Trip.com Group Limited Reports Unaudited Fourth Quarter and Full Year of 2020 Financial Results

Shanghai, China, March 3, 2021 - Trip.com Group Limited (Nasdaq: TCOM) (“Trip.com Group” or the “Company”), a leading provider of online travel and related services, including accommodation reservation, transportation ticketing, packaged-tour and in-destination services, corporate travel management, and other travel-related services, today announced its unaudited financial results for the fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2020.

Key Highlights for the Fourth Quarter and Full Year of 2020

- The Company’s China domestic business continues to show strong recovery momentum.
  - China domestic air ticketing business maintained positive year-over-year revenue growth in the fourth quarter of 2020.
  - China domestic hotel GMV maintained positive growth, with mid-to-high end domestic hotel reservations reaching double digit year-over-year growth in the fourth quarter of 2020.

- The Company’s results for the fourth quarter of 2020 reflected negative impacts by the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Net revenue for the fourth quarter of 2020 was RMB5.0 billion (US$761 million), representing a 40% decrease from the same period in 2019. The further narrowed decline reflects a continued recovery of China domestic business, offset by the decrease of international business.
  - Loss from operations for the fourth quarter of 2020 was RMB16 million (US$2 million). Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP income from operations was RMB495 million (US$77 million) in the fourth quarter of 2020, representing 10% of net revenue.

“2020 was a challenging year. However, it also made us fundamentally stronger than ever before” said James Liang, Executive Chairman. “During the past year, we continued to innovate our products, improve service offerings, and strengthen our collaborations with partners, which led to further market share gains across our product lines. In the near term, we will focus on the domestic market in terms of supply chain, product innovation, content capabilities, quality and technology; while at the same time, we remain ambitious with a global vision to drive our sustainable growth post pandemic.”

“We delivered another solid performance in the fourth quarter, despite facing industry fluctuations and weak winter seasonality” said Jane Sun, Chief Executive Officer. “We are glad to see that our domestic business continued to outpace the industry in the fourth quarter and entering into 2021. Thanks to our efficiency improvement and stringent cost control, we were able to achieve 2% non-GAAP operating profit margin for full year of 2020. The strong recovery of China domestic market demonstrates the resilience of the travel industry. We are well prepared to take on additional share when international travel opens up as well.”

Fourth Quarter and Full Year of 2020 Financial Results and Business Updates
The Company’s results for the fourth quarter of 2020 were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, benefiting from the containment of pandemic in China, the Company’s domestic business has shown a strong recovery, which has contributed to substantially all of its total revenue.

For the fourth quarter of 2020, Trip.com Group reported net revenue of RMB5.0 billion (US$761 million), representing a 40% decrease from the same period in 2019. Net revenue for the fourth quarter of 2020 decreased by 9% from the previous quarter, primarily due to seasonality.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, net revenue was RMB18.3 billion (US$2.8 billion), representing a 49% decrease from 2019.

Accommodation reservation revenue for the fourth quarter of 2020 was RMB2.2 billion (US$344 million), representing a 24% decrease from the same period in 2019, and a 9% decrease from the previous quarter, primarily due to seasonality.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, accommodation reservation revenue was RMB7.1 billion (US$1.1 billion), representing a 47% decrease from 2019. The accommodation reservation revenue accounted for 39% of the total revenue in 2020 and 38% of the total revenue in 2019.

Transportation ticketing revenue for the fourth quarter of 2020 was RMB1.7 billion (US$260 million), representing a 51% decrease from the same period in 2019. Transportation ticketing revenue decreased by 11% from the previous quarter, primarily due to seasonality.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, transportation ticketing revenue was RMB7.1 billion (US$1.1 billion), representing a 49% decrease from 2019. The transportation ticketing revenue accounted for 39% of the total revenue in 2020 and 2019.

Packaged-tour revenue for the fourth quarter of 2020 was RMB262 million (US$40 million), representing a 67% decrease from the same period in 2019, and a 20% decrease from the previous quarter.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, packaged-tour revenue was RMB1.2 billion (US$190 million), representing a 73% decrease from 2019. The packaged-tour revenue accounted for 7% of the total revenue in 2020 and 13% of the total revenue in 2019.

Corporate travel revenue for the fourth quarter of 2020 was RMB307 million (US$47 million), representing a 17% decrease from the same period in 2019. Corporate travel revenue for the fourth quarter of 2020 increased by 9% from the previous quarter.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, corporate travel revenue was RMB877 million (US$135 million), representing a 30% decrease from 2019. The corporate travel revenue accounted for 5% of the total revenue in 2020 and 4% of the total revenue in 2019.

Gross margin was 82% for the fourth quarter of 2020, which increased from 79% for the same period in 2019 and 81% for the previous quarter.
For the full year ended December 31, 2020, gross margin was 78%, compared to 79% in 2019.

