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





21st December, 2020

The Manager, Listing Department **BSE Limited** 

Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers,

Dalal Street, Mumbai - 400 001

Scrip Code: 500413

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

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.: 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 21st December, 2020 titled "Thomas Cook India and SOTC Travel jointly release survey report - Second Holiday Readiness Report (December 2020) - Reveals resurgence of Consumer Confidence in Travel – Identifies Key Travel Trends in the COVID era".

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

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 and SOTC Travel jointly release survey report Second Holiday Readiness Report (December 2020) Reveals resurgence of Consumer Confidence in Travel Identifies Key Travel Trends in the COVID era

- 89% respondents keen to resume travel; 67% likely to travel within the next 6 months
- Demand for both Domestic (52%) and International (48%) destinations
- 93% respondents rank Health & Safety as a key consideration; 84% opting for reputed brands
- 71% need guidance/expertise in holiday planning

Mumbai, December 21, 2020: Thomas Cook India, India's leading integrated travel services company and its Group company, SOTC Travel, surveyed over 2700 customers across India's Tier 1 & 2 cities in a recent survey to identify emerging consumer behaviours and trends that will drive travel preferences during the COVID era. The companies have released key findings in their **Second Holiday Readiness Report** (**December 2020**). In comparison to the survey conducted by the companies in May 2020, the data reveals a significant increase in consumer confidence in travel.

Confidence in travel on the upswing – Indians display strong appetite for holidays: A combination of lockdown fatigue and strong pent-up demand, coupled with positive sentiment due to announcements on the vaccine saw 89% respondents displaying keen interest to resume travel; 11% are unsure/undecided.

**Preferred travel period:** 67% respondents are willing to travel in the next 6 months while 33% indicated that they would wait for launch of the vaccine.

**Mode of Travel:** 71% respondents displayed confidence in air travel and this has been substantiated by the increased demand for flight-inclusive packages at both the companies. While short driveable holidays were preferred post lockdown, only 29% respondents now show preference for road travel.

**Domestic and International Travel – both in Demand:** 52% of respondents stated that they are likely to take a domestic holiday. Preferred destinations in India include Goa (38%); Himachal Pradesh (29%); Ladakh & Kerala (20%); North East (19%), Kashmir & Andamans (15%).

Given easing of travel restrictions, international destinations are seeing an upward demand trajectory with 48% of respondents likely to take an international holiday. Europe tops the leader-board at 58%; favoured destinations include Switzerland, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, etc. This is followed by strong interest for short haul destinations (50%) such as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai, Maldives, Indonesia. Australia & New Zealand (25%) also feature well, followed by Americas (19%).

**Health & Safety continues to take top priority in travel decisions:** Respondents continue to display an increasing focus on hygiene and safety - with 93% respondents highlighting this as the most important factor while deciding a holiday. Noteworthy: An increase of 18% observed from the 75% reported in the First Holiday Readiness Travel Report (May 2020).

Willingness to Increase Spends basis Health & Safety: 73% respondents said that they are willing to increase spends to ensure higher levels of health & safety on their holiday – a significant 38% increase from the First Holiday Readiness Travel Report (May 2020).

Clear Preference for reputed travel brands/tour operators, hotels: A sizeable 84% respondents (a 12% increase from the last survey) stated their strong preference for reputed travel companies, hotels, etc.

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**Indians display increased appetite for holiday spends:** Signalling positivity for the industry as a whole, 75% of respondents are willing to spend above Rs. 1 lakh per person on their holidays.

**Group Size:** 85% respondents indicated that they prefer solo-travel / as a couple / with family and friends – a 22% increase from the First Holiday Readiness Travel Report (May 2020). 15% respondents prefer travelling as a group of 20+ travellers.

**Duration of Holiday - Indians seek longer holidays:** In the absence of their annual summer vacation and short breaks this year, Indians are opting for a longer duration of stay - with 74% respondents preferring a holiday of 4-10 nights, followed by 16% preferring 10+ nights and merely 10% opting for a short break of up to 3 nights.

Booking Channels - Indians need human interface for guidance/reassurance in today's COVID-19 era: Given the prevailing uncertainty, a significant 71% respondents stated that they require guidance of a holiday expert and preferred to visit an outlet/Virtual Store/video chat while planning their holidays. In comparison merely 29% selected website/app as their preferred booking channel.

(Respondents were given a few questions with multiple options, hence percentages may not add up to 100%)

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, Value Added Services, 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 25 countries across 5 continents, a team of over 8388 and a combined revenue in excess of Rs. 6948.3 Cr. (over \$ 0.93 Bn.) for the financial year ended March 31, 2020.

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, Silver award for Asia's Best Integrated Report (First Time) category at the Asia Sustainability Reporting Awards, 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, 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 revised the rating on debt programmes and bank facilities of Thomas Cook (India) Ltd to 'CRISIL A+/Negative 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

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A FAIRFAX Company

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.

TCI, a brand owned by TCIL of its wholly owned subsidiary company - Travel Corporation (India) Limited, 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:

Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited: http://www.sterlingholidays.com

SOTC Travel Limited: http://www.sotc.in

### **Media Enquiries:**

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**About SOTC Travel:** SOTC Travel Limited (Formerly SOTC Travel Pvt. Ltd.) is a step-down subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings Group; held through its Indian listed subsidiary, Thomas Cook (India) Limited (TCIL). SOTC India is a leading travel and tourism company active across various travel segments including Leisure Travel, Incentive Travel and Business Travel and Foreign Exchange. SOTC was established in 1949. Since then, it has escorted lakhs of travellers across the globe for more than 70 years to various destinations around the world. A new age innovative holidaymaker, SOTC strives to make holidays a priority for every Indian. 'We are for holidays' and we want Indians to prioritize their holidays.

## **Media Enquiries:**

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