

Airlines add more routes, opening up flight options

Zhu Yuting

FOLLOWING the resumption of outbound group tours, more international flights out of Shanghai are being scheduled.

Shanghai-based China Eastern Airlines has resumed 52 air routes to overseas destinations, with 302 flights per week. They include Shanghai-New York, Shanghai-London, Shanghai-Toronto, Shanghai-Paris, Shanghai-Sydney and Shanghai-Frankfurt.

By the end of February, there will be 60 routes, with 410 flights every week, the airline said.

China Eastern also plans to add routes from Shanghai to Taipei, Dubai, Manila, and Wuxi to Hong Kong and Macau by the end of February.

China Southern Airlines has also expanded its international network with the resumption and launch of 48 round-trip routes in 12 countries.

The airline has joined hands with travel agencies and launched group excursions from Guangzhou in southern Guangdong Province to New Zealand, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Kenya, the Maldives,



Overseas-bound passengers at the Shanghai Pudong International Airport. — Jiang Xiaowei

Russia and the United Arab Emirates.

It said that in order to meet the upsurge in demand for outbound travel, it will keep expanding its flight schedule to global locations. The airline offers 82 flights per week on 50 air routes to overseas regions and countries.

Spring Airlines, based in Shanghai, has resumed 24 foreign routes, 16 to Southeast Asian destinations.

According to the airline, the average load factor of its international and regional flights has exceeded 90 percent since the end of the Spring Festival

break, and many flights have reached 100 percent.

Online booking is available for popular destinations.

Many outbound ticket prices have fallen along with the increase in flights.

For instance, last Friday, the cost of a direct trip from Shanghai to Chiang Mai in Thailand ranged from 1,379 yuan (US\$203) to 1,970 yuan; however, for flights on February 20, the prices fell to less than 1,000 yuan.

The price of flights to Bangkok was around 4,000 yuan last Thursday. It was nearly half for flights 10 days later.

Shanghai unveils package of public welfare programs

Hu Min

SHANGHAI mapped out 32 public welfare programs through this year to improve people's livelihood on Tuesday, spanning a wide range of areas such as infrastructure, senior and children care, safety and public services.

A quick look at some of the programs

Senior care

- Adding 5,000 more beds at senior homes
- Renovating 2,000 beds for nursing elderly citizens with cognitive disorder
- Building 30 new smart senior homes
- Building 40 extra community-based canteens serving senior residents
- Renovating 5,000 homes with senior-friendly facilities
- Barrier-free renovation for 5,000 families with severely disabled members



Childcare

- Organizing 500 summer camps for primary school students
- Adding 2,000 seats at nursery classes in kindergartens
- Adding 3,200 seats at community nurseries



Livelihood

- Building 20 smart food markets
- Having 1,000 catering businesses make their cooking processes visible for diners
- Building 1,200 "security houses" with joint efforts from society to handle emergencies and protect people



Community renovation

- Building 10,000 new public charging poles
- Helping 800 more residential complexes to receive WiFi coverage in their underground parking lots



Employment

- Helping 8,000 unemployed youth find employment
- Supporting enterprises in training 10,000 apprentices



Leisure facilities

- Building 60 more pocket parks
- Building 200 kilometers of greenway
- Building 100 public art education facilities
- Organizing 5,000 art education activities

