YEAR IN REVIEW 2023 AUGUST

1 HIGHLIGHTS

2 TOURIST ARRIVALS TO SRI LANKA

- Tourist arrivals by month
- Tourist arrivals by region
- Top source markets to Sri Lanka
- Purpose of visit
- Tourism income

3 TOURISM ACCOMADATION

- SLTDA registered accommodation establishments
- Room distribution by province
- Room distribution by district

4 AIR CONNECTIVITY

- Direct air connectivity to and from Sri Lank
- International airlines to Sri Lanka

5 VISITORS TO MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- Visitors to wildlife parks, January to June
- Visitors to Sigiriya, January to June

6 TOURISM ACCOMODATION INVESTMENT

- Tourism investment projects, January to July 2023

HIGHLIGHTS (JANUARY TO JULY)

Tourist arrivals

767,913

Tourism revenue

1,093.98* USD Mn

1.093* billion USD

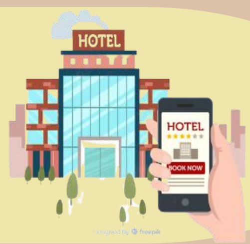
362,238* RS Mn

Room occupancy rate (graded)

42 % (As per available data from January to May)

Average duration of stay

8.57 * nights



Receipt per tourist per day / average expenditure per day

164.4 * USD

1

TOURIST ARRIVALS TO SRI LANKA

(January to July)

Chart 01: Tourist arrivals by month, 2022 & 2023

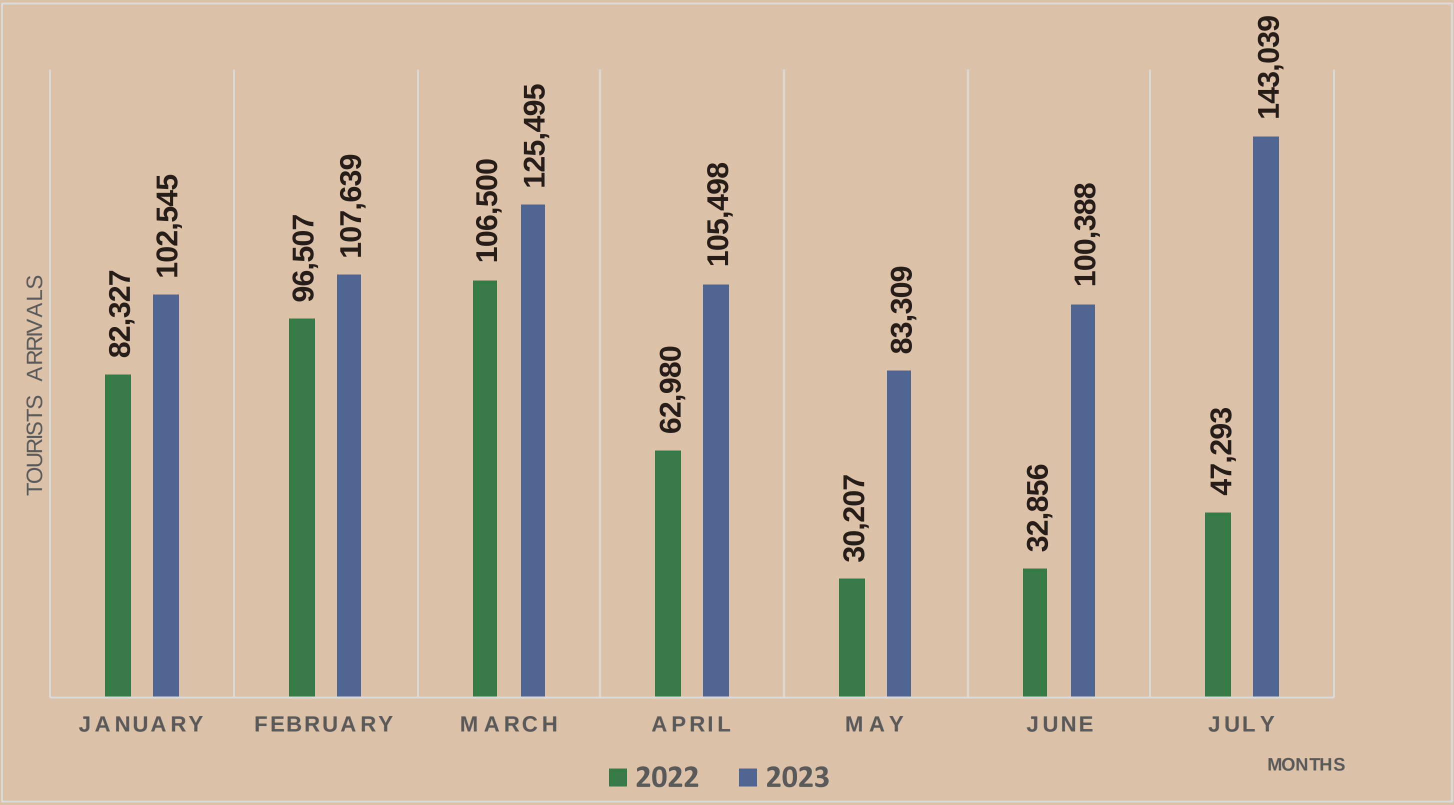


Table 01: Tourist arrivals by month & percentage change, 2022 & 2023

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	202.5
Total	719,978	767,913	6.7

During the first six months, tourist arrivals grew by 6.7% compared to the same months in the previous year, showcasing a positive trend in the industry. This growth indicates increased interest in Sri Lanka as a tourist destination.

Notably, June experienced the highest growth rate, with a remarkable increase of 205.5% compared to the previous year. This could be attributed to various factors, such as favorable weather conditions and holiday seasons in the main source markets.

