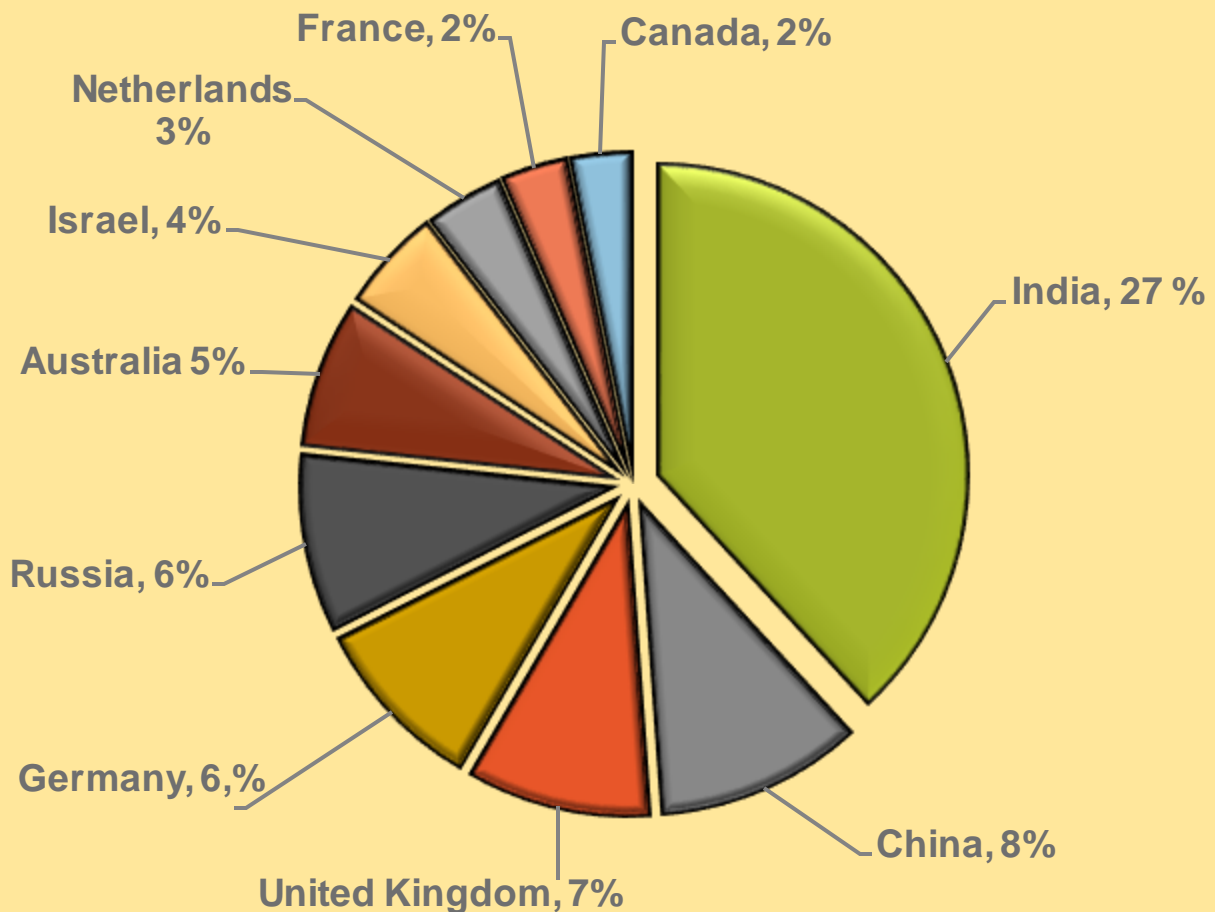
## September 2023

In September, India emerged as the leading source of tourism for Sri Lanka, contributing to 27% of total arrivals. China, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia followed with 8%, 7%, and 6% each, signifying changing travel preferences and patterns. Notably, there has been a rise in arrivals from China, Israel, and the Netherlands, indicating a shift towards emerging destinations.

Several factors, including improved air connectivity, favorable local conditions, geographical proximity, and geopolitical considerations, have collectively established these countries as Sri Lanka's primary tourism contributors.

The growth rates of tourist arrivals from various countries have been influenced by global and local dynamics. Netherlands, Israel, India, and Russia have witnessed substantial growth in arrivals, while Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia have shown the slowest growth rates compared to September 2022. This variation in growth rates can be attributed to evolving trends and responses to the prevailing global and local circumstances.

