Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. Thomas Cook Building, Dr. D. N. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400001 Board: +91-22-6160 3333 CIN: L63040MH1978PLC020717

A FAIRFAX Company



22nd January, 2020

The Manager, Listing Department BSE Limited Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers Dalal Street Mumbai – 400 001 Scrip Code: 500413 The Manager, Listing Department National Stock Exchange of India Limited Exchange Plaza, 5th Floor, Plot No. C/1 G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E) Mumbai – 400 051 Scrip Code: THOMASCOOK

Fax No.: 2272 2037/39/41/61

Fax No.: 2659 8237/38

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Ref: Submission of information pursuant to Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015

Sub: Press Release

We are enclosing herewith the Press Release dated January 22, 2020 titled: "*Thomas Cook India releases its Travel Trends Report 2020 From Digital Detox travel to Bollywood inspired holidays, Thomas Cook India lists its top travel trends for 2020.*"

This is for your information and records.

Thank you, Yours faithfully, For **Thomas Cook (India) Limited** 

Amit J. Parekh Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Encl.: a/a

Holidays • Business Travel • Foreign Exchange • Visas • Insurance

Registered Office: Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. Thomas Cook Building, Dr. D N Road, Fort Mumbai - 400 001.

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. A Wing, 11th Floor, Marathon Futurex N. M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel Mumbai - 400 013. Board No.: +91-22-4242 7000 Fax No. :+91-22-2302 2864

News Release



## Thomas Cook India releases its Travel Trends Report 2020 From Digital Detox travel to Bollywood inspired holidays, Thomas Cook India lists its top travel trends for 2020

**Mumbai**, January 22, 2020: Thomas Cook (India) Ltd., India's leading integrated travel and related financial services company, has released its list of travel trends for the year 2020, basis feedback received from over 2700 respondents across India. With travel continuing to fuel aspirations of Indian consumers, <u>Thomas Cook</u> India shares the trends that will drive travel during the year:

**Digital Detox Travel:** With a clear focus to detach from over-use of their smart phones, over 67% of India's working professionals, millennials and solo travellers have indicated their desire to go tech-free and maintain a healthy balance. 2020 will hence see Indians opting for digital detox holidays, selecting destinations with limited/zero network connectivity. Experiences like a trek in the Himalayas, tusker trails at a jungle resort near Bandipur Project Tiger reserve, a beach safari camp in Australia while swimming with whales, a wellness-mindfulness retreat at Thailand's Koh Yao/ Karkloof Spa in South Africa's safari heartland, diving & snorkelling off remote islands in Malaysia/ Maldives, immersing in traditional Balinese culture in Ubud or at a village near historic Al Ain, Abu Dhabi- allows one to truly appreciate the destination while disconnecting from the outside world.

**Micro-cations/Bite-Size Breaks:** With 2020 offering 21 extended weekends, 66% of Indian travellers are choosing multiple micro-cations/bite-size breaks- a clear shift from one long annual vacation. With several public, festive and regional holidays falling on weekdays in 2020, Indians are smartly taking leave to combine it with a public holiday and create an extended/ smart weekend getaway. India's work weary professionals are opting for easy-visa/ no visa short-haul destinations like Indonesia, Dubai-Abu Dhabi, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Mauritius, Maldives, Macau, Reunion Island, Bhutan and emerging destinations like Myanmmar, Vietnam and Oman. Favourite domestic destinations include Andamans, Kerala, Ladakh and the North East.

*Stay-cations'* will also witness an uptick in 2020, with over 23% of India's metro consumers indicating interest to relax and pamper themselves- within their city of residence. With city hotels wooing consumers with special weekend discounts and added benefits of spa-wellness and dining, this ensures an alluring weekend break.

**Biz-cations/B-leisure:** By extending an official trip by 3-5 days, 56% of India's business travellers are keen to convert them into quick holidays. For India's cash rich, but time poor corporates, biz-cations also offer valuable family time- by flying them in post meetings for a bonding experience. Thomas Cook India's internal data reveals strong potential for destinations including UK, USA, Singapore, Switzerland, Germany, Malaysia, UAE, Thailand and Australia. And such options are aplenty: a self-drive of the Scottish Highlands post a meeting in London, enjoying the adrenalin rush of an F1 drive at the Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi, clearwater caving in Malaysia; family fun at a K-pop concert in South Korea, Dubai Parks & Resorts or a Singapore cruise.

