



**March
2020**

MONTHLY TOURIST ARRIVALS REPORT

SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

www.sltda.lk

Photo courtesy of SLTDA, SLRC, Lovingly Sri Lanka programme



SUMMARY

The total number of international tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka up to 18th March 2020 was 71,370. This was due to the termination of all passenger flight & ship arrivals into Sri Lanka from 18th March 2020. In comparison to March last year, there was a decline of 70.8 % when the arrivals were 244,328.

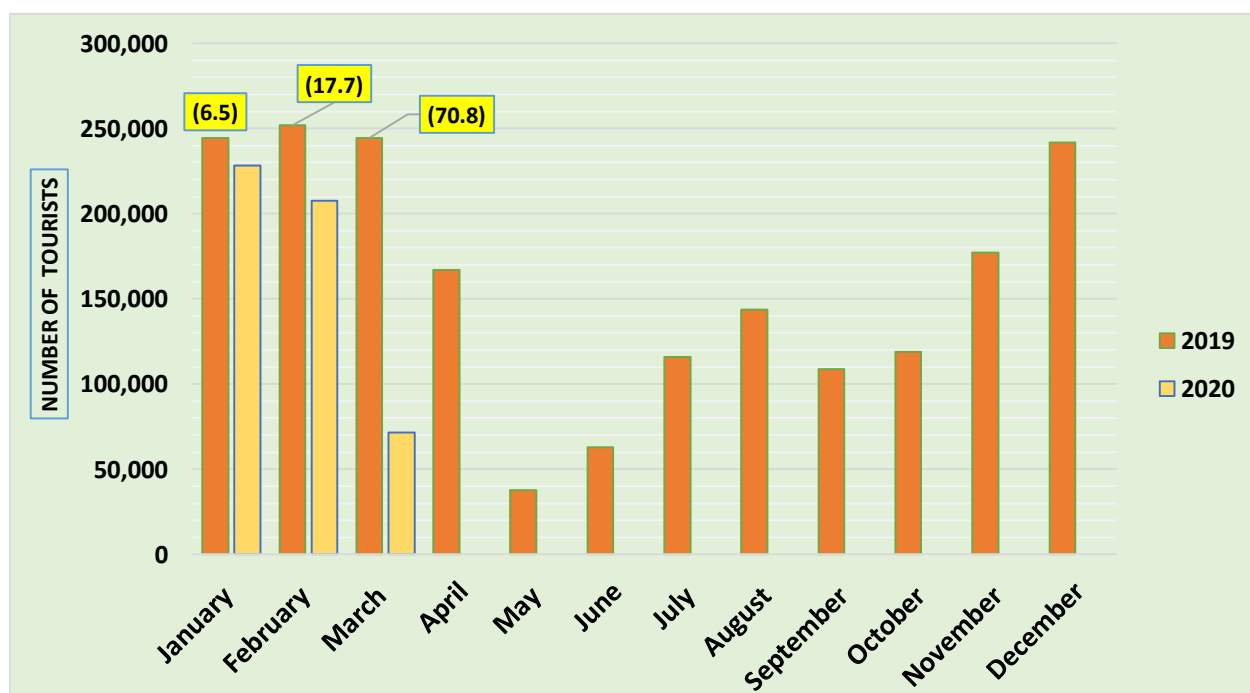
This month, the largest source market for tourists was India, followed by the Russian Federation and United Kingdom.