**Chart 1. Top ten source markets to Sri Lanka, September 2023**



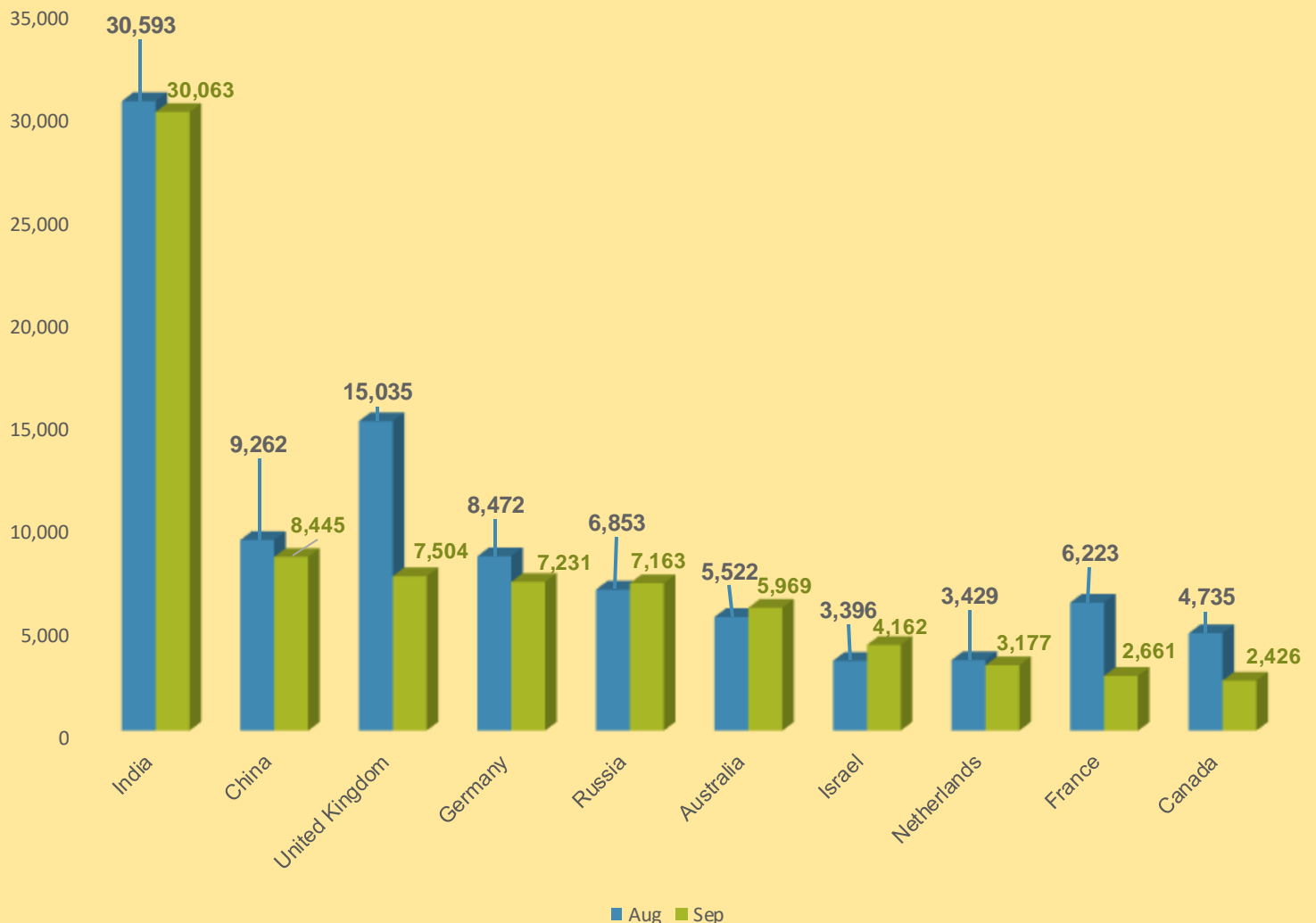




**Table 2. Top ten source markets to Sri Lanka, September 2023**

Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (September 2023)			Tourist Arrivals (September 2022)
		By Air	By Sea	Total	
1	India	27,816	2,247	30,063	6,493
2	China	8,445	0	8,445	637
3	United Kingdom	7,501	3	7,504	2,872
4	Germany	7,231	0	7,231	2,149
5	Russian Federation	7,163	0	7,163	1,553
6	Australia	5,968	1	5,969	2,309
7	Israel	4,162	0	4,162	826
8	Netherlands	3,177	0	3,177	473
9	France	2,661	0	2,661	1,201
10	Canada	2,426	0	2,426	1,552

**Chart 2. Comparison of arrivals from top ten markets to Sri Lanka, Aug. / Sep. – 2023**





# Top ten source markets January to September 2023

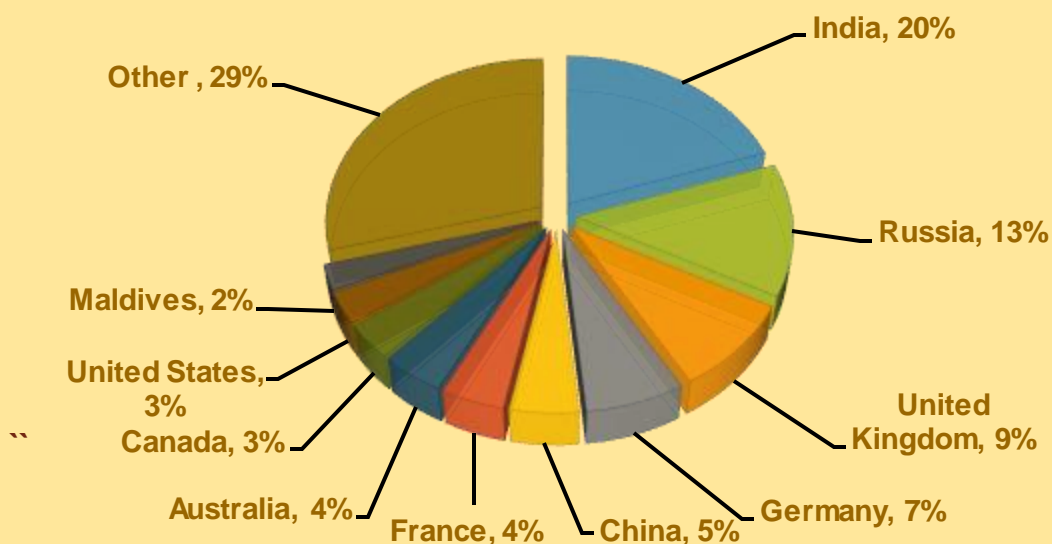
Compared to the same period in 2022, Sri Lanka saw a rise in its major sources of international tourists from January to September 2023, including India, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Germany, and China. Notably, there was an upsurge in tourist arrivals from countries such as Russia, India, the Maldives, the United States, and Australia during this timeframe, contributing significantly to the overall growth in tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka for the first nine months of 2023.

However, it's worth mentioning that tourist arrivals from the United Kingdom and France exhibited a decline when compared to the same period last year. This indicates fluctuations in travel preferences and patterns for these particular regions.

