

SHANGHAI NOW

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Crowds throng various tourist sites in Shanghai during the holiday. — Dong Jun

Holiday bonanza as Shanghai earns US\$2.73b

Hu Min and Huang Yixuan

Shanghai received 15.6494 million tourists during the five-day May Day holiday ending Wednesday, generating 18.897 billion yuan (US\$2.73 billion) in tourism revenue and demonstrating a robust tourism recovery.

According to the Shanghai Administration of Culture and Tourism, major tourist destinations across the city attracted 6.38 million visits, matching the same

period in 2019.

The average hotel occupancy rate hit 71 percent, up 12 percentage points from the same period in 2019.

According to data from the city's Consumer Market Big Data Laboratory, the offline consumption amount from April 28 to May 2 touched 34.36 billion yuan (US\$4.97 billion), while the online consumption figure was 24.58 billion yuan. Of this, the consumption in the catering industry amounted to 6.26 billion yuan, an increase of

70 percent compared to the same period in 2021, and 62.8 percent higher in the same period in 2019.

Data monitoring by China UnionPay Merchant Services Co showed that the consumption of visitors from outside the city was 14.8 billion yuan, a year on year increase of 15 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively, compared to the same period in 2021 and 2019. Shanghai-based online travel operator Trip.com said the flying distance of its users was 1,638 kilometers on average,

hitting a four-year high with cross-province hotel orders accounting for more than 70 percent of the total.

A domestic single-trip air ticket cost 1,211 yuan during the holiday, up 39 percent from the same period in 2019.

Ticket orders for Chinese tourist attractions surged over 200 percent from that of 2019, the agency said.

Moreover, outbound tourism orders soared nearly 700 percent from the same period last year.

Super HSR to link city and Hangzhou

Wang Qingchu

CHINA is most likely to construct the first-ever super-high-speed railway line that allows maglev trains to travel up to 1,000km per hour in a vacuum tunnel between Shanghai and Hangzhou, according to a report in South China Morning Post.

The 150-kilometer railway is likely to bring the Hyperloop concept, which Tesla CEO Elon Musk had proposed in 2013, into reality.

Scientists have quantified and evaluated six demonstration lines with the most suitable construction conditions. Two affluent cities in the eastern coastal area ultimately stood out, according to the report which quoted a paper published in the Chinese journal Railway Standard Design.

The super-high-speed transport system will use vacuum-sealed tubes to transport passengers and cargo. The paper identified the two coastal cities as the most suitable due to their high population density, strong economic activity, flat terrain, and high level of technological feasibility.

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