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

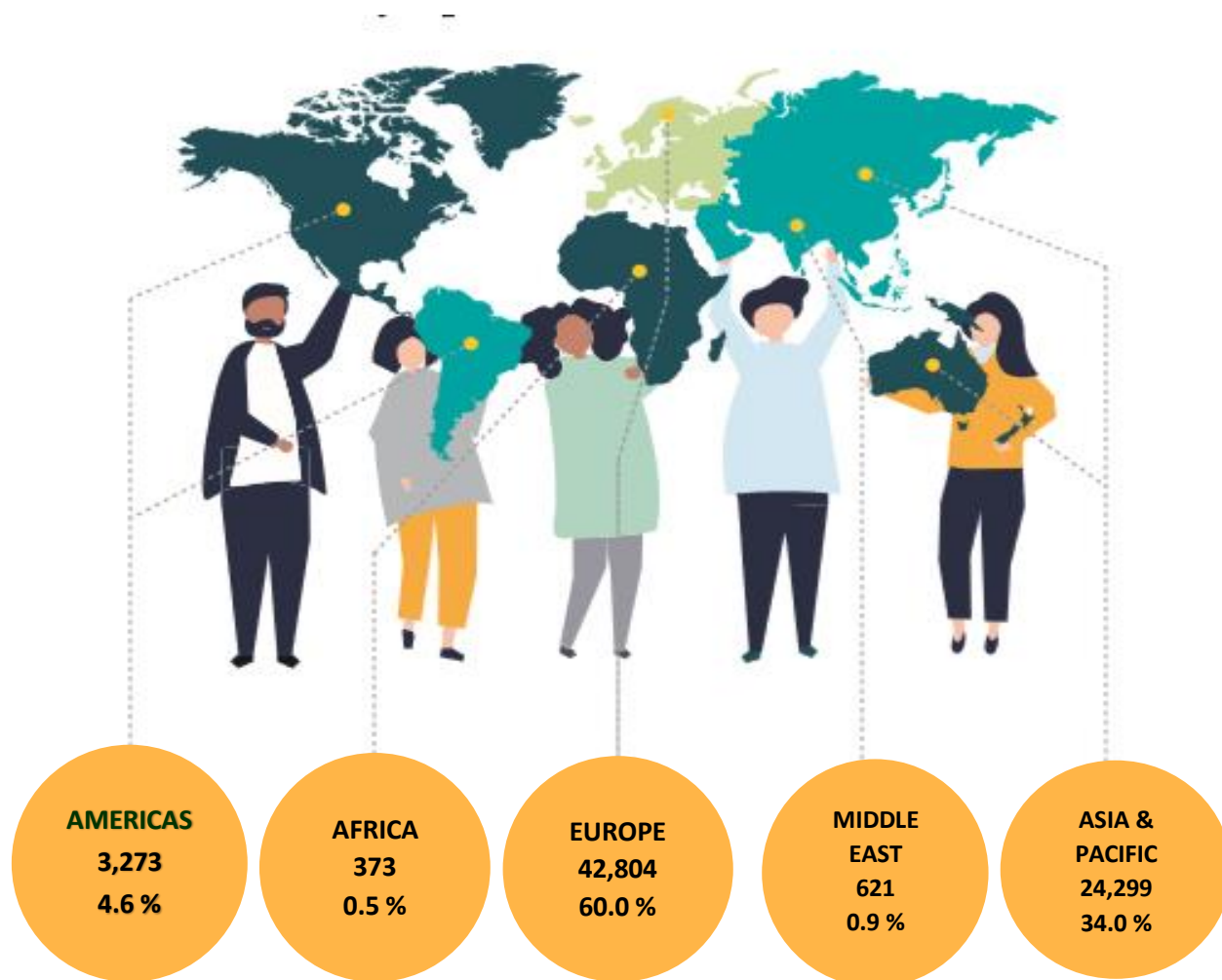
Month	2019	2020	% change 2019/2020
January	244,239	228,434	(6.5)
February	252,033	207,507	(17.7)
March	244,328	71,370	(70.8)
April	166,975		
May	37,802		
June	63,072		
July	115,701		
August	143,587		
September	108,575		
October	118,743		
November	176,984		
December	241,663		
Total (Up to March)	740,600	507,311	(31.5)
Total	1,913,702		



Tourist Arrivals – March
71,370
% change (70.8)