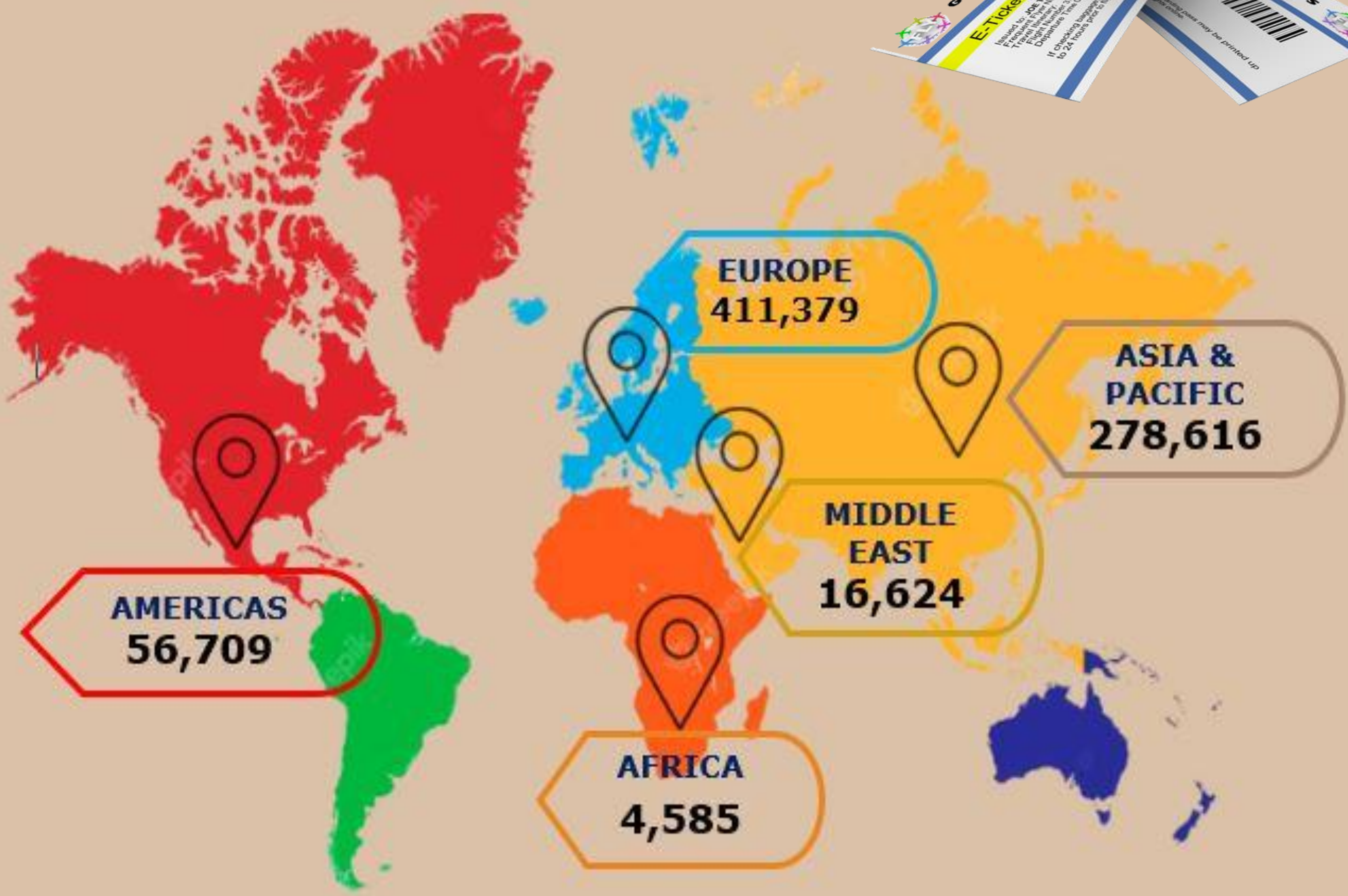
July recorded the highest number of tourist arrivals, reaching 143,039 visitors. This suggests that July is a peak tourist season, possibly due to summer vacations.

In contrast, May had the lowest number of tourist arrivals, with 83,309 visitors. Factors like less favorable weather or fewer incentives for travel during this period might contribute to this lower figure.

Tourist arrivals by region

(January to July)

Figure 01: Tourist arrivals by region



An examination of tourist arrivals by regions reveals that Europe accounted for 53.5% of the total arrivals, with substantial contributions from countries like Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France driving this growth. In contrast, a significant surge in arrivals from India, China, and the Maldives played a pivotal role in boosting tourist numbers in the Asia and Pacific region, which contributed 36.3% of the arrivals. The Americas contributed 7.4% of the total arrivals, while the Middle East accounted for 2.1%. Africa had a modest share of 0.6% in the overall tourist arrivals. These figures reflect the diverse patterns of tourism across regions, highlighting the impact of specific countries and regions on the global tourism landscape.

Top ten markets (January to July)

1

INDIA
Arrivals : 139,654
Share : 18.2 %

2

Russian Federation
Arrivals : 118,284
Share : 15.4 %

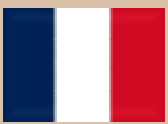
3

United Kingdom
Arrivals : 68,304
Share : 8.9%

4

Germany
Arrivals : 53,210
Share : 7.0%

5



France
Arrivals : 35,020
Share : 4.6%

6

Australia
Arrivals : 32,221
Share : 4.2%

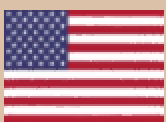
7

China
Arrivals : 29,924
Share : 4.0%

8

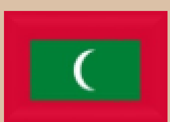
Canada
Arrivals : 28,163
Share : 3.7%

9



United States
Arrivals : 25,886
Share : 3.4%

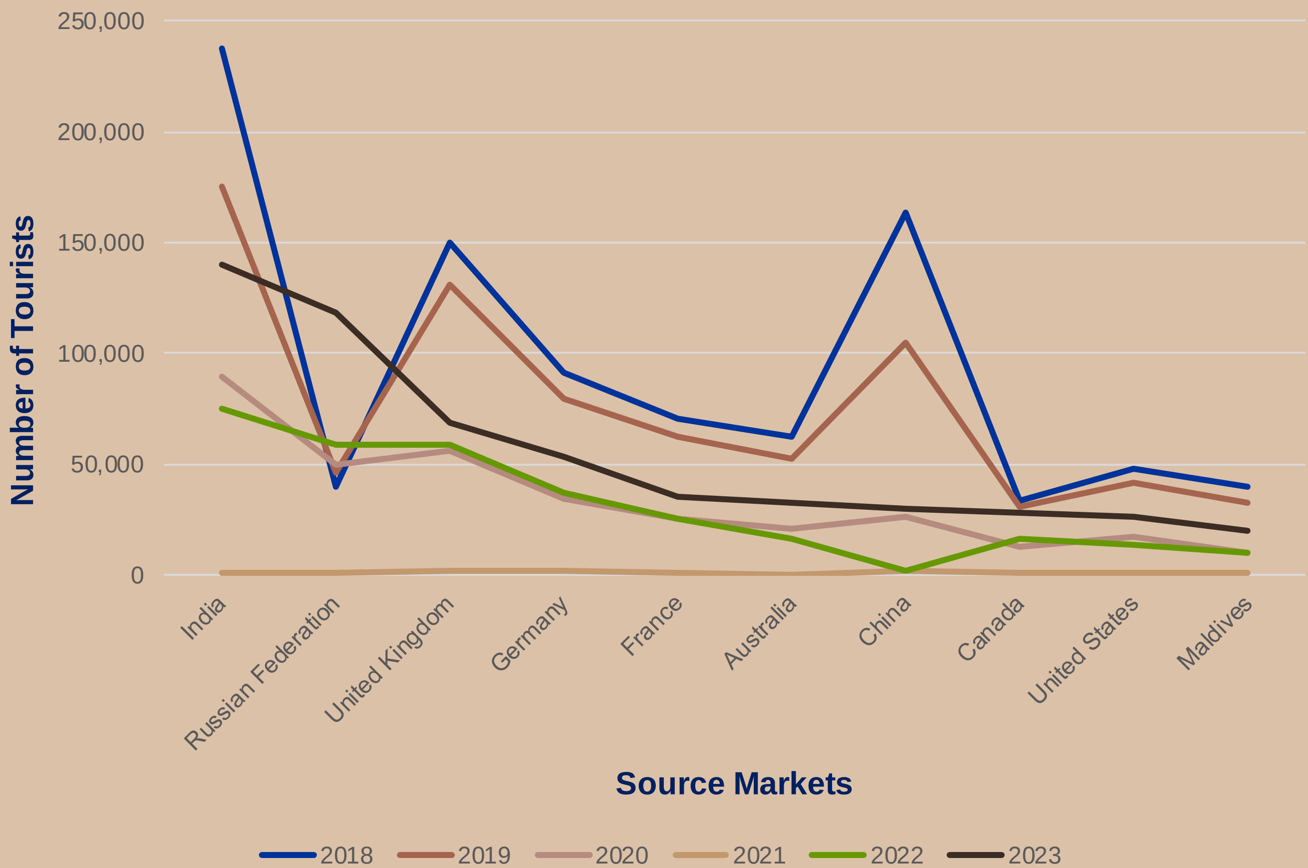
10



Maldives
Arrivals : 20,195
Share : 2.7%

The list of leading source markets for the first half of the year includes India, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Australia, China, Canada, the USA, and the Maldives. It's particularly noteworthy to observe the prominence of China among these top source markets, signifying its growing significance in the global tourism landscape.