**Table 3. Top ten markets to Sri Lanka, January to September 2023**

Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (Jan. – Sep. 2023)	Tourist Arrivals (Jan. – Sep. 2022)
1	India	200,310	86,625
2	Russian Federation	132,300	51,300
3	United Kingdom	90,843	68,527
4	Germany	68,913	42,508
5	China	47,631	3,021
6	France	43,904	29,436
7	Australia	43,712	20,721
8	Canada	35,324	20,608
9	United States	31,350	15,250
10	Maldives	25,078	11,867
11	Others	296,891	176,369
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,016,256</b>	<b>526,232</b>

**Chart 3. Top ten source markets to Sri Lanka, January to September 2023**





# Tourist arrivals by purpose of visit

## September 2023

An examination of the motivations behind tourists' visits to Sri Lanka reveals distinct trends in their purposes. The majority, comprising 60% of all visits, selected Sri Lanka as a destination for leisure and vacation, highlighting its appeal as a top choice for those seeking relaxation and enjoyable experiences. Additionally, 13% of tourists visited to reconnect with friends and relatives, underscoring Sri Lanka's ability to attract individuals with personal connections or a desire to foster relationships with loved ones residing there.

Conversely, business-related reasons accounted for only 6% of tourist visits, indicating a relatively small segment of visitors arriving for professional engagements. Furthermore, 6% of tourists arrived in Sri Lanka for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) purposes, showcasing the country's growing presence as a venue for such events. Moreover, niche interests were represented, with 0.37% and 0.036% visiting for health/Ayurvedic and educational purposes, respectively. These findings underscore Sri Lanka's multifaceted appeal and highlight its attractiveness as a destination catering to a wide range of traveler preferences and objectives.

Among the primary source markets, including India, China, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Russia, Israel, and the Netherlands, leisure and vacation were the dominant motives for visiting Sri Lanka. Specifically, Indian tourists accounted for 68%, Chinese tourists 89%, British tourists 51%, German tourists 70%, French tourists 60%, Russian tourists 37%, Israeli tourists 63%, and Dutch tourists 85% who visited for leisure purposes. This data indicates that the majority of tourists from these key source markets selected Sri Lanka as a destination for recreational purposes, emphasizing the country's allure as a place for relaxation and enjoyable experiences.

Canadian tourists (71%) and Australian tourists (44%) primarily visited Sri Lanka to reconnect with friends and relatives, likely due to the presence of a Sri Lankan diaspora in these countries. Only 19% of Canadian tourists and 43% of Australian tourists came for leisure or vacation purposes. This data suggests that a significant portion of tourists from these countries had a strong motivation to visit Sri Lanka based on personal connections and family ties, highlighting the importance of Sri Lanka's diaspora communities in attracting visitors from these nations.

Additionally, 15% of Indian tourists and 6% of Indian visitors came to Sri Lanka for business-related reasons and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) purposes, respectively. Furthermore, 4% of German tourists traveled to Sri Lanka with the intent of seeking health-related services. Notably, 27% of Israeli tourists visited Sri Lanka for MICE purposes.

**Chart 4: Purpose of visit**

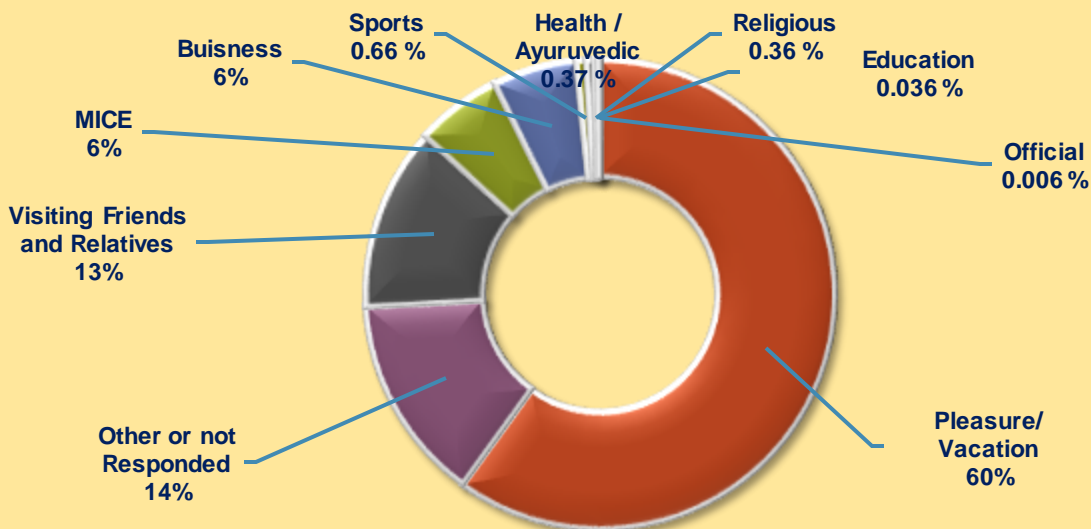
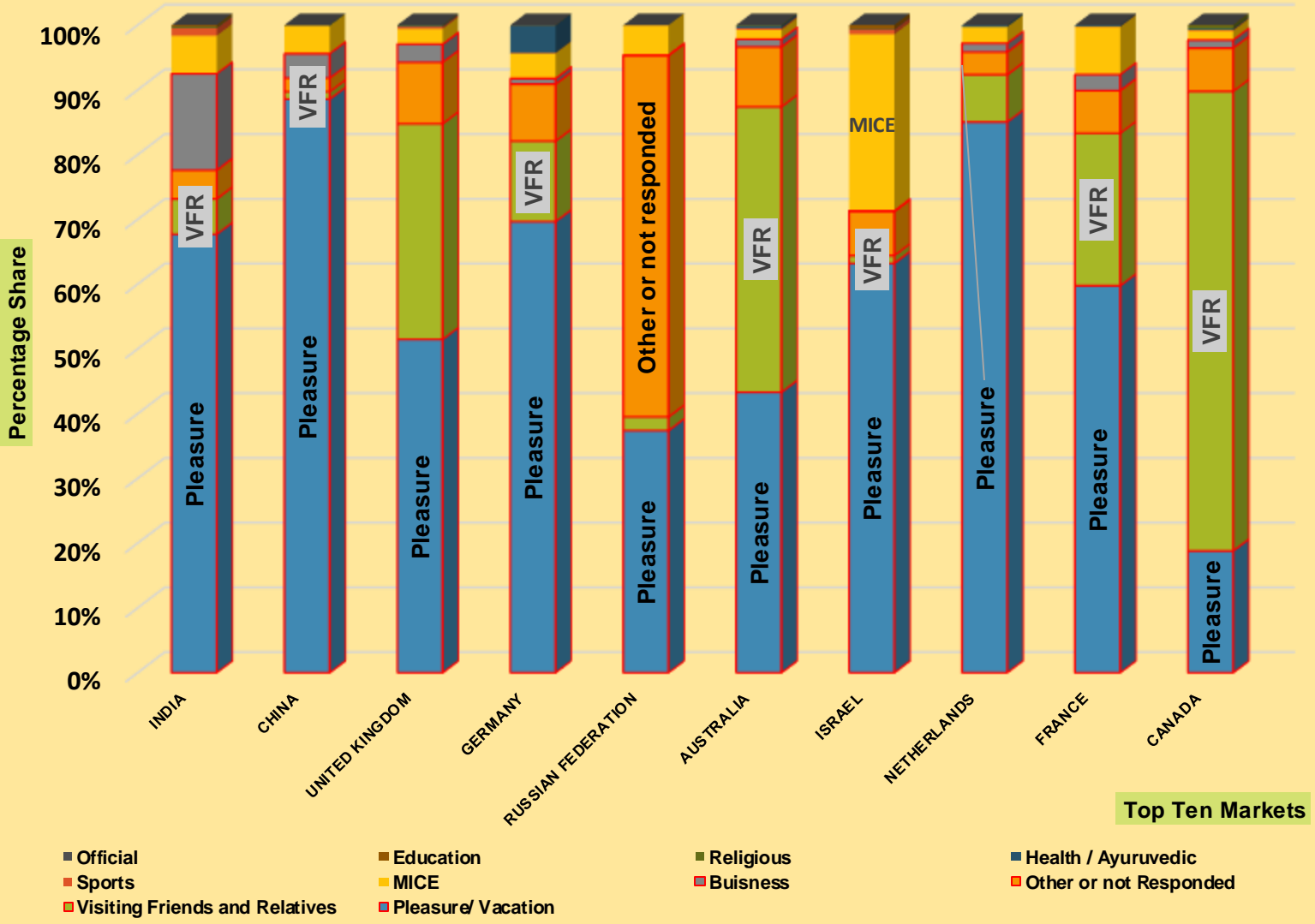