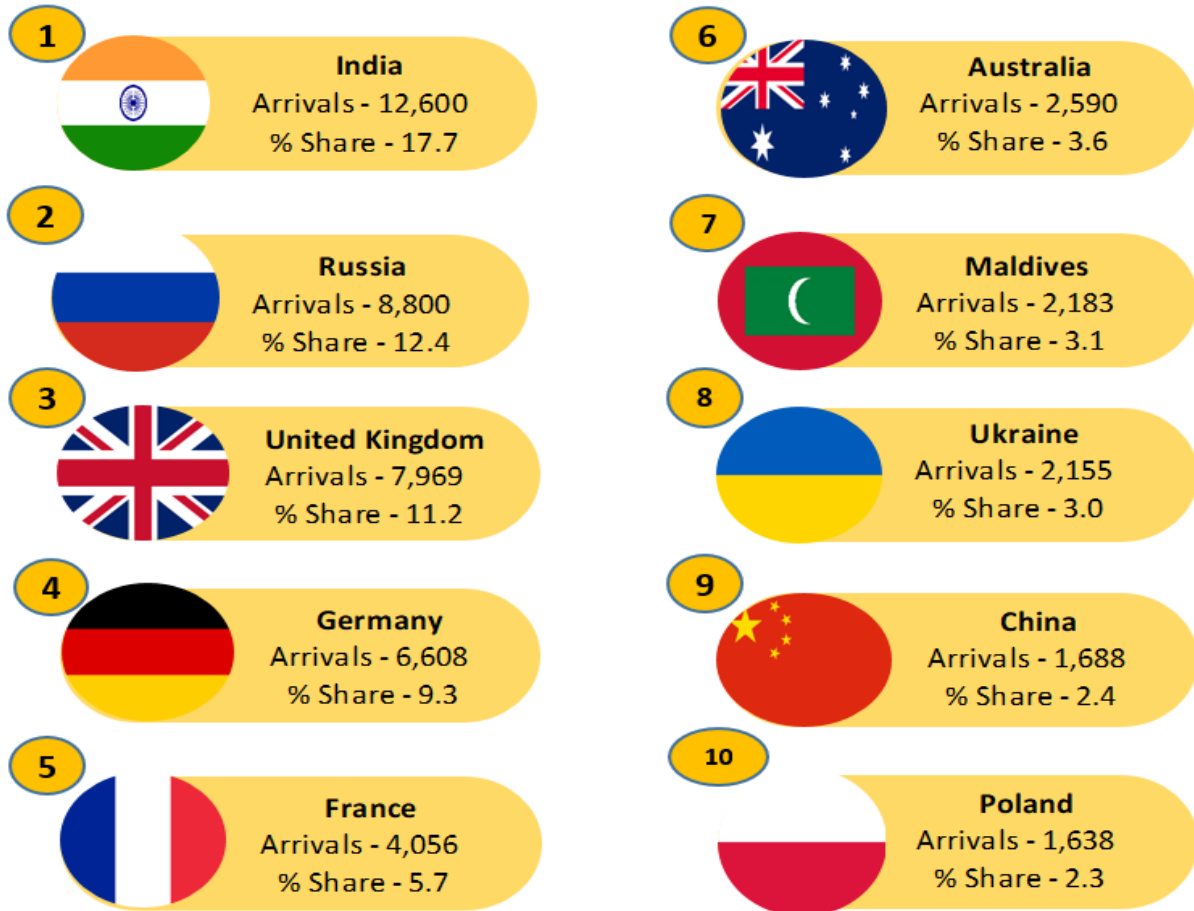
TOURIST ARRIVALS BY REGION AND PERCENTAGE SHARE



Europe became the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 60 % of the total traffic received in March 2020. Asia and Pacific accounted for 34 % of the total traffic, Americas 4.6 %, Middle East 0.9 % and Africa 0.5%. In comparison to March last year the highest decline of 85.7% was recorded for Middle East region while Americas recorded a decline of 83.4%. Africa recorded a decline of 77.9 % whereas Asia and pacific recorded a decline of 75.4%. A decline of 64.3% was recorded from Europe. The effect of the outbreak of COVID 19 is clearly evident as all countries have recorded a decline in arrivals. However, it is noteworthy that arrivals from Kazakhstan have recorded an increase of 79.7%.

TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS – MARCH

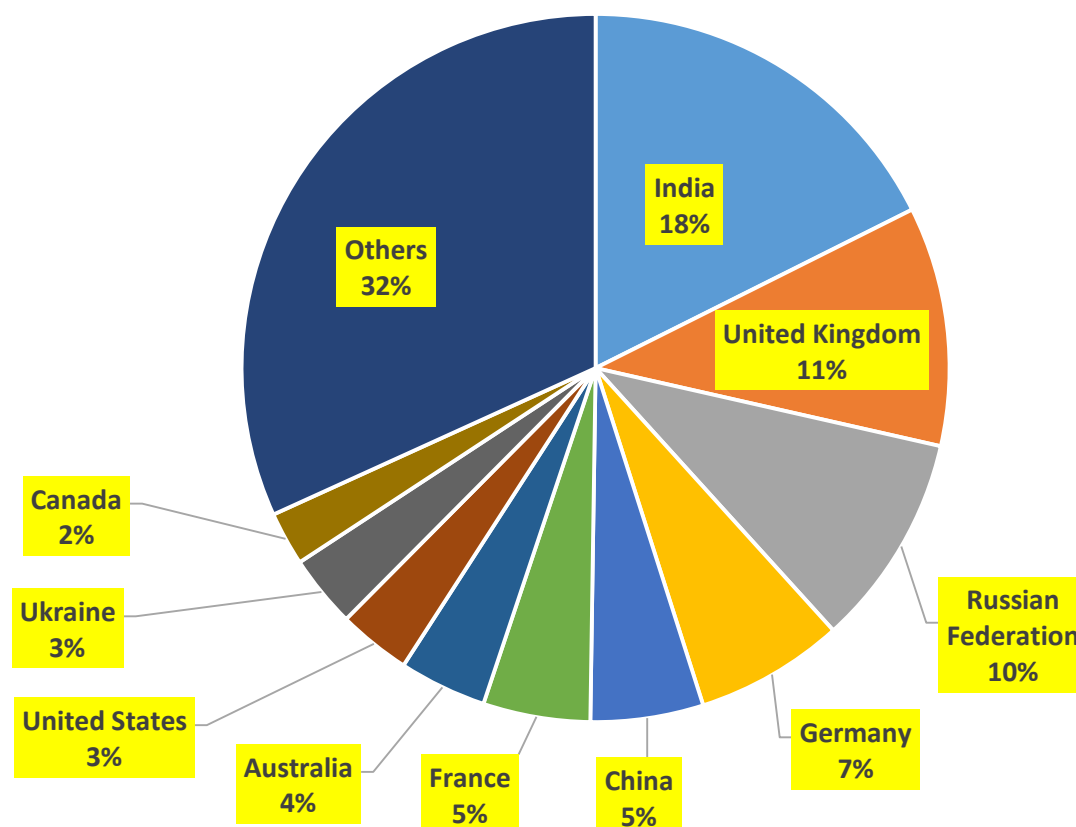
India, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Germany and France were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in the month of March this year. India was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 17.7% of the total traffic received in March 2020. Russian Federation accounted for 12.4% of the total traffic; while, United Kingdom Germany and France accounted for 11.2%, 9.3% and 5.7% respectively. It is noteworthy that China which dropped from the top ten tourist generating markets of Sri Lanka in the month of February has climbed up to the ninth position among the top ten markets despite the outbreak of COVID 19.



Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals March 2020			Tourist Arrivals March 2019	% Change March 2020/2019
		By Air	By Sea	Total		
1	India	12,162	438	12,600	34812	(63.8)
2	Russian Federation	8,778	55	8,833	12,705	(30.5)
3	United Kingdom	7,927	42	7,969	29,682	(73.2)
4	Germany	6,605	3	6,608	18,134	(63.6)
5	France	4,052	4	4,056	13,957	(70.9)
6	Australia	2,585	5	2,590	11,441	(77.4)
7	Maldives	2,183	0	2,183	7802	(72.0)
8	Ukraine	2,036	119	2,155	4,239	(49.2)
9	China	1,646	42	1,688	23,759	(92.9)
10	Poland	1,612	26	1,638	2,653	(38.3)

TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS – JANUARY TO MARCH - 2020

India, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Germany and China were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets from January to March this year. India was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 18% of the total traffic received from January to March 2020. UK accounted for 11% of the total traffic; while Russian Federation, Germany and China accounted for 10%, 7% and 5% respectively.



Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (Jan - Mar) 2020	Tourist Arrivals (Jan - Mar) 2019	% Change (Jan - Mar 2020 & Jan - Mar 2019)
1	INDIA	89,357	107,147	(16.6)
2	UNITED KINGDOM	55,455	85,468	(35.1)
3	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	49,397	39,187	26.1
4	GERMANY	34,507	49,429	(30.2)
5	CHINA	26,147	78,212	(66.6)
6	FRANCE	24,838	43,144	(42.4)
7	AUSTRALIA	20,283	30,619	(33.8)
8	UNITED STATES	16,842	30,070	(44.0)
9	UKRAINE	16,776	16,073	4.4
10	CANADA	12,436	18,320	(32.1)