Tourist arrivals from main source markets (January to July)



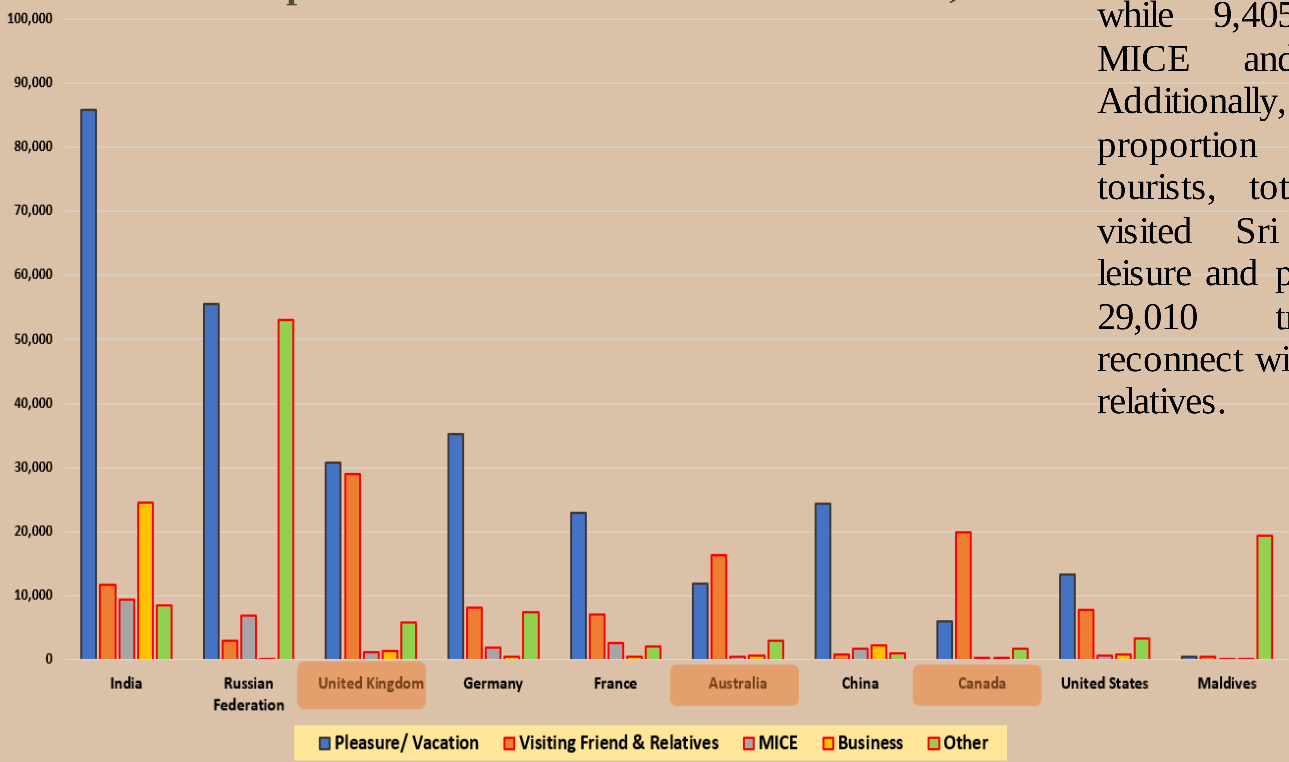
Purpose of visit vs main source markets (January to July)

Table 02: Purpose of visit from main source markets

Country	Pleasure/ Vacation	Visiting Friend & Relatives	MICE	Business	Other	Total
India	85,724	11,658	9,405	24,439	8,428	139,654
Russian Federation	55,460	2,894	6,786	97	53,047	118,284
United Kingdom	30,810	29,010	1,219	1,400	5,865	68,304
Germany	35,240	8,182	1,936	393	7,459	53,210
France	22,848	7,052	2,610	389	2,121	35,020
Australia	11,782	16,389	411	632	3,007	32,221
China	24,283	815	1,686	2,162	978	29,924
Canada	6,056	19,906	363	198	1,640	28,163
United States	13,227	7,761	712	858	3,328	25,886
Maldives	507	369	22	17	19,280	20,195

An examination of the purpose of visits by various markets reveals that countries such as India, Russia, Germany, France, China, and the United States primarily visit for leisure and pleasure. Conversely, tourists from countries like Canada and Australia often visit to reconnect with friends and relatives, likely due to the presence of diaspora communities in these nations. Notably, a substantial number of Indian tourists, specifically 24,439, visited Sri Lanka for business purposes, while 9,405 came for MICE and purposes. Additionally, a significant proportion of British tourists, totaling 30,810, visited Sri Lanka for leisure and pleasure, while 29,010 traveled to reconnect with friends and relatives.

