

Thomas Cook India & SOTC Travel Launch Exclusive Lakshadweep Charter Flights from Bengaluru for Year-End 2026

**Addresses connectivity gaps across high-demand destinations with charter flights to
Lakshadweep from Bengaluru and Bhutan from Mumbai**

Key Highlights

- *Five exclusive departures scheduled from December 2026*
- *Charter connectivity to Lakshadweep from Bengaluru complements Bhutan's charter operations from Mumbai during the same period*
- *Premium, all-inclusive holiday experiences designed around enhanced convenience, seamless connectivity and distinctive destination experiences*
- *Four distinct Bhutan holiday products offering differentiated accommodation and experiences*

Mumbai, September 2, 2026: As Indian travellers increasingly look beyond conventional holiday formats, distinctive destinations combined with ease of access and curated experiences are emerging as important considerations in holiday planning. Recognizing the opportunity across destinations where connectivity can be a consideration, Thomas Cook (India) Limited, India's leading omnichannel travel services company, and its Group Company, SOTC Travel, have launched exclusive charter flights to Lakshadweep from Bengaluru for the year-end holiday season.

Thomas Cook India and SOTC Travel will operate five exclusive charter departures between Bengaluru and Agatti from December 2026, creating enhanced access to Lakshadweep during the peak year-end travel period. The charter-led holiday is positioned as a premium, all-inclusive beach experience, bringing together exclusive charter connectivity, premium accommodation, meals and curated experiences for travellers seeking a more immersive island holiday.

The specially curated journeys provide access to the spectacular islands of Thinnakara and Bangaram, with a choice of premium stays including Praveg's Atoll at Thinnakara, Taj Coral Pearl Bangaram and IHCL SeleQtions, Bangaram. Travellers can choose from non-sea-view and sea-view room categories, based on their preferred holiday experience. From turquoise waters and coral landscapes to the distinctive character of island living, the offering brings together the destination's natural beauty with the convenience of an end-to-end holiday experience.

The charter initiative forms part of Thomas Cook India and SOTC Travel's broader focus on identifying opportunities where enhanced connectivity can enable greater access to sought-after destinations. During the same period, the companies are also operating charter flights to Bhutan from Mumbai, complementing the new Lakshadweep connectivity from Bengaluru. Together, these initiatives reflect an approach centered on identifying routes where there is an opportunity to bridge connectivity gaps and create more convenient access to destinations with strong traveller interest.

The Avismarniya Bhutan Fly Direct offering provides travellers with a curated opportunity to explore the Himalayan kingdom, with four distinct holiday products designed around different accommodation choices as well as differentiated experiences. This allows travellers to select a Bhutan journey based not just on where they stay, but also on the type of experience they want to enjoy across the destination. From Bhutan's monasteries and dramatic landscapes to its distinctive cultural heritage and immersive experiences, the portfolio offers multiple ways to discover the Himalayan kingdom, supported by charter connectivity from Mumbai.

Across both destinations, the focus is on going beyond connectivity alone to create thoughtfully curated holiday experiences. Lakshadweep brings together a premium, all-inclusive island escape with exclusive charter connectivity from Bengaluru, while Bhutan combines charter access from Mumbai with a choice of four differentiated holiday products centered around the destination's landscapes, culture and immersive

experiences. Together, the charter-led journeys reflect the evolving preferences of Indian travellers for distinctive destinations that offer both ease of access and richer, more personalized holiday experiences.

Mr. Rajeev Kale, President & Country Head – Holidays, MICE, Visa, Thomas Cook (India) Limited, said, *“Indian travellers are increasingly looking for holidays that bring together distinctive destinations, greater convenience and meaningful experiences. Lakshadweep offers a compelling premium beach holiday proposition, and our charter series from Bengaluru brings together exclusive connectivity with premium accommodation, meals and curated experiences as an all-inclusive holiday. At the same time, our charter-led approach across Lakshadweep and Bhutan allows us to identify opportunities where enhanced connectivity can make sought-after destinations more accessible. This gives us the flexibility to create more distinctive holiday options in response to the way Indian travellers are choosing to travel today.”*