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

	March 2020			Total Tourist Arrivals March 2019	% Change March (20/19)	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to March 2020	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to March 2019	% Change up to March 2020
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
AMERICAS	3,244	29	3,273	19,682	(83.4)	31,843	51,581	(38.3)
North America	3,005	14	3,019	18,797	(83.9)	29,627	48,910	(39.4)
Canada	1,438	6	1,444	6,011	(76.0)	12,436	18,320	(32.1)
Mexico	30	0	30	243	(87.7)	349	520	(32.9)
United States	1,537	8	1,545	12,543	(87.7)	16,842	30,070	(44.0)
Caribbean & Central America	17	5	22	143	(84.6)	226	329	(31.3)
Costa Rica	0	0	0	13	(100.0)	33	55	(40.0)
Jamaica	0	0	0	14	(100.0)	25	23	8.7
Others	17	5	22	116	(81.0)	168	251	(33.1)
South America	222	10	232	742	(68.7)	1,990	2,342	(15.0)
Argentina	52	0	52	190	(72.6)	416	540	(23.0)
Brazil	66	5	71	310	(77.1)	875	873	0.2
Chile	26	0	26	85	(69.4)	271	421	(35.6)
Colombia	39	2	41	67	(38.8)	201	223	(9.9)
Others	39	3	42	90	(53.3)	227	285	(20.4)
AFRICA	365	8	373	1,688	(77.9)	2,880	4,696	(38.7)
North Africa	120	0	120	349	(65.6)	689	896	(23.1)
Morocco	50	0	50	147	(66.0)	311	371	(16.2)
Sudan	36	0	36	44	(18.2)	143	134	6.7
Others	34	0	34	158	(78.5)	235	391	(39.9)
Sub-Saharan Africa	245	8	253	1,339	(81.1)	2,191	3,800	(42.3)
Kenya	15	0	15	41	(63.4)	110	167	(34.1)
Mauritius	16	3	19	97	(80.4)	170	247	(31.2)
Nigeria	0	0	0	16	(100.0)	25	72	(65.3)
South Africa	131	3	134	1,007	(86.7)	1,364	2,624	(48.0)
Others	83	2	85	178	(52.2)	522	690	(24.3)

	March 2020			Total Tourist Arrivals March 2019	% Change March (20/19)	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to March 2020	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to March 2019	% Change up to March 2020
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
ASIA & PACIFIC	23,321	978	24,299	98,664	(75.4)	181,154	292,601	(38.1)
North East Asia	2,553	47	2,600	30,511	(91.5)	37,320	99,575	(62.5)
China	1,646	42	1,688	23,759	(92.9)	26,147	78,212	(66.6)
Japan	711	1	712	4,611	(84.6)	6,644	13,042	(49.1)
South Korea	87	0	87	1,214	(92.8)	2,499	4,960	(49.6)
Taiwan	105	4	109	889	(87.7)	1,985	3,270	(39.3)
Others	4	0	4	38	(89.5)	45	91	(50.5)
South East Asia	2,579	449	3,028	9,182	(67.0)	14,927	23,008	(35.1)
Cambodia	74	0	74	1,592	(95.4)	372	2,465	(84.9)
Indonesia	154	44	198	532	(62.8)	1,114	1,506	(26.0)
Malaysia	681	14	695	1,998	(65.2)	3,494	5,549	(37.0)
Myanmar	108	20	128	310	(58.7)	532	832	(36.1)
Philippines	804	356	1,160	1,413	(17.9)	4,249	4,142	2.6
Singapore	450	3	453	1,824	(75.2)	2,545	4,441	(42.7)
Thailand	210	7	217	983	(77.9)	1,880	2,920	(35.6)
Vietnam	92	5	97	499	(80.6)	709	1,076	(34.1)
Others	6	0	6	31	(80.6)	32	77	(58.4)
Oceania	2,889	6	2,895	12,902	(77.6)	22,706	34,264	(33.7)
Australia	2,585	5	2,590	11,441	(77.4)	20,283	30,619	(33.8)
New Zealand	301	1	302	1,437	(79.0)	2,324	3,574	(35.0)
Others	3	0	3	24	(87.5)	99	71	39.4
South Asia	15,300	476	15,776	46,069	(65.8)	106,201	135,754	(21.8)
Afghanistan	17	0	17	59	(71.2)	146	155	(5.8)
Bangladesh	206	6	212	848	(75.0)	1,986	2,525	(21.3)
Bhutan	2	0	2	25	(92.0)	208	136	52.9
India	12,162	438	12,600	34,812	(63.8)	89,357	107,147	(16.6)
Iran	25	0	25	1,025	(97.6)	648	1,555	(58.3)
Maldives	2,183	0	2,183	7,802	(72.0)	9,407	18,737	(49.8)
Nepal	208	27	235	417	(43.6)	1,384	1,379	0.4
Pakistan	497	5	502	1,081	(53.6)	3,065	4,120	(25.6)