Chart 5 : Purpose of visit vs main source markets





## Tourism tale: Sri Lanka's path to a million tourists

In 2023, Sri Lanka is set to achieve an ambitious target of welcoming 1.55 million tourists, representing substantial growth compared to the 719,978 tourists it received in 2022. By September 2023, the country had already greeted 111,938 tourists, signifying a notable upswing in tourism. However, it's essential to acknowledge that these figures remain below the levels observed in 2018.

Monthly forecasts for 2023 paint a positive picture, with actual tourist arrivals consistently exceeding the predicted numbers, especially from February to July. This trend suggests a promising trajectory for tourism as Sri Lanka steadily recovers from various challenges.

September 2023 stands out with the highest percentage increase compared to 2022, marking an extraordinary 275.6% rise. Additionally, July recorded the highest number of arrivals for the year, reaching an impressive 143,039 tourists. Monthly variations in arrivals reflect seasonal changes influenced by holidays, weather patterns, and other factors, underlining the dynamic nature of tourism in the country.

Noteworthy is Sri Lanka's achievement of surpassing one million tourists in September, marking a significant milestone. After 2019, this is the first time that Sri Lanka has experienced such a substantial increase in tourist arrivals, exceeding the one-million mark. During the initial eight months of the year, India, Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France dominated as the top source markets for Sri Lankan tourism, contributing significantly to the influx of tourists. Furthermore, China has emerged as a prominent market among these top source countries.