**Off-Season Travel/Bang for the Buck Travel:** With an anticipated 21% uptake in demand in 2020 to avail of attractive discounts and special offers, shoulder/low season travel is already seeing increase: Autumn & Winter travel to European favourites of UK, France, Switzerland, Italy; Summer in Dubai-Abu Dhabi; also emerging options like South Korea and Canada in Spring.

Indians, being quintessential value seekers, want to extract maximum value for their 2020 holidays. Over 70% have displayed strong interest in *smart travel*- using options like the Eurail/ Swiss Travel Pass/ Paris Visite that offer discounts and value additions across key attractions; equally viable accommodation options like apartments, local/farm stays; early bird tour packages and airline discounts.

Holidays | Foreign Exchange | Business Travel | Visas | Insurance

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**Me-cations:** For Indians faced with the increased demands work, family and social life, especially working mothers, 2020 is slated to see a growth of 18% for *'me-cations'* - planned around unique interests/passions, learning new skills or self-discovery. Experiences in demand include: learning the art of Muay Thai/kick boxing in Thailand, a cooking class with local chefs in Malaysia, Italy's Tuscany or at Le Cordon Bleu in France, K-beauty/Taekwondo certification in South Korea, a Tree-Top trek in Singapore. India's travellers seeking some 'me' time are driving the new age of '*experience economy'*.

**Slow Travel:** Indians are known to visit as many places as possible per trip. 2020 however, is going to be about a new breed of travellers who believe in taking it slow (15%). This traveller intends to experience travel at a leisurely pace, resorting to slower modes of transport like peddle-bikes, trams, boats and walking; as well as living like a local in a chateau/apartment/home-stay to truly savour their surroundings, its people and cultures; appreciating the science behind coffee and tea while staying at plantations in Karnataka or Assam; heady wine-cuisine experiences in Bordeaux/Champagne, France or Italy's Tuscany; a laid back river cruise on Lake Königssee, Germany; indulgent therapeutic experiences in Fiji's hot springs/mud pools or a meandering biking trip along Japan's coastal villages.

**Bollywood Inspired Vacations:** With 'Film Tourism' clearly trending, and Indians setting their travel goals around movie themes and iconic places made famous by Bollywood, 2020 will see an increase in Bollywood inspired vacations. Bollywood destinations in demand include Lake Como and historic Venice in Italy, Switzerland's Gsaad, Montreux and Zurich, Amsterdam, Bruges and Innsbruck along with Spain and Portugal.

**Eco-Conscious Travel/Volun-Tourism:** A significant emerging trend (growth of 13%) is the new-age travellers' desire to preserve the heritage and eco-system of the destination they visit while also altering behavioural and lifestyle patterns to become responsible travellers. Volunteering for the Surin Project in Thailand that promotes sustainable elephant tourism, opting for self-sustaining accommodation in the Maldives, eco-friendly rain-forest lodges in Sabah, Malaysia, tree houses in New Zealand, urban gardening workshops in France, clean-up tours of Mumbai's beach or Nepal's mountain trails are seeing interest.

**Cruise Tourism:** Cruising is no longer restricted to the luxury HNI-UHNI set and has become highly aspirational among millennials, ad hoc groups of friends, families, women travellers, Gen S and MICE. Having witnessed a growth in demand of over 20% by offering a unique all-inclusive and affordable vacation, discovery of multiple destinations sans the hassle of managing check in-check out, transfers, packing and unpacking; it is also a great way to relax and bond with extended family of varying age-groups. Additionally, cruises offer an array of cuisine and plenty of activities and entertainment for all age groups, and offshore day excursions at different destinations enroute. With its fresh, opulent appeal, cruising to popular international destinations include South East Asia (short haul convenience), Mediterranean, Scandinavia's Fjord cruises, Caribbean, Middle East, Ushuaia: the southernmost city in the world, the Amazon River through Peru, and the unique experiences of an Icebreaker cruise to Antarctica; while Andaman, Kerala, Goa and Lakshadweep continue to be some of the favoured domestic cruise destinations.