Chart 02: Purpose of visit from main source markets, 2022



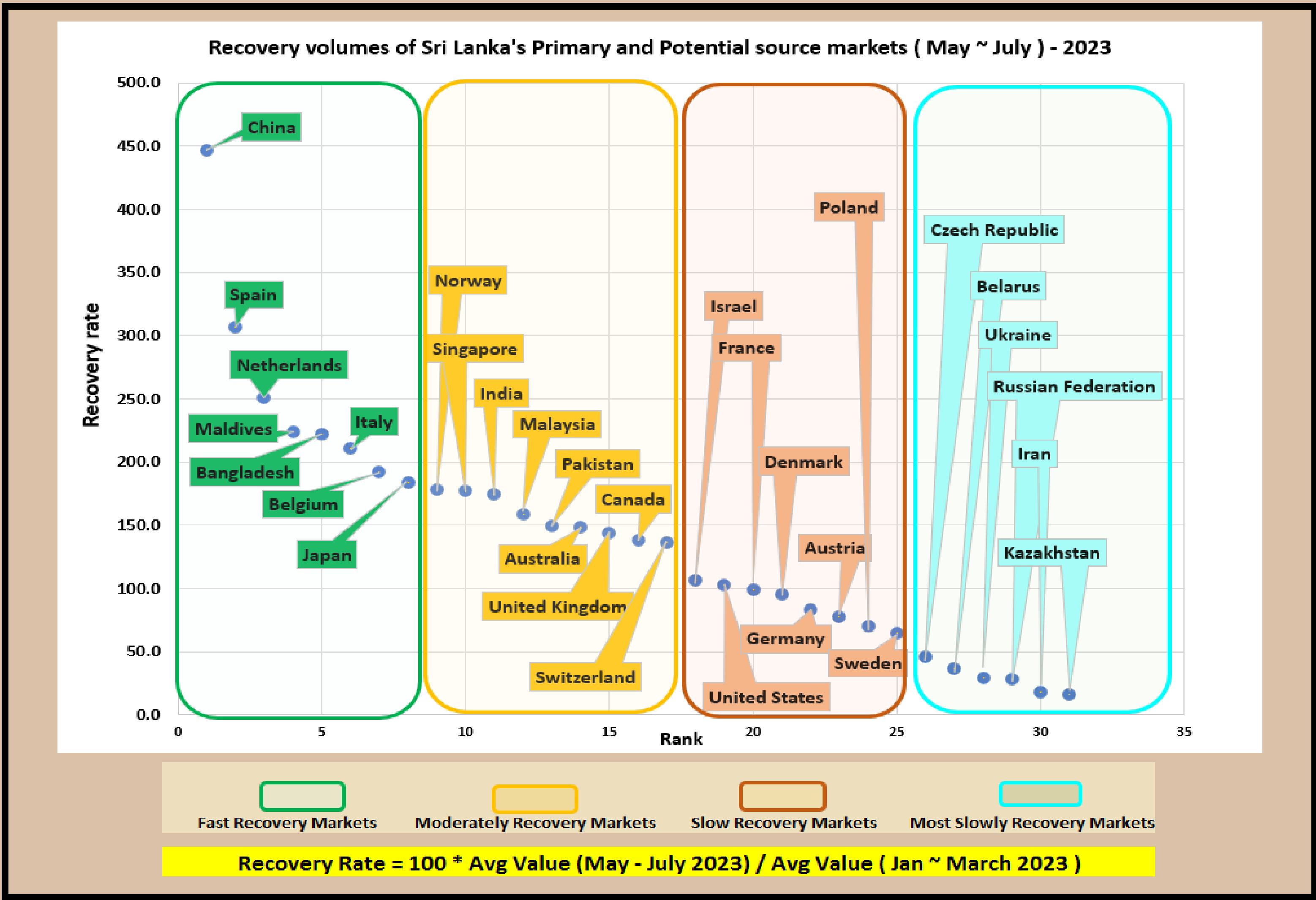
Top source markets, 2018 to 2023

Table 03: Top Source markets, 2018 to 2023 (January to July)

Rank	Country of Residence	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Up to July)
1	India	424,887	355,002	89,357	56,268	123,004	139,654
2	United Kingdom	254,176	198,776	55,455	16,894	85,187	68,304
3	China (PR)	265,965	167,863	26,147	2,417	4,715	29,924
4	Germany	156,888	134,899	34,507	12,442	55,542	53,210
5	Australia	110,928	92,674	20,283	4,421	30,924	32,221
6	France	106,449	87,623	24,838	6,549	35,482	35,020
7	Russia	64,497	86,549	49,397	16,894	91,272	118,284
8	United States	75,308	68,832	16,842	6,124	22,230	25,886
9	Maldives	76,108	60,278	9,407	6,124	18,880	20,195
10	Canada	52,681	48,729	12,436	5,079	26,845	28,163
11	Netherlands	57,160	38,993	8,656	2,422	11,987	15,291
12	Italy	38,379	36,147	8,603	1,309	7,449	9,857
13	Ukraine	36,515	35,051	17,169	7,037	14,917	2,840
14	Japan	49,450	30,079	6,644	392	3,087	8,425
15	Switzerland	33,965	29,981	6,389	2,974	13,260	14,203
16	Spain	29,208	24,489	3,385	2,015	12,895	9,208
17	Sweden	28,267	22,464	7,061	1,601	5,097	4,316
18	Poland	20,378	20,896	11,908	2,110	15,195	7,340
19	Czech Republic	17,600	19,204	7,599	1,864	7,350	5,598
20	Denmark	19,223	16,869	4,905	1,302	7,278	6,562
21	Malaysia	22,808	16,861	3,494	323	2,779	5,153
22	Saudi Arabia	34,703	15,707	4,755	1,596	5,952	4,303
23	Belgium	17,519	14,948	3,371	1,283	6,164	5,846
24	Israel	13,833	14,770	3,556	1,724	9,326	10,891
25	Austria	19,320	14,713	4,300	1,502	5,541	5,129
26	Pakistan	19,116	14,655	3,065	7,520	6,260	5,056
27	Philippines	19,303	14,590	4,249	529	1,961	2,306
28	Singapore	19,861	13,871	2,545	557	3,770	4,547
29	Norway	17,217	13,446	3,019	1,141	5,983	5,668
30	New Zealand	13,825	12,463	2,324	325	2,866	4,037
31	South Korea	15,748	12,195	2,499	389	1,843	3,548
32	Thailand	9,178	9,861	1,880	247	1,725	2,705
33	Bangladesh	10,487	8,261	1,986	1,496	3,817	6,557
34	Ireland	10,830	8,254	2,294	559	3,056	2,610
35	South Africa	7,416	7,132	1,364	272	1,502	1,514
36	Taiwan (P.C.)	8,187	7,127	1,985	42	363	2,084
37	Finland	8,888	7,028	2,298	341	1,500	1,072
38	Greece	7,778	6,980	1,573	249	899	792
39	Romania	5,931	5,463	1,724	820	3,313	1,852
40	Nepal	5,302	5,414	1,384	325	1,065	2,170
41	Portugal	5,933	5,193	1,602	372	1,906	1,901
42	Turkey	4,262	4,972	2,121	309	1,514	1,791
43	Slovakia	5,289	4,944	1,513	664	2,432	2,506
44	Indonesia	5,365	4,919	1,114	1,856	885	1,210
45	Belarus	4,621	4,796	2,627	646	3,621	5,796

Rank	Country of Residence	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Up to July)
46	Lebanon	5,521	4,304	483	547	1,606	1,882
47	Oman	6,846	4,117	1,045	246	876	1,271
48	Hungary	4,514	4,091	1,588	445	2,324	1,767
49	Egypt	3,854	3,708	956	400	2,340	1,578
50	UAE	5,785	3,528	352	254	1,347	1,658
51	Iran	5,720	3,249	648	397	4,301	6,237
52	Kuwait	3,465	3,239	825	166	952	1,214
53	Myanmar	3,241	3,124	532	39	252	424
54	Jordan	3,156	3,085	627	682	2,472	2,299
55	Brazil	2,774	2,964	875	159	669	731
56	Cambodia	771	2,841	372	14	157	344
57	Lithuania	3,386	2,793	1,054	383	2,115	1,406
58	Vietnam	3,189	2,643	709	52	519	1,265
59	Estonia	2,744	2,516	1,185	376	978	701
60	Kazakhstan	2,721	2,399	2,333	5,754	8,068	2,206
61	Bahrain	2,858	2,285	549	128	510	764
62	Croatia	2,181	1,922	693	102	338	422
63	Seychelles	416	1,864	331	118	347	491
64	Kenya	874	1,559	110	39	230	269
65	Argentina	1,809	1,403	416	50	268	421
66	Yemen	1,367	1,114	173	56	229	201
67	Qatar	1,676	1,063	129	34	301	558
68	Morocco	1,036	1,031	311	85	446	415
69	Chile	1,002	938	271	23	182	245
70	Palestine	1,078	871	128	68	366	319
71	Iraq	1,021	852	138	262	1,113	546
72	Mauritius	720	739	170	23	130	163
73	Colombia	702	713	201	76	304	273
74	Cyprus	672	709	183	61	390	429
75	Sudan	858	584	143	97	818	452
76	Afghanistan	861	473	146	15	39	73
77	Bhutan	679	343	208	5	139	201
78	Nigeria	412	172	25	11	27	46
79	Comoros	191	128	17	1	16	45
80	Others	24,944	22,377	6,148	2,002	12,170	13,959
		2,333,796	**1,913,702**	**507,704**	**194,495**	**719,978**	**767,913**

Chart 03: Recovery volumes of Sri Lanka's primary and potential source markets, 2022



According to the graph, the recovery rates were assessed by comparing tourist arrivals in January to March 2023 and May to July 2023. The analysis revealed that Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Belgium, and Japan exhibited the fastest recovery rates. These non-traditional markets seemed particularly prominent during the so-called off-peak season, which could be attributed to factors such as reduced prices and lower traffic.