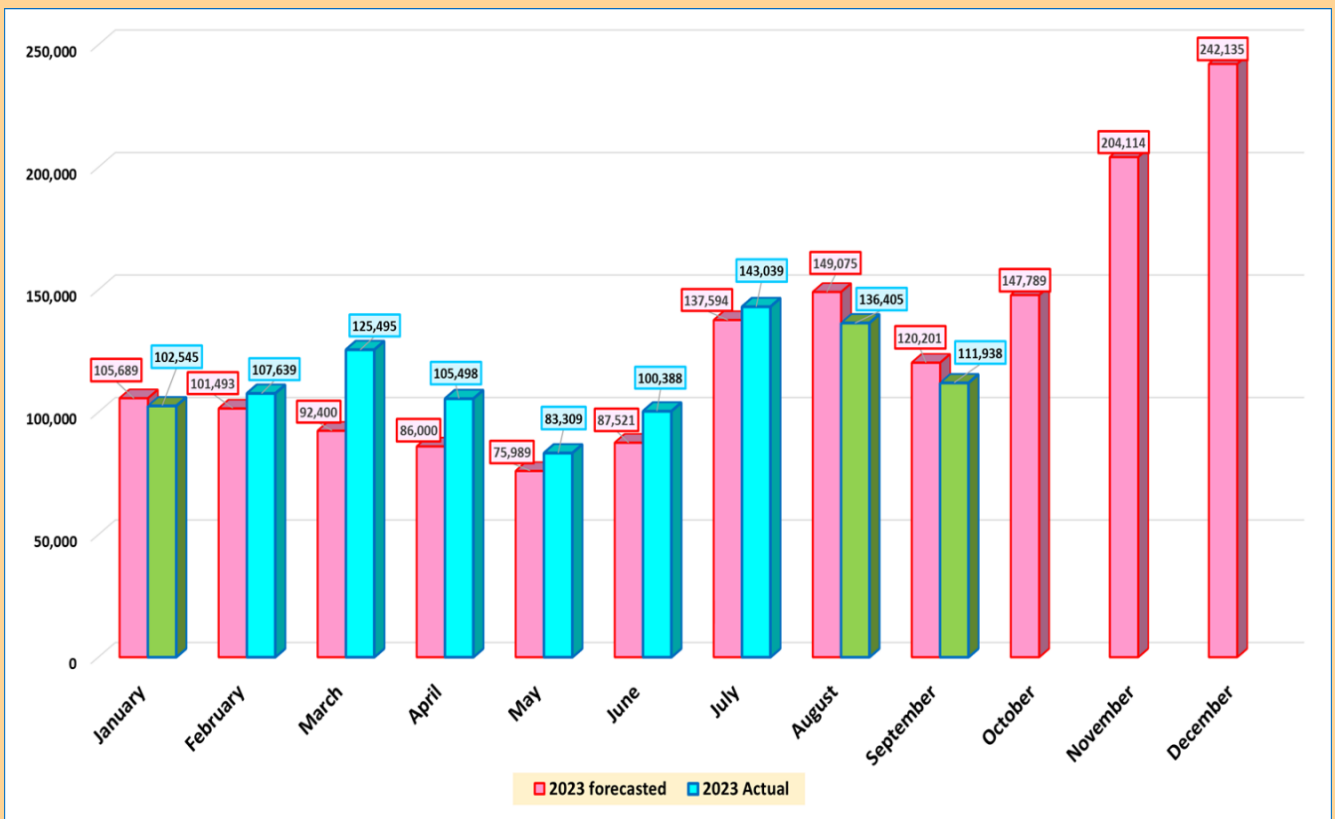
Sri Lanka's tourism sector is poised for a notable resurgence, attributed to several factors such as improved accessibility, recent prestigious accolades, and other advancements. Nevertheless, as per the UNWTO, the challenging economic environment may influence spending patterns in the remaining part of the year. Travelers are increasingly emphasizing value for their money, favoring nearby destinations, and opting for shorter vacations.

**Table 4 : Actual tourist arrivals vs forecasted arrivals**

Month	Tourist Arrivals 2018	Tourist Arrivals 2019	Tourist Arrivals 2022	Tourist Arrivals 2023	Forecasted arrivals for 2023	% change 23/22
January	238,924	244,239	82,327	102,545	105,689	24.6
February	235,618	252,033	96,507	107,639	101,493	11.5
March	233,382	244,328	106,500	125,495	92,400	17.8
April	180,429	166,975	62,980	105,498	86,000	67.5
May	129,466	37,802	30,207	83,309	75,989	175.8
June	146,828	63,072	32,856	100,388	87,521	205.5
July	217,829	115,701	47,293	143,039	137,594	202.5
August	200,359	143,587	37,760	136,405	149,075	261.2
September	149,087	108,575	29,802	111,938	120,201	275.6
October	153,123	118,743	42,026	-	147,789	
November	195,582	176,984	59,759	-	204,114	
December	253,169	241,663	91,961	-	242,135	
	<b>2,333,796</b>	<b>1,913,702</b>	<b>719,978</b>	<b>1,016,256</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	



Chart 6 : Actual arrivals vs forcasted arrivals





## International tourist arrivals by country of residence

	September 2023			Tourist Arrivals Sep 2022	% Change Sep (23/22) 2023	Total Tourist Arrivals up to September 2023	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep 2022	% Change up to Sep (23/22)
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>5,182</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5,187</b>	<b>2,642</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>70,102</b>	<b>37,508</b>	<b>86.90</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>4,897</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4,902</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>67,183</b>	<b>36,066</b>	<b>86.28</b>
Canada	2,426	0	2,426	1,552	56.3	35,324	20,608	71.41
Mexico	119	0	119	13	815.4	509	208	144.71
United States	2,352	5	2,357	991	137.8	31,350	15,250	105.57
<b>Carribbean &amp; Central America</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>418.2</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>113.45</b>
Costa Rica	5	0	5	0	-	38	31	22.58
Jamaica	3	0	3	1	200.0	35	11	218.18
Others	49	0	49	10	390.0	403	181	122.65
<b>South America</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>204.0</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>100.41</b>
Argentina	42	0	42	4	950.0	515	156	230.13
Brazil	82	0	82	40	105.0	890	494	80.16
Chile	19	0	19	7	171.4	292	124	135.48
Colombia	49	0	49	11	345.5	374	237	57.81
Others	36	0	36	13	176.9	372	208	78.85
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>280.8</b>	<b>6,282</b>	<b>3,319</b>	<b>89.27</b>
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>147.7</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>31.40</b>
Morocco	49	0	49	10	390.0	546	324	68.52
Sudan	33	0	33	36	(8.3)	585	675	(13.33)
Others	79	0	79	19	315.8	706	399	76.94
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>365.7</b>	<b>4,445</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>131.39</b>
Kenya	40	0	40	6	566.7	415	144	188.19
Mauritius	29	0	29	7	314.3	215	68	216.18
Nigeria	6	0	6	1	500.0	59	19	210.53
South Africa	185	0	185	34	444.1	2,037	1,061	91.99
Others	215	0	215	54	298.1	1,719	629	173.29



