

More Chinese women travel alone than men: report

Chinese women are more likely to travel alone than men, according to a recent report by China's biggest online travel agency, with female travelers urged to pay close attention to security on trips.

The report by ctrip.com said 58 percent of customers in the agency's self-guided and group tours are women. In the first six months of this year, 14 percent of women chose to travel alone, compared to 10 percent of men, the report said.

Women's top destinations included Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Chengdu.

"It means Chinese women are more economically independent. On the other hand, women have accumulated more travel experience," said an expert with Ctrip. "Many female travelers in their 20s can speak English and can manage by themselves during trips."

But women travelers may face higher security risks, especially in overseas trips, the report added. Ctrip launched four new services: Global travel SOS, local guides, travel companions and insurance to help reduce travel risks.

Ctrip's global travel SOS system has dealt with about 570 cases since it was launched at the beginning of this year. Sixty-five of those seeking help were women and 82 percent were overseas. Over 90 percent of cases were solved successfully, the agency said.

Ctrip's local guide app covers over 80 countries and 800 cities with 8,000 local guides that provide Chinese language services.

"I am lost. How can I get a ride?" was the most frequently asked question on Ctrip's system. Other common questions included those about scenic spots and food.

Ctrip also reminded travelers to remember its 12308 hotline and turn to local embassies if they encounter danger on overseas trips. It also suggest travelers avoid going to unsafe places alone such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Some HK reports on flu called

[misleading](#)

Concern has risen in Hong Kong over the outbreak of seasonal influenza, but officials said that reports comparing it to the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome in 2003 are misleading.

In Hong Kong, 324 summer flu-related deaths were recorded from May 5 to Aug 6, according to the Centre for Health Protection under the special administrative region's Department of Health.

The number of deaths during winter flu season reached 442 in 2015 and 171 in 2016, according to CHP records.

Some news reports last weekend said that the summer flu in Hong Kong had killed more people than the SARS epidemic did in 2003.

But Guan Yi, director of State Key Laboratory of Emerging Infectious Diseases and the Center of Influenza Research at the University of Hong Kong, said the two numbers are not comparable, and added that such coverage "exaggerated the situation" and would create unnecessary public fear.

Guan said the deaths caused by summer flu often involve senior citizens, a high-risk demographic, many of whom have chronic diseases and a weak immune system. Summer flu can trigger other complications that can cause death, he added.

During the SARS epidemic, however, the virus was much more potent and killed people of all ages, Guan noted.

In 2003, SARS claimed 299 lives from March 10 to June 23 in Hong Kong, killing 17 percent of those who got sick, official data show.

The CHP estimated that the death rate for summer flu this year would be less than 2.1 percent, given that most patients would recover in two to seven days. The death rate in past flu seasons has ranged from 1.9 percent to 3.3 percent, according to the CHP.

The summer flu season is expected to continue for the next few weeks, CHP officials said.

In Shenzhen, meanwhile, the disease control and prevention department issued its highest-level alert for the past three weeks for seasonal flu, and it warned that the situation bears watching this week since the number of infections is still expected to increase at a high rate.

However, Song Tie, deputy director of the Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said the situation this year is similar to that of previous years, except that the peak has come later.

Seasonal influenza usually breaks out between May and July in southern Guangdong province, but the peak may come earlier or later depending on the

particular strain of the virus, said Kong Dongfeng, associate senior physician of the communicable disease control and prevention division of Shenzhen Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The most prevalent influenza virus this year is the H3N2 virus, accounting for 75 percent of the cases in Guangdong, with children, pregnant women, the elderly and those with chronic diseases being the most vulnerable groups, officials said. No statistics on deaths were released.

Last month, 1,468 influenza cases were detected at Shenzhen ports of entry, compared with 848 cases in June, both representing significant growth compared with a year earlier, according to the Shenzhen Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau.

Influenza-like illnesses represented 4.64 percent of all the outpatient cases in the city from July 26 to Aug 1, according to official statistics. The figure for the previous week was 4.98 percent.

Guan, from Hong Kong, suggested that people take Tamiflu, an antiviral medication used to treat and prevent influenza A and influenza B, once they experience such symptoms as runny nose, coughing, fever and other flu symptoms.

[Beijing builds regional senior care network](#)

Beijing is currently building a network of regional senior care centers. Today, there are 208 senior care centers throughout the capital city, as well as 259 community senior service dispatch stations. By the end of 2017, each of Beijing's districts will complete construction on its senior care guidance center, which will direct operations in the senior care network.

Wang Xiao'e, deputy director of the Office of Beijing Municipal Working Committee on Aging, said in a speech at