Product development expenses for the fourth quarter of 2020 decreased by 20% to RMB2.2 billion (US$331 million) from the same period in 2019 and increased by 8% from the previous quarter, primarily due to the fluctuations in expenses related to product development personnel. Product development expenses for the fourth quarter of 2020 accounted for 44% of the net revenue. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP product development expenses for the fourth quarter of 2020 accounted for 38% of the net revenue, which increased from 29% for the same period of 2019 and 32% for the previous quarter.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, product development expenses decreased by 28% to RMB7.7 billion (US$1.2 billion) from 2019 and accounted for 42% of the net revenue. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP product development expenses accounted for 37% of the net revenue, which increased from 27% in 2019.

Sales and marketing expenses for the fourth quarter of 2020 decreased by 50% to RMB1.2 billion (US$189 million) from the same period in 2019, primarily due to the decrease in expenses relating to sales and marketing promotion activities. Sales and marketing expenses increased by 9% from the previous quarter. Sales and marketing expenses for the fourth quarter of 2020 accounted for 25% of the net revenue. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP sales and marketing expenses for the fourth quarter of 2020 accounted for 24% of the net revenue, which decreased from 29% in the same period in 2019 and increased from 20% in the previous quarter.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, sales and marketing expenses decreased by 53% to RMB4.4 billion (US$675 million) from 2019 and accounted for 24% of the net revenue. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP sales and marketing expenses accounted for 23% of the net revenue, which decreased from 26% in 2019.

General and administrative expenses for the fourth quarter of 2020 decreased by 20% to RMB676 million (US$104 million) from the same period in 2019 and increased by 34% from the previous quarter, primarily due to the fluctuations in general and administrative personnel related expenses and the allowance for credit losses. General and administrative expenses for the fourth quarter of 2020 accounted for 14% of the net revenue. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP general and administrative expenses accounted for 9% of the net revenue, which increased from 8% for the same period in 2019 and 5% for the previous quarter.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, general and administrative expenses increased by 11% to RMB3.6 billion (US$557 million) from 2019 and accounted for 20% of the net revenue. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP general and administrative expenses accounted for 16% of the net revenue, which increased from 7% in 2019.

Loss from operations for the fourth quarter of 2020 was RMB16 million (US$2 million), compared to the income of RMB580 million in the same period in 2019 and RMB790 million in the previous quarter. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP income from operations was RMB495
million (US$77 million), compared to RMB1.0 billion in the same period in 2019 and RMB1.3 billion in the previous quarter.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, loss from operations was RMB1.4 billion (US$218 million), compared to income of RMB5.0 billion in 2019. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP income from operations was RMB450 million (US$69 million), compared to RMB6.8 billion in 2019.

Operating margin was 0% for the fourth quarter of 2020, compared to 7% in the same period in 2019, and 14% in the previous quarter. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP operating margin was 10%, compared to 12% in the same period in 2019 and 24% in the previous quarter.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, operating margin was -8%, compared to 14% in 2019. Excluding share-based compensation charges, non-GAAP operating margin was 2%, compared to 19% in 2019.

Income tax expense for the fourth quarter of 2020 was RMB163 million (US$25 million), compared to RMB364 million in the same period of 2019 and RMB245 million in the previous quarter. The change in our effective tax rate was primarily due to change in the non-taxable income of the fair value changes in equity securities investments and exchangeable senior notes.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, income tax expense was RMB355 million (US$54 million), compared to RMB1.7 billion in 2019.

Net income attributable to Trip.com Group’s shareholders for the fourth quarter of 2020 was RMB1.0 billion (US$155 million), compared to net income attributable to Trip.com Group’s shareholders of RMB2.0 billion in the same period in 2019 and RMB1.6 billion in the previous quarter. Excluding share-based compensation charges and fair value changes of equity securities investments and exchangeable senior notes, non-GAAP net income attributable to Trip.com Group’s shareholders was RMB1.1 billion (US$165 million), compared to RMB1.2 billion in the same period in 2019 and RMB1.4 billion in the previous quarter.

For the full year ended December 31, 2020, net loss attributable to Trip.com Group’s shareholders was RMB3.2 billion (US$497 million), compared to net income attributable to Trip.com Group’s shareholders of RMB7.0 billion in 2019. Excluding share-based compensation charges and fair value changes of equity securities investments and exchangeable senior notes, non-GAAP net loss attributable to Trip.com Group’s shareholders was RMB913 million (US$139 million), compared to non-GAAP net income attributable to Trip.com Group’s shareholders of RMB6.5 billion in 2019.