On the other hand, source markets like Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Pakistan, Malaysia, India, Singapore, and Norway demonstrated moderate recovery rates. It's worth noting that countries like Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom, which constitute a significant portion of Sri Lanka's tourist arrivals, are mainly driven by the Sri Lankan diaspora visiting friends and relatives.

In contrast, the United States, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Denmark, France, Israel, and Poland displayed slower recovery levels. The markets with the slowest recovery rates were the Czech Republic, Belarus, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Iran, and Kazakhstan.

Notably, despite being one of the top markets, Russia had a low recovery level, possibly due to factors like connectivity.

TOURISM INCOME

Table 04: Income from tourism

Month	Number of tourist arrivals	Average value of the month **	Average duration of stay	Average expenditure per day (USD Mn) **
January	**102,545**	**164.4**	**9.10533**	**153.50**
February	**107,639**	**164.4**	**9.13269**	**161.61**
March	**125,495**	**164.4**	**9.15281**	**188.84**
April	**105,498**	**164.4**	**8.54585**	**148.22**
May	**83,309**	**164.4**	**7.30001**	**99.98**
June	**100,388**	**164.4**	**7.44400**	**122.85**
July	**143,039**	**164.4**	**9.31221**	**218.98**
TOTAL	**767,913**			**1,093.98**

TOURISM ACCOMMODATION

2

Table 05: SLTDA registered accommodation establishments

(Up to July)

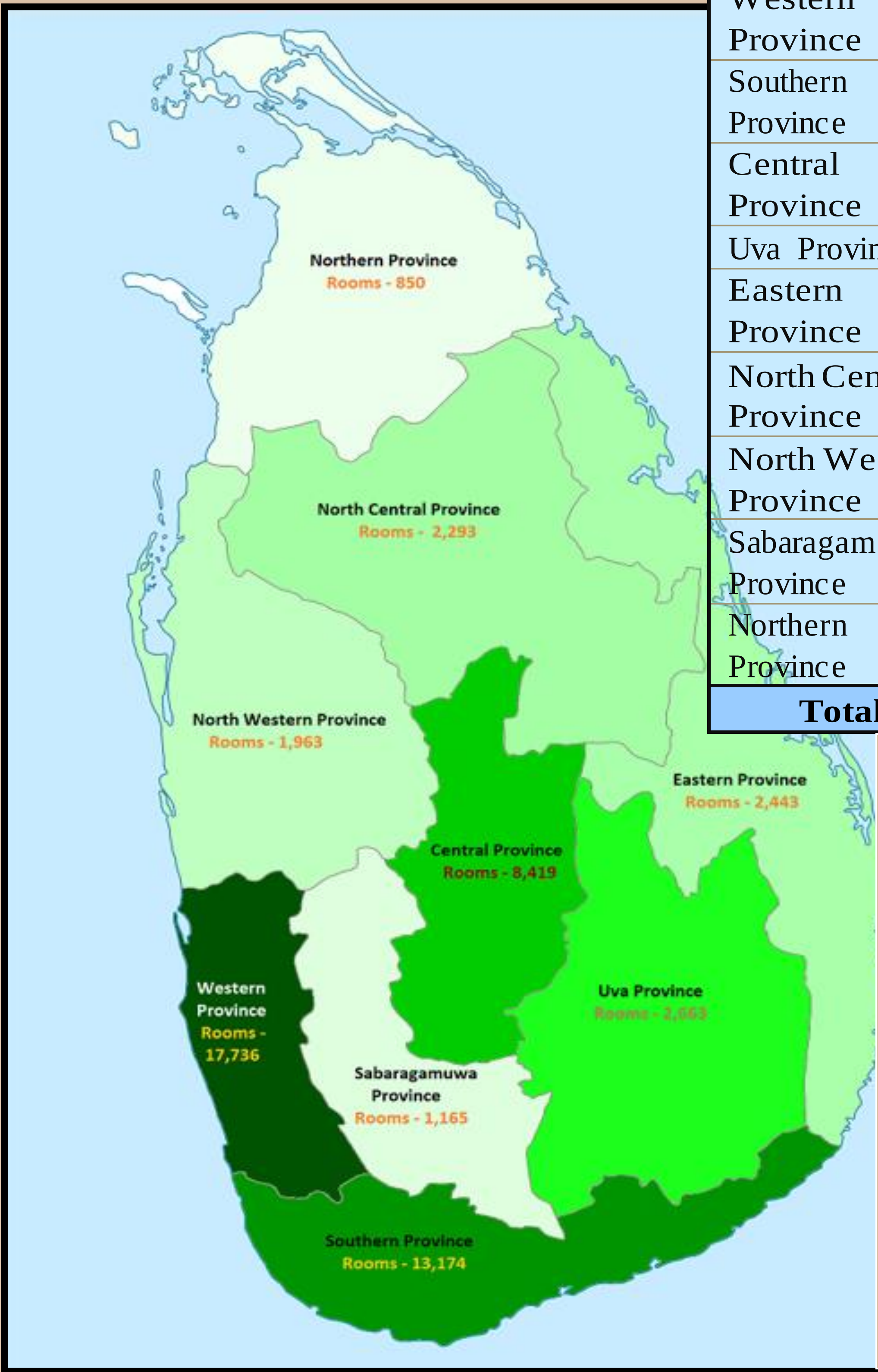
Category	Number of Establishments	Number of Rooms
Boutique Hotel	40	851
Boutique Villa	51	356
Bungalow	895	3,679
Classified Tourist Hotel	156	15,214
1 Star	37	1,687
2 Star	37	1,903
3 Star	26	2,449
4 Star	28	3,244
5 Star	28	5,931
Guest House	1,527	17,006
Eco lodge	1	20
Heritage Bungalow	4	19
Heritage Home	2	2
Heritage Hotel	1	154
Home Stay Unit	1,025	3,085
Hostels	11	133
Rented Apartment	83	314
Rented Home	12	33
Themed Accommodation & Value-added Activities	1	15
Tourist Hotel	228	9,825
Total	**4,035**	**50,706**

The table above illustrates that Guest Houses and Homestay units have the highest number of establishments, with 1,527 and 1,025 respectively. The total number of classified tourist hotels stands at 156, and the overall number of registered establishments is 4035. In terms of the number of rooms, guest houses offer 17,006 rooms, while classified tourist hotels provide 15,214 rooms. The total number of rooms available across all establishments is 50,706.

Room Distribution by Province

Table 06: Distribution of Rooms by Province

Province	Number of rooms	% Share
Western Province	17,736	35.0
Southern Province	13,174	26.0
Central Province	8,419	16.6
Uva Province	2,663	5.3
Eastern Province	2,443	4.8
North Central Province	2,293	4.5
North Western Province	1,963	3.9
Sabaragamuwa Province	1,165	2.3
Northern Province	850	1.7
Total	**50,706**	**100.0**



In terms of provincial distribution, the Western Province holds the highest share of accommodations, accounting for 35% of all rooms. The Southern and Central Provinces follow with 26% and 16.6% of all rooms, respectively. Meanwhile, the Northern Province has the lowest number of rooms.