Mr. S.D. Nandakumar, President & Country Head – Holidays & Corporate Tours, SOTC Travel, said, *“Charter-led travel enables us to look beyond conventional connectivity and create holiday opportunities around destinations where access can be enhanced through a more curated approach. Lakshadweep is particularly compelling as a premium, all-inclusive island holiday, while Bhutan offers a very different proposition centred around its landscapes, culture and immersive experiences. With charter operations from Bengaluru to Lakshadweep and from Mumbai to Bhutan, and four distinct Bhutan holiday products offering differentiated accommodation and experiences, we are bringing together destinations and travel formats that reflect the growing preference among Indian travellers for greater choice, convenience and more distinctive ways to holiday.”*

About Thomas Cook (India) Limited:

Set up in 1881, Thomas Cook (India) Limited (TCIL) is the leading omnichannel travel company in the country offering a broad spectrum of services including Foreign Exchange, Corporate Travel, MICE, Leisure Travel, Value Added Services, and Visa Services. It operates leading B2C and B2B brands including Thomas Cook, SOTC, TCI, SITA, Asian Trails, Allied TPro, Australian Tours Management, Desert Adventures, Travel Circle International Limited (TCI 勝景遊), Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited, Distant Frontiers, TC Tours, Digiphotography Entertainment Imaging (DEI), Go Vacation, 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 28 countries across 5 continents.

TCIL has been felicitated with ET Edge's Best Organizations for Women (BOW) 2026, MICE Powerhouse at MaxiiiMICE Awards 2025, Outbound Travel Operator of the Year (2024) and MICE Travel Operator of the Year (2024 & 2023) at The Economic Times Travel & Tourism Annual Awards, MICE Travel Agency (Outbound) at the Economic Times MICE & Wedding Tourism Awards 2024, 'Masters of Risk - Travel & Hospitality' at India Risk Management Awards 2024, MICE Tour Operator of the Year - Outbound at SATTE 2024, Best Tour Operator at India Travel Awards North 2023, winner of the Corporate Citizen Award (Travel Tourism & Hospitality) at the Corporate Citizen Conclave & Award 2023, The Outbound Tour Operator of the Year 2022 at the SATTE Awards, IMAI India Digital Awards 2022, CNBC-TV18 & ICICI Lombard India Risk Management Award - Travel & Leisure Category 2022 & 2021, CIO100 Award for digital innovation 2022.

CRISIL has reaffirmed the rating on debt programs and bank facilities of TCIL - '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. The highest rating for a travel & tourism company in India.

For more information, please visit www.thomascook.in

Fairbridge Capital (Mauritius) Limited, a subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, is the promoter of TCIL with a shareholding of 64.77% of its paid-up capital.

About Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited:

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is a holding company which, through its subsidiaries, is primarily engaged in property and casualty insurance and reinsurance and the associated investment management. Founded in 1985 by the present Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. V. 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) Limited (TCIL):

Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited

Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of TCIL is a leading leisure hospitality company with over 78 resorts, hotels and retreats across 48 locations in India covering hills, beaches, jungles, waterfront, adventure, heritage, pilgrimage and drive-to locations. Sterling provides a variety of offerings: Leisure holidays through FIT packages, Meetings & Conferences, Weddings, Reunions, Picnics and Holidays.

SOTC Travel Limited

SOTC Travel Limited is a step-down subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings held through its Indian listed subsidiary, Thomas Cook (India) Limited (TCIL). SOTC Travel is a leading omnichannel travel and tourism company active across various travel segments including Leisure Travel, Incentive Travel and Business Travel.

Established in 1949, SOTC is an Indian-grown brand with a legacy of over 75 years. Since then, it has escorted millions of travellers across the globe to various destinations around the globe. The Company firmly believes that today, 'No one understands the Indian Traveller better than SOTC'.

Travel Corporation (India) Limited

Travel Corporation (India) Limited (TCI) (operating brands Sita, TCI and Distant Frontiers), a wholly owned subsidiary of TCIL, is the leading Destination Management Company in India that offers tailor-made travel and related services to India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

DEI Holdings Limited

Thomas Cook India Group holds 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>

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