Diluted earnings per ADS were RMB1.65 (US$0.25) for the fourth quarter of 2020. Excluding share-based compensation charges and fair value changes of equity securities investments and exchangeable senior notes, non-GAAP diluted earnings per ADS were RMB1.75 (US$0.27) for the fourth quarter of 2020.
For the full year ended December 31, 2020, diluted losses per ADS were RMB5.40 (US$0.83). Excluding share-based compensation charges and fair value changes of equity securities investments and exchangeable senior notes, non-GAAP diluted losses per ADS were RMB1.52 (US$0.23).

As of December 31, 2020, the balance of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, short-term investment, held to maturity time deposit and financial products was RMB59.6 billion (US$9.1 billion).

Conference Call

Trip.com Group's management team will host a conference call at 7:00PM U.S. Eastern Time on March 3, 2021 (or 8:00AM on March 4, 2021 in the Shanghai/Hong Kong Time) following the announcement.

The conference call will be available on Webcast live and replay at: https://investors.trip.com. The call will be archived for twelve months at this website.

All participants must pre-register to join this conference call using the Participant Registration link below:
https://s1.c-conf.com/diamondpass/10012794-k38dyw.html

Upon registration, each participant will receive details for this conference call, including dial-in numbers, passcode and a unique access PIN. To join the conference, please dial the number provided, enter the passcode followed by your PIN, and you will join the conference instantly.

A telephone replay of the call will be available after the conclusion of the conference call until March 11, 2021.

The dial-in details for the replay:
International dial-in number: +61-7-3107-6325
Passcode: 10012794

Safe Harbor Statement

This announcement contains forward-looking statements. These statements are made under the "safe harbor" provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements can be identified by terminology such as "may," "will," "expect," "anticipate," "future," "intend," "plan," "believe," "estimate," "is/are likely to," "confident" or other similar statements. Among other things, quotations from management and the Business Outlook section in this press release, as well as Trip.com Group's strategic and operational plans, contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. A number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. Potential risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, severe or prolonged downturn in the global or Chinese economy, general declines or disruptions in the travel industry, volatility in the trading price of Trip.com Group’s ADSs, Trip.com Group's reliance on its relationships and contractual
arrangements with travel suppliers and strategic alliances, failure to compete against new and existing competitors, failure to successfully manage current growth and potential future growth, risks associated with any strategic investments or acquisitions, seasonality in the travel industry in the relevant jurisdictions where Trip.com Group operates, failure to successfully develop Trip.com Group’s existing or future business lines, damage to or failure of Trip.com Group’s infrastructure and technology, loss of services of Trip.com Group’s key executives, adverse changes in economic and political policies of the PRC government, inflation in China, risks and uncertainties associated with PRC laws and regulations with respect to the ownership structure of Trip.com Group’s affiliated Chinese entities and the contractual arrangements among Trip.com Group, its affiliated Chinese entities and their shareholders, and other risks outlined in Trip.com Group’s filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. All information provided in this press release and in the attachments is as of the date of the issuance, and Trip.com Group does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement, except as required under applicable law.

About Non-GAAP Financial Measures

To supplement Trip.com Group’s unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements presented in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), Trip.com Group uses Non-GAAP financial information related to product development expenses, sales and marketing expenses, general and administrative expenses, income from operations, operating margin, net income attributable to Trip.com Group’s shareholders, and diluted earnings per ordinary share and per ADS, each of which (except for net commission earned) is adjusted from the most comparable GAAP result to exclude the share-based compensation charges recorded under ASC 718, “Compensation-Stock Compensation” and its share-based compensation charges are not tax deductible, and fair value changes of equity securities investments and exchangeable senior notes, net of tax, recorded under ASU 2016-1. Trip.com Group’s management believes the Non-GAAP financial measures facilitate better understanding of operating results from quarter to quarter and provide management with a better capability to plan and forecast future periods.

Non-GAAP information is not prepared in accordance with GAAP and may be different from Non-GAAP methods of accounting and reporting used by other companies. The presentation of this additional information should not be considered a substitute for GAAP results. A limitation of using Non-GAAP financial measures is that Non-GAAP measures exclude share-based compensation charges and fair value changes of equity securities investments and exchangeable senior notes that have been and will continue to be significant recurring expenses in Trip.com Group’s business for the foreseeable future.

Reconciliations of Trip.com Group’s Non-GAAP financial data to the most comparable GAAP data included in the consolidated statement of operations are included at the end of this press release.

About Trip.com Group Limited

Trip.com Group Limited (Nasdaq: TCOM) is a leading one-stop travel service provider consisting of Trip.com, Ctrip, Skyscanner, and Qunar. Across its platforms, Trip.com Group enables local partners
and travelers around the world to make informed and cost-effective bookings for travel products and services, through aggregation of comprehensive travel-related information and resources, and an advanced transaction platform consisting of mobile apps, Internet websites, and 24/7 customer service centers. Founded in 1999 and listed on Nasdaq in 2003, Trip.com Group has become one of the largest travel companies in the world in terms of gross merchandise value.

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