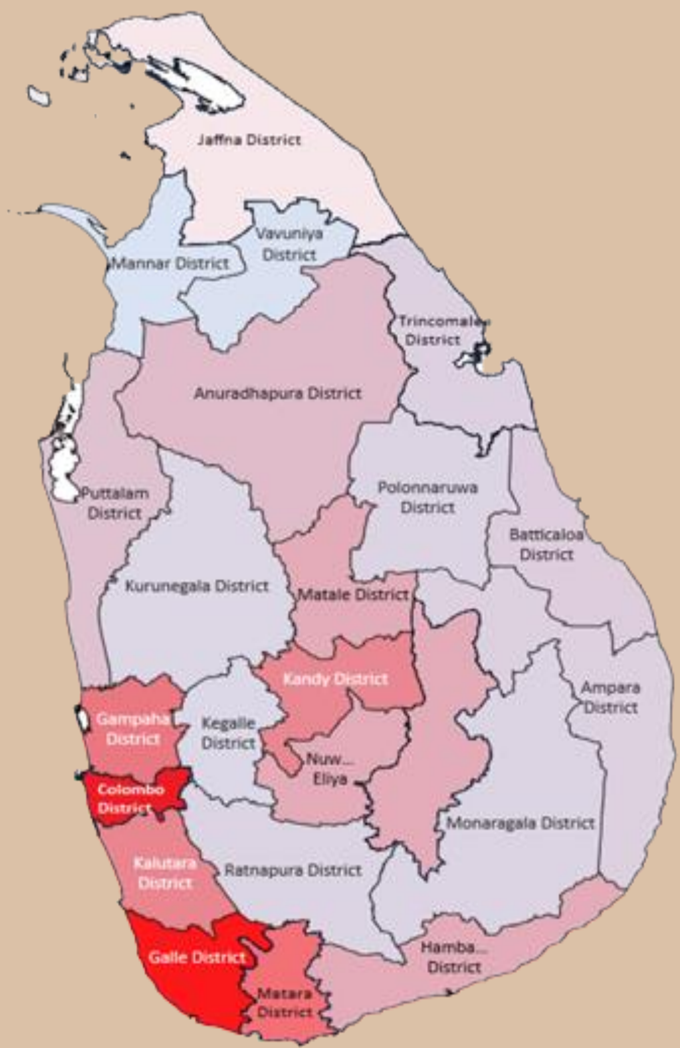
This distribution of accommodations hints at a concentration of the accommodation sector in the Western, Southern, and Central Provinces of the country.

Room Distribution by Districts

Table 07 : Distribution of rooms by districts

District	Number of rooms	% Share
Colombo	9,429	18.6
Galle	8,417	16.6
Gampaha	4,443	8.8
Kalutara	3,864	7.6
Kandy	3,786	7.5
Matara	2,434	4.8
Matale	2,329	4.6
Hambantota	2,323	4.6
Nuwara Eliya	2,304	4.5
Badulla	2,021	4.0
Anuradhapura	1,630	3.2
Puttalam	1,405	2.8
Batticaloa	928	1.8

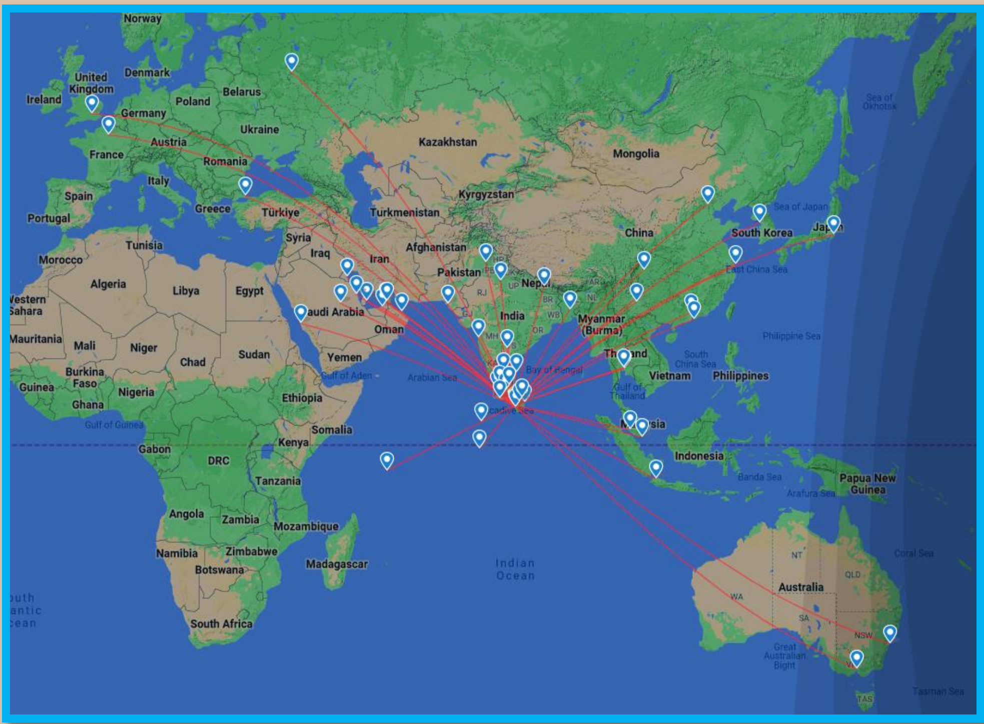
District	Number of rooms	% Share
Ampara	759	1.5
Trincomalee	756	1.5
Polonnaruwa	663	1.3
Ratnapura	658	1.3
Moneragala	642	1.3
Jaffna	577	1.1
Kurunegala	558	1.1
Kegalle	507	1.0
Kilinochchi	103	0.2
Vavuniya	82	0.2
Mullaitivu	54	0.1
Mannar	34	0.1
Total	**50,706**	**100.0**



In terms of district-wise distribution, Colombo, Galle, Gampaha, Kalutara, and Kandy are the districts with a high concentration of rooms. These districts likely have a significant number of rooms due to their popularity as tourist destinations or commercial hubs. Colombo, as the capital, is a major business and tourism center, while Galle is known for its historical attractions. Gampaha, Kalutara, and Kandy may also attract tourists due to their cultural and natural offerings.

AIR CONNECTIVITY

Direct air connectivity to and from Sri Lanka to main destinations



The image depicts the direct air connectivity to main destinations around the world to and from Sri Lanka. As of the end of July, 30 airlines have operated flights to Sri Lanka, including charter flights. This indicates a robust air connectivity network to and from Sri Lanka, facilitating travel to various destinations worldwide. Further, the information below indicates that Dubai, Doha & Chennai are top three ports preceding Colombo collectively accounting for 39.6 % share of passengers.