	September 2023			Tourist Arrivals Sep 2022	% Change Sep (23/22)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep 2023	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep 2022	% Change up to Sep (23/22)
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>ASIA &amp; PACIFIC</b>	<b>56,133</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>58,391</b>	<b>13,202</b>	<b>342.3</b>	<b>397,013</b>	<b>145,275</b>	<b>173.28</b>
<b>North East Asia</b>	<b>11,562</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,562</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,755</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>-</b>
China	8,445	0	8,445	637	-	47,631	3,021	-
Japan	1,830	0	1,830	226	-	12,859	1,684	663.60
South Korea	656	0	656	138	375.4	4,870	1,073	353.87
Taiwan	616	0	616	22	-	3,311	203	-
Others	15	0	15	4	275.0	84	48	75.00
<b>South East Asia</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,776</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>232.9</b>	<b>24,706</b>	<b>7,552</b>	<b>227.15</b>
Cambodia	26	0	26	8	225.0	379	82	362.20
Indonesia	184	0	184	71	159.2	1,602	578	177.16
Malaysia	924	0	924	207	346.4	7,284	1,646	342.53
Myanmar	47	0	47	33	42.4	826	186	344.09
Philippines	327	1	328	115	185.2	3,102	1,414	119.38
Singapore	759	0	759	262	189.7	6,210	2,321	167.56
Thailand	325	1	326	89	266.3	3,511	922	280.80
Vietnam	154	0	154	41	275.6	1,657	372	345.43
Others	28	0	28	8	250.0	135	31	335.48
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>6,631</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6,632</b>	<b>2,506</b>	<b>164.6</b>	<b>49,146</b>	<b>22,513</b>	<b>118.30</b>
Australia	5,968	1	5,969	2,309	158.5	43,712	20,721	110.96
New Zealand	648	0	648	186	248.4	5,260	1,743	201.78
Others	15	0	15	11	36.4	174	49	255.10
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>35,166</b>	<b>2,255</b>	<b>37,421</b>	<b>8,835</b>	<b>323.6</b>	<b>254,406</b>	<b>109,181</b>	<b>133.01</b>
Afghanistan	21	0	21	0	-	135	21	542.86
Bangladesh	1,441	0	1,441	338	326.3	9,531	2,227	327.97
Bhutan	32	0	32	8	300.0	293	94	211.70
India	27,816	2,247	30,063	6,493	363.0	200,310	86,625	131.24
Iran	1,593	0	1,593	214	644.4	8,109	3,543	128.87
Maldives	2,287	0	2,287	1,314	74.0	25,078	11,867	111.33
Nepal	585	8	593	47	-	3,239	668	384.88
Pakistan	1,391	0	1,391	421	230.4	7,711	4,136	86.44
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>45,991</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45,996</b>	<b>13,218</b>	<b>248.0</b>	<b>521,223</b>	<b>326,269</b>	<b>59.75</b>
<b>Northern Europe</b>	<b>9,286</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9,291</b>	<b>3,513</b>	<b>164.5</b>	<b>114,796</b>	<b>87,121</b>	<b>31.77</b>
Denmark	472	0	472	164	187.8	7,586	6,150	23.35
Finland	132	0	132	28	371.4	1,265	1,186	6.66
Norway	547	0	547	250	118.8	6,696	4,986	34.30
Sweden	327	0	327	145	125.5	4,960	3,576	38.70
United Kingdom	7,501	3	7,504	2,872	161.3	90,843	68,527	32.57
Others	307	2	309	54	472.2	3,446	2,696	27.82