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	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
EUROPE	42,297	507	42,804	119,955	(64.3)	281,203	378,650	(25.7)
Northern Eur.	10,048	51	10,099	37,753	(73.2)	75,146	119,579	(37.2)
Denmark	502	4	506	1,845	(72.6)	4,905	8,884	(44.8)
Finland	273	2	275	1,007	(72.7)	2,298	4,264	(46.1)
Norway	335	1	336	1,278	(73.7)	3,019	5,237	(42.4)
Sweden	722	1	723	2,660	(72.8)	7,061	12,091	(41.6)
United Kingdom	7,927	42	7,969	29,682	(73.2)	55,455	85,468	(35.1)
Others	289	1	290	1,281	(77.4)	2,408	3,635	(33.8)
Western Eur.	14,224	11	14,235	43,812	(67.5)	82,229	129,897	(36.7)
Austria	602	0	602	1,932	(68.8)	4,300	6,929	(37.9)
Belgium	627	1	628	1,646	(61.8)	3,371	4,605	(26.8)
France	4,052	4	4,056	13,957	(70.9)	24,838	43,144	(42.4)
Germany	6,605	3	6,608	18,134	(63.6)	34,507	49,429	(30.2)
Netherlands	1,353	2	1,355	4,864	(72.1)	8,656	15,091	(42.6)
Switzerland	956	1	957	3,179	(69.9)	6,389	10,432	(38.8)
Others	29	0	29	100	(71.0)	168	267	(37.1)
Central / Eastern Europe	15,924	246	16,170	27,726	(41.7)	100,373	92,934	8.0
Belarus	437	1	438	914	(52.1)	2,638	2,841	(7.1)
Czech Republic	1,280	0	1,280	3,041	(57.9)	7,599	10,277	(26.1)
Estonia	139	1	140	268	(47.8)	1,185	1,328	(10.8)
Hungary	174	1	175	623	(71.9)	1,588	2,324	(31.7)
Kazakhstan	478	0	478	266	79.7	2,333	1,102	111.7
Lithuania	143	0	143	399	(64.2)	1,054	1,424	(26.0)
Poland	1,612	26	1,638	2,653	(38.3)	11,908	9,795	21.6
Romania	219	27	246	679	(63.8)	1,724	2,483	(30.6)
Russian Federation	8,778	55	8,833	12,705	(30.5)	49,397	39,187	26.1
Slovakia	243	1	244	763	(68.0)	1,513	2,456	(38.4)
Ukraine	2,036	119	2,155	4,239	(49.2)	16,776	16,073	4.4
Others	385	15	400	1,176	(66.0)	2,658	3,644	(27.1)

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	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
Southern / Mediterranean Europe	2,101	199	2,300	10,664	(78.4)	23,455	36,240	(35.3)
Greece	233	124	357	643	(44.5)	1,573	2,103	(25.2)
Italy	405	1	406	4,309	(90.6)	8,603	16,105	(46.6)
Portugal	184	0	184	806	(77.2)	1,602	1,850	(13.4)
Spain	496	0	496	2,380	(79.2)	3,385	5,989	(43.5)
Turkey	135	28	163	444	(63.3)	2,121	1,720	23.3
Israel	327	2	329	1,077	(69.5)	3,556	4,508	(21.1)
Others	321	44	365	1,005	(63.7)	2,615	3,965	(34.0)
MIDDLE EAST	606	15	621	4,339	(85.7)	10,231	13,072	(21.7)
Bahrain	14	0	14	150	(90.7)	549	706	(22.2)
Egypt	144	8	152	364	(58.2)	956	988	(3.2)
Iraq	14	1	15	113	(86.7)	138	262	(47.3)
Jordan	60	0	60	295	(79.7)	627	905	(30.7)
Kuwait	34	0	34	246	(86.2)	825	1,258	(34.4)
Lebanon	48	0	48	576	(91.7)	483	1,375	(64.9)
Oman	47	1	48	324	(85.2)	1,045	1,243	(15.9)
Qatar	7	0	7	115	(93.9)	129	299	(56.9)
Saudi Arabia	179	0	179	1,402	(87.2)	4,755	4,318	10.1
United Arab Emirates	29	1	30	590	(94.9)	352	1,207	(70.8)
Others	30	4	34	164	(79.3)	372	511	(27.2)
TOTAL	69,833	1,537	71,370	244,328	(70.8)	507,311	740,600	(31.5)

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

Sri Lanka suspends tourist arrivals from all countries from 18th March 2020 due to COVID-19