Table 08: Percentage share of passengers from last port, prior to Colombo

Rank	Port	Number of Passengers	% Share	Rank	Port	Number of Passengers	% Share
1	Dubai	134,454	17.51	21	Shanghai	8,931	1.16
2	Doha	89,820	11.70	22	Zhukovsky	7,574	0.99
3	Chennai	77,938	10.15	23	Hyderabad	7,130	0.93
4	London	34,570	4.50	24	Frankfurt	6,373	0.83
5	Kuala Lampur	27,427	3.57	25	Baharain	6,283	0.82
6	Delhi	26,128	3.40	26	Kunming	5,044	0.66
7	Moscow.	24,612	3.21	27	Sydney	4,656	0.61
8	Abu Dhabi	23,506	3.06	28	Dhaka	4,634	0.60
9	Domodedovo	23,426	3.05	29	Kuwait	4,562	0.59
10	Singapore	22,728	2.96	30	Narita	4,189	0.55
11	Mumbai	21,086	2.75	31	Guangzhou	3,734	0.49
12	Bangalore	20,937	2.73	32	Kochi	3,410	0.44
13	Sharja	19,695	2.56	33	Madurai	3,037	0.40
14	Male	17,809	2.32	34	Tiruchchirapalli	2,675	0.35
15	Paris	13,366	1.74	35	Riyadh	2,298	0.30
16	Melbourne	11,956	1.56	36	Samara Oblast, Russia	2,164	0.28
17	Vnukovo	11,924	1.55	37	Tyumen	2,143	0.28
18	Muscat	11,496	1.50	38	Zurich	2,120	0.28
19	Bangkok	10,752	1.40	39	St. Petersburg	2,055	0.27
20	Istanbul	10,472	1.36	40	Tolmachevo	1,987	0.26

International Airlines to Sri Lanka

Between January and July, the total number of available airline seats to Sri Lanka was 2,879,967. However, only 71.1% of these seats were filled, with tourists accounting for 36% of the passengers. The major contributors to passenger arrivals in Sri Lanka were Sri Lankan Airlines (32.6%), Emirates (12.4%), and Qatar Airways (11.4%). Notably, three Russian airlines, Red Wings, Azur Air, and Aeroflot, contributed significantly with a combined share of 10.6%. The influx of Russian tourists could be attributed to the presence and operations of these Russian airlines.

1	SriLankan Airlines	Number of passengers: 250,694 Percentage Share: 32.6 %	9	الإتحاد ETIHAD AIRWAYS	Number of passengers: 16,904 Percentage Share: 2.2%
2	Emirates	Number of passengers: 95,602 Percentage Share: 12.4 %	10	एअर इंडिया AIR INDIA	Number of passengers: 15,497 Percentage Share: 2.0%
3	QATAR AIRWAYS القطرية	Number of passengers: 87,812 Percentage Share: 11.4 %	11	airasia	Number of passengers: 14,867 Percentage Share: 1.9 %
4	IndiGo	Number of passengers: 43,825 Percentage Share: 5.7 %	12	AirArabia العربية للطيران	Number of passengers: 13,933 Percentage Share: 1.8 %
5	RED WINGS AIRLINES	Number of passengers: 32,230 Percentage Share: 4.2 %	13	SINGAPORE AIRLINES	Number of passengers: 13,050 Percentage Share: 1.7 %
6	flydubai	Number of passengers: 31,245 Percentage Share: 4.1 %	14	中國東方航空 CHINA EASTERN	Number of passengers: 12,392 Percentage Share: 1.6%
7	azurair	Number of passengers: 26,497 Percentage Share: 3.5 %	15	TURKISH AIRLINES	Number of passengers: 12,392 Percentage Share: 1.6%
8	AEROFLOT Russian Airlines	Number of passengers: 22,230 Percentage Share: 2.9%	16	OTHERS	Number of passengers: 80,662 Percentage Share: 10.5%

Source: Department of Immigration and Emigration

VISITORS TO MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Table 09 : Visitors to Wildlife Parks (January to June)

PARKS	LOCAL VISITORS							FOREIGN VISITORS						Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Yala	21,497	20,313	19,247	25,622	15,971	16,647	**119,297**	16,459	17,292	19,306	16,231	10,190	9,967	**89,445**
Horton Plains	15,650	15,129	11,130	26,215	14,693	20,747	**103,564**	1,590	2,077	2,414	2,106	1,152	1,247	**10,586**
Udawalawa	8,222	7,991	7,784	11,066	5,277	5,554	**45,894**	7,051	8,466	9,049	8,122	3,517	2,732	**38,937**
Wasgomuwa	645	692	527	1,269	444	662	**4,239**	0	149	139	116	52	46	**502**
Minneriya	2,416	768	758	1,754	1,550	8,793	**16,039**	702	142	167	203	509	5,357	**7,080**
Bundala	555	455	351	510	285	217	**2,373**	282	323	299	214	222	110	**1,450**
Horagolla	1,129	796	1,211	1,076	698	984	**5,894**	01	0	03	02	04	0	**10**
Kaudulla	367	41	09	09	05	132	**563**	17	05	09	0	0	31	**62**
Galoya	553	656	674	1,028	566	795	**4,272**	178	337	261	246	155	177	**1,354**
Kumana	1,435	1,253	832	1,967	1,587	1,759	**8,833**	46	141	164	179	765	778	**2,073**
Angammedilla	22	96	52	170	52	53	**445**	01	0	0	0	0	01	**02**
Galways Land	924	1,469	565	1,716	864	1,439	**6,977**	31	13	30	26	06	22	**128**
Wilpattu	3,379	3,570	3,397	4,806	2,465	3,180	**20,797**	1,281	1,427	1,624	1,339	863	1,161	**7,695**
Maduruoya	145	133	65	219	51	181	**794**	10	08	25	13	02	02	**60**
Lahugala	54	44	46	60	64	28	**296**	0	06	04	0	06	01	**17**
Pigeon Island	0	1,029	1,942	7,585	4,812	5,591	**20,959**	0	53	283	487	620	913	**2,356**
Hikkaduwa	2,982	3,540	1,948	2,928	1,549	2,080	**15,027**	149	96	102	112	97	26	**582**
Eth Athuru Sewana	12,652	8,944	7,774	7,547	6,630	9,647	**53,194**	4,170	5,465	6,427	4,988	2,633	2,088	**25,771**
Kalawewa	0	0	0	0	0	50	**50**	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Bareef - Kalpitiya	1,249	1,339	1,168	1,618	117	0	**5,491**	248	276	407	251	0	0	**1,182**
Mirissa	1,644	1,340	1,643	2,122	471	373	**7,593**	6,093	6,172	7,562	6,374	1,734	965	**28,900**
Girithale	575	621	556	533	433	643	**3,361**	07	06	10	0	0	12	**35**
TOTAL	**76,095**	**70,219**	**61,679**	**99,820**	**58,584**	**79,555**	**445,952**	**38,316**	**42,454**	**48,285**	**41,009**	**22,527**	**25,636**	**218,227**

Source: Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chart 04 : Foreign visitors to main wildlife parks (January to June)