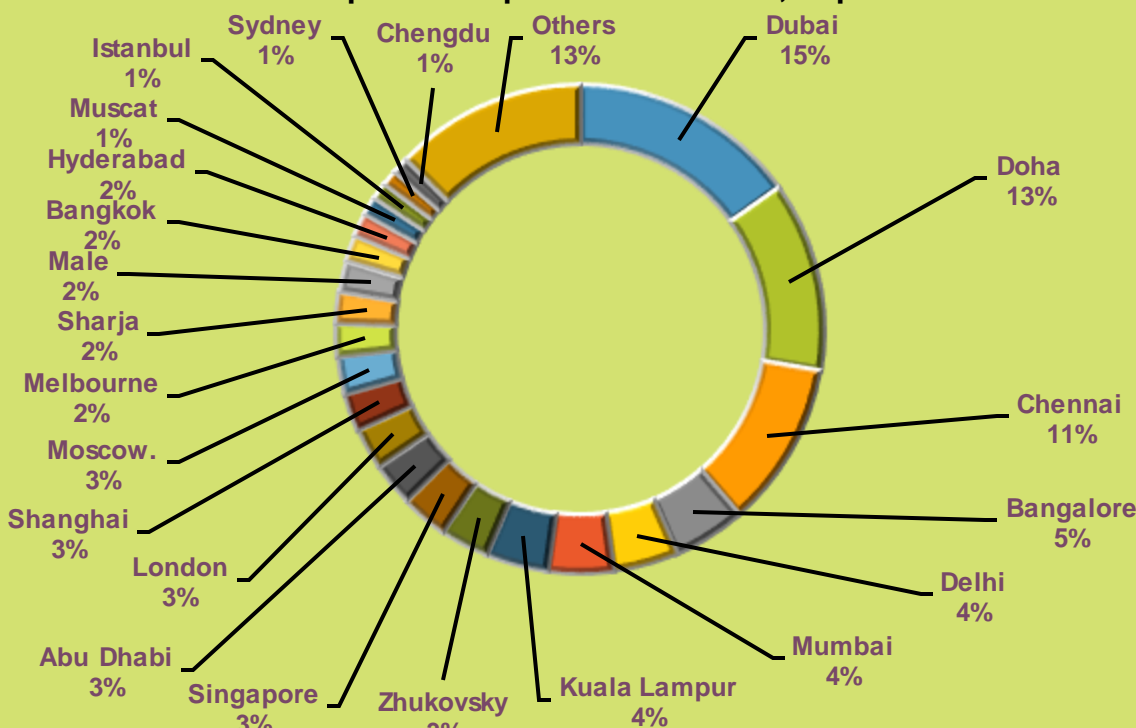


	September 2023			Tourist Arrivals Sep 2022	% Change Sep (23/22)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep 2023	Total Tourist Arrivals up to Sep 2022	% Change up to Sep (23/22)
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>16,534</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,534</b>	<b>4,882</b>	<b>238.7</b>	<b>167,492</b>	<b>101,625</b>	<b>64.81</b>
Austria	726	0	726	152	377.6	6,721	4,259	57.81
Belgium	1,061	0	1,061	316	235.8	8,237	5,099	61.54
France	2,661	0	2,661	1,201	121.6	43,904	29,436	49.15
Germany	7,231	0	7,231	2,149	236.5	68,913	42,508	62.12
Netherlands	3,177	0	3,177	473	571.7	21,897	9,823	122.92
Switzerland	1,638	0	1,638	583	181.0	17,324	10,291	68.34
Others	40	0	40	8	400.0	496	209	137.32
<b>Central/ Eastern Europe</b>	<b>11,364</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,364</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>394.1</b>	<b>177,869</b>	<b>109,993</b>	<b>61.71</b>
Belarus	778	0	778	54	-	7,071	2,440	189.80
Czech Republic	413	0	413	53	679.2	6,536	6,316	3.48
Estonia	47	0	47	10	370.0	774	781	(0.90)
Hungary	97	0	97	31	212.9	2,030	1,822	11.42
Kazakhstan	91	0	91	27	237.0	2,372	7,684	( 69.13)
Lithuania	113	0	113	21	438.1	1,610	1,703	(5.46)
Poland	1,599	0	1,599	228	601.3	9,968	13,562	(26.50)
Romania	166	0	166	77	115.6	2,322	2,650	(12.38)
Russia	7,163	0	7,163	1,553	361.2	132,300	51,300	157.89
Slovakia	258	0	258	38	578.9	2,991	1,940	54.18
Ukraine	233	0	233	69	237.7	3,256	13,977	(76.70)
Others	406	0	406	139	192.1	6,639	5,818	14.11
<b>Southern/ Mediterranean Europe</b>	<b>8,807</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,807</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>249.1</b>	<b>61,066</b>	<b>27,530</b>	<b>121.82</b>
Greece	51	0	51	27	88.9	1,150	632	81.96
Italy	1,257	0	1,257	352	257.1	16,224	5,144	215.40
Portugal	286	0	286	95	201.1	2,555	1,485	72.05
Spain	2,414	0	2,414	1,091	121.3	16,077	10,357	55.23
Turkey	256	0	256	47	444.7	2,309	1,075	114.79
Israel	4,162	0	4,162	826	403.9	18,449	6,764	172.75
Others	381	0	381	85	348.2	4,302	2,073	107.53
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>201.6</b>	<b>21,636</b>	<b>13,861</b>	<b>56.09</b>
Bahrain	52	0	52	14	271.4	992	375	164.53
Egypt	189	0	189	53	256.6	2,006	1,810	10.83
Iraq	73	0	73	18	305.6	722	885	(18.42)
Jordan	242	0	242	145	66.9	2,930	1,779	64.70
Kuwait	147	0	147	43	241.9	1,654	757	118.49
Lebanon	292	0	292	58	403.4	2,424	1,163	108.43
Oman	74	0	74	26	184.6	1,731	577	200.00
Qatar	23	0	23	21	9.5	715	211	238.86
Saudi Arabia	331	0	331	118	180.5	5,342	4,945	8.03
United Arab Emirates	228	0	228	53	330.2	2,265	943	140.19
Others	77	0	77	24	220.8	855	416	105.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109,670</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>111,938</b>	<b>29,802</b>	<b>275.6</b>	<b>1,016,256</b>	<b>526,232</b>	<b>93.12</b>

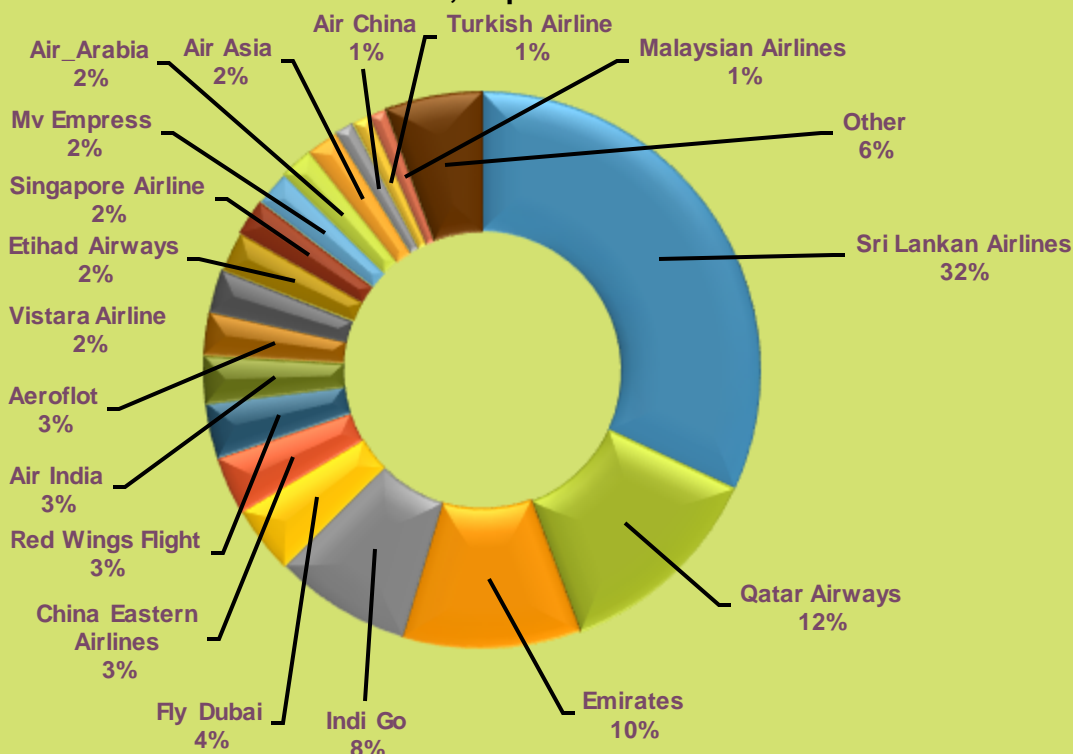
## Main last departure airports and airlines to Sri Lanka, September 2023

Analyzing the departure airports and airlines preferred by tourists visiting Sri Lanka highlights the vital role of air travel in the country's tourism industry. Based on the information from Chart 7, around 39% of tourists selected airports in Dubai, Doha, and Chennai as their last departure points for their Sri Lankan journeys. Additionally, the top airlines favoured by tourists arriving in Sri Lanka were Sri Lankan Airlines, Qatar Airways, and Emirates, collectively responsible for serving 54% of the total tourist arrivals. This emphasizes the crucial role of air transportation in facilitating tourism in Sri Lanka, with specific departure airports and airlines playing a significant role in catering to a substantial portion of visitors.