Commenting on the travel trends of 2020, **Mr. Rajeev Kale, President & Country Head – Holidays, MICE, Visa, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.**, said, "Travel plans of Indians in 2020 will be focussed towards affordability and experiences. While maximising on value/bang for their buck, what is interesting is the growing number of Indian travellers who plan to travel slow, experiment with accommodation options, unique experiences as well as learn a new skill, or even focus on saving Planet Earth. The one long annual vacation has clearly made way for multiple micro-cations and our 2020 Travel Trends Report speaks volumes of India's growing travel appetite and their desire to seize fresh, unique travel opportunities."

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**About Thomas Cook (India) Limited:** Set up in 1881, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. (TCIL) is the leading integrated travel and travel related financial services company in the country offering a broad spectrum of services that include Foreign Exchange, Corporate Travel, MICE, Leisure Travel, Insurance, Visa and Passport services and E-Business. It operates leading B2C and B2B brands including Thomas Cook, SOTC, TCI, SITA, Asian Trails, Allied T Pro, Australian Tours Management, Desert Adventures, Luxe Asia, Kuoni Hong Kong, Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited, TC Forex, Distant Frontiers, TC Tours, TC Visa, Travel Circle International Limited, Ithaka, Digiphoto Entertainment Imaging (DEI), Private Safaris East & South Africa.

As one of the largest travel service provider networks headquartered in the Asia-Pacific region, The Thomas Cook India Group spans 29 countries across 5 continents, a team of over 9700 and a combined revenue in excess of Rs. 6718.7 Cr. (over \$ 0.96 Bn.) for the financial year ended March 31, 2019.

TCIL has been felicitated with The Best Travel Agency – India at TTG Travel Awards 2019, The Best Outbound Tour Operator at the Times Travel Awards 2018 & 2019 and Leading Company with Cutting Edge Travel Innovation at the Times Travel Awards 2018, Best Risk Management-Framework & Systems at the India Risk Management Awards 2019; Best Cash Management Solution – India at the Asset Triple A Treasury, Trade, Supply Chain & Risk Management Awards 2018, Best Outbound Tour Operator at the SATTE awards 2019, Excellence in Domestic Tour Operations at the SATTE Awards 2018, Best Travel Entrepreneur of The Year at TTG Travel Awards 2017, The French Ambassador's Award for Exemplary Achievements in Visa Issuance – 2015 to 2019 and the Condé Nast Traveller – Readers' Travel Awards from 2011 to 2019.

CRISIL has reaffirmed the rating on debt programmes and bank facilities of Thomas Cook (India) Ltd at 'CRISIL AA-/Stable on the long-term bank facilities of TCIL and CRISIL A1+ rating on the short-term bank facilities and short- term debt of the Company.

For more information, please visit www.thomascook.in

Fairbridge Capital (Mauritius) Limited, a subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited promotes TCIL by holding 65.60% of its paid-up capital and is responsible for the execution of acquisition and investment opportunities.

**About Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited:** Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is a holding company which, through its subsidiaries, is engaged in property and casualty insurance and reinsurance and investment management. Founded in 1985 by the present Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Prem Watsa, the company is headquartered in Toronto, Canada. Its common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol FFH and in U.S. dollars under the symbol FFH.U.

About Subsidiaries of Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.: Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited, wholly owned subsidiary of TCIL is engaged in time share and resort business.

SOTC Travel Limited, wholly owned subsidiary of TCIL is a leading travel and tourism company active across various travel segments including Leisure Travel, Incentive Travel and Business Travel.

Travel Corporation India (TCI), a brand owned by TCIL through its wholly owned subsidiary company, is the leading Destination Management Company in India that offers tailor-made travel and related services to India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

Thomas Cook India Group holds a 51% stake in DEI Holdings Limited (DEI), one of the world's leading imaging solutions and services providers.

## For more information, visit:

Quess Corp Limited: <u>http://www.quesscorp.com</u> Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited: <u>http://www.sterlingholidays.com</u> SOTC Travel Limited: <u>http://www.sotc.in</u>

## Media Enquiries:

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