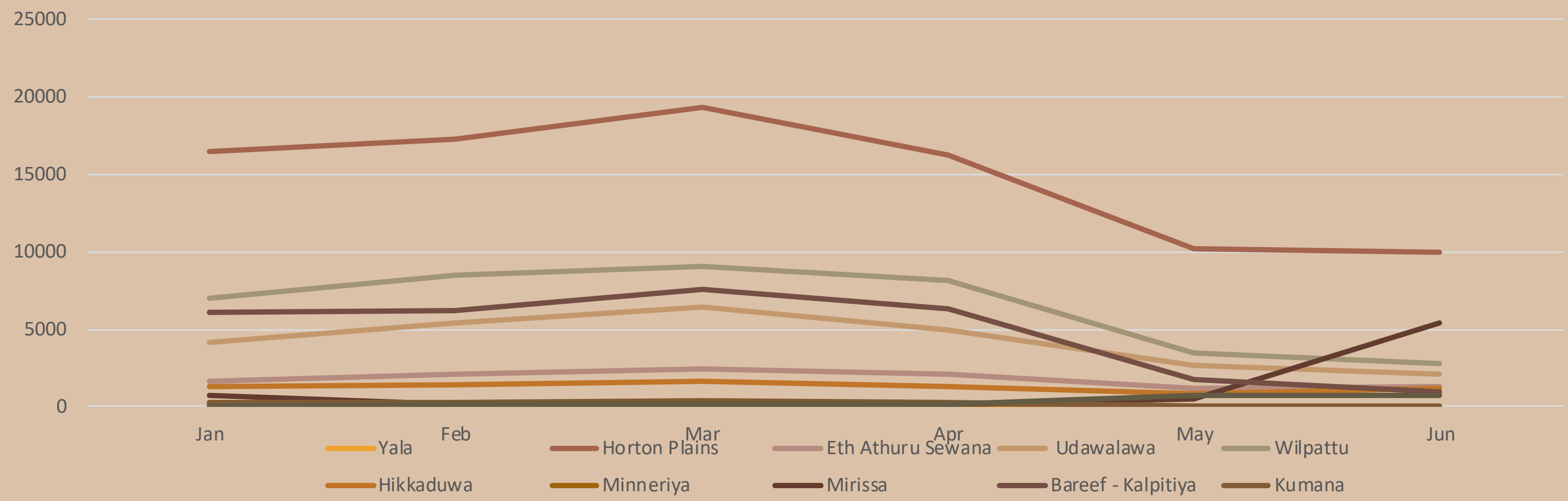
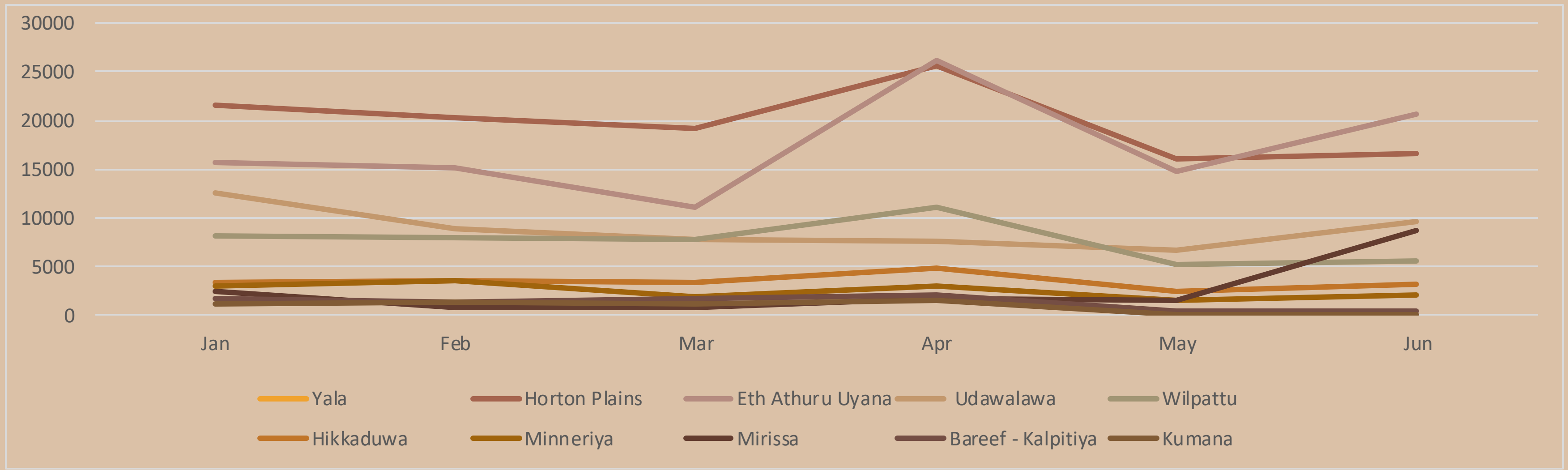


Chart 05 : Domestic visitors to main wildlife parks (January to June)



The total number of visitors recorded in Sri Lanka's Wildlife parks operated by the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the period from January to June was 664,179. Among these, there were 218,227 foreign visitors and 445,952 local visitors.

In terms of foreign visitors, Yala, Udawalawa, Mirissa (Whale watching), and Eth Athuru Sewana were the most popular destinations during the first six months of 2023. These parks experienced peak visitation during the months of January, February, March, and April. However, it's worth noting that Yala received a significant number of foreign visitors, while other parks like Wasgomuwa had comparatively lower foreign visitor numbers (only 502 visitors), indicating the need for promoting lesser-visited parks as alternatives to alleviate the pressure on Yala, which faces issues related to carrying capacity.

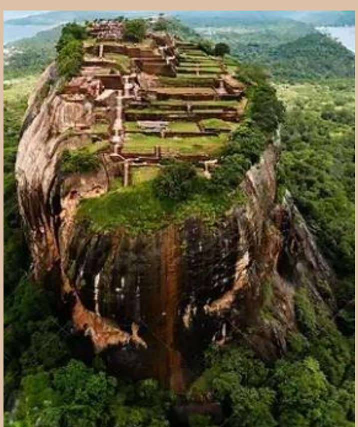
For domestic tourists, the major attractions were Yala, Horton Plains, Udawalawa, and Eth Athuru Sevana. The peak months for domestic tourists in these destinations were April, February, and March due to favorable weather conditions and holidays.

Visitors to Sigiriya

Table 10: Visitors to Sigiriya (January to June)

	Foreign Tourist Arrival						Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Sigiriya	16,342	18,271	22,328	19,518	12,947	14,073	**103,479**
	Domestic Tourist Arrival						
	44,197	69,191	32,883	48,804	57,461	78,407	**330,943**

Source: Central Cultural Fund



During the first six months of the year, Sigiriya received a total of 434,943 visitors. Out of these, 330,943 were domestic tourists, and 103,479 were foreign tourists.
For foreign tourists, the peak months of visitation were March and April, while for domestic tourists, the peak months were June and February.

This data highlights the seasonal variation in visitor numbers to Sigiriya, with foreign tourists preferring to visit during the months of March and April, possibly due to favorable weather conditions or holiday periods. Domestic tourists, on the other hand, seem to prefer June and February for their visits.

These trends can be valuable for tourism management and marketing efforts to optimize visitor experiences and minimize overcrowding during peak seasons.

TOURISM INVESTMENT

Table 11: Investment Projects 2023 (January to July)

Year	Number of projects approved	Number of rooms	Investment/ USD Mn.
2020	**24**	**690**	**95.47**
2021	**30**	**922**	**103.985**
2022	**22**	**393**	**36.833**
2023 (End of July 2023)	**22**	**1080**	**184.326**

Year	Number of projects received	Number of rooms	**Investment/ USD Mn.**
2020	**54**	**1,721**	**837.85**
2021	**45**	**1,328**	**133.734**
2022	**42**	**1,054**	**68.437**
2023 (End of July 2023)	**38**	**1,179**	**148.326**

As of end of July 2023, the Investor Relations Unit of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority has received a total of 38 investment projects. Out of these, 22 projects have been approved, which collectively include the development of 1,080 rooms. The total value of these 22 approved projects amounts to USD 184.326 million.

This data showcases the significant investment interest and activity within the Sri Lankan tourism sector, even in the face of challenges.

Research & International Relations Division
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
P.O Box 1504
No.80 , Galle Road
Colombo 03