**Chart 7. Main last departure airports to Sri Lanka, September 2023**



**Chart 8. Main airlines to Sri Lanka, September 2023**



## Top ten markets versus main last departure airports and main airlines to Sri Lanka September 2023

The choices tourists make regarding their preferred airlines and departure airports are strongly shaped by their primary markets. For example, Indian visitors often opt for Sri Lankan Airlines and IndiGo, while Russian tourists tend to favor Aeroflot. On the flip side, Sri Lankan Airlines is a preferred choice among tourists from the United Kingdom, and Australia. Interestingly, German, Dutch, and French tourists frequently choose Qatar Airways and utilize Doha as their main departure point. Canadian tourists have shown a preference for Emirates as their airline of choice, with Dubai being their last departure airport.

This underscores the crucial role of accessibility in promoting tourism in Sri Lanka. It further highlights how tourists' preferences for airlines and departure airports are heavily influenced by their home countries, emphasizing the significance of convenient connections in attracting tourists to Sri Lanka.

**Table 5. Top ten markets vs. main last departure airports to Sri Lanka, September 2023**

Country	Dubai	Doha	Chennai	Bangalore	Delhi	Mumbai	Kuala Lumpur	Zhukovsky	Singapore	Abu Dhabi	London	Shanghai	Moscow.	Melbourne	Sharja	Male	Bangkok	Hyderabad	Muscat	Istanbul	Others	Total
India	603	181	10,499	4,714	3,462	3,731	114	0	133	43	9	1	0	8	193	97	119	1,651	33	8	4,464	30,063
China	139	26	13	3	13	4	797	0	208	38	2	2,612	0	9	163	213	462	0	13	3	3,727	8,445
United Kingdom	1,736	1,749	261	82	114	134	195	0	110	114	2,246	13	4	39	42	70	98	14	37	34	412	7,504
Germany	2,312	2,422	191	141	155	251	95	0	29	284	51	10	6	3	20	57	46	0	183	227	748	7,231
Russian Federation	240	263	18	39	31	16	77	3,055	8	63	1	13	2,660	0	293	18	48	1	190	11	118	7,163
Australia	131	103	116	44	109	29	802	0	998	13	95	8	1	2,100	8	94	61	9	7	3	1,238	5,969
Israel	2,242	222	29	15	152	21	16	0	11	687	2	6	4	5	5	18	136	2	11	95	483	4,162
Netherlands	1,368	1,055	32	30	48	100	45	0	17	57	67	5	3	6	9	78	31	0	13	91	122	3,177
France	600	1,000	118	25	37	75	74	0	26	86	43	4	3	7	13	41	27	0	132	36	314	2,661
Canada	1,073	442	239	28	43	32	69	0	66	54	164	3	0	10	10	14	24	1	8	4	142	2,426

**Table 6. Top ten markets vs. main airlines to Sri Lanka, September 2023**

Country	Sri Lankan Airlines	Qatar Airways	Emirates	Indi Go	Fly Dubai	China Eastern Airlines	Air India	Aeroflot	Vistara Airline	Etihad Airways	Singapore Airline	Air Arabia	Air Asia	Air China	Turkish Airline	Malaysian AI	Gulf Air	Oman Air	Other	Total
India	43.26	0.43	0.96	26.66	0.45	0.01	8.03	0.00	7.71	0.10	0.17	0.64	0.14	0.00	0.03	0.07	0.09	0.06	11.18	100.00
China	28.42	0.25	0.98	0.00	0.49	41.66	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.37	1.50	0.07	5.35	14.06	0.04	1.20	0.09	0.05	5.42	100.00
United Kingdom	40.63	23.21	19.48	1.24	3.30	0.12	0.93	0.05	0.57	1.27	0.53	0.56	1.33	0.00	0.43	0.31	2.89	0.39	2.75	100.00
Germany	19.44	33.29	25.86	0.57	5.70	0.14	1.02	0.08	0.58	3.48	0.36	0.28	0.89	0.01	2.85	0.15	1.42	2.25	1.62	100.00
Russian Federation	1.80	3.66	1.28	0.60	1.80	0.18	0.17	37.14	0.18	0.71	0.07	4.09	0.78	0.00	0.15	0.01	0.92	2.43	44.02	100.00
Australia	68.10	1.68	1.61	0.95	0.28	0.13	0.34	0.02	0.20	0.18	12.45	0.13	4.46	0.02	0.05	7.10	0.03	0.08	2.18	100.00
Israel	20.47	5.31	21.26	0.65	24.63	0.14	2.02	0.10	0.58	9.39	0.10	0.12	0.19	0.00	2.21	0.10	2.47	0.10	10.16	100.00
Netherlands	14.26	32.67	38.31	0.72	4.69	0.13	0.41	0.09	1.29	1.79	0.19	0.28	1.16	0.00	2.61	0.09	0.19	0.28	0.82	100.00
France	19.39	37.35	18.41	1.20	4.02	0.15	0.83	0.11	0.86	2.82	0.75	0.49	1.73	0.00	1.32	0.26	2.67	4.85	2.78	100.00
Canada	25.43	17.89	38.46	1.44	3.42	0.16	1.94	0.00	0.21	1.98	1.90	0.41	0.99	0.04	0.16	0.54	0.25	0.21	4.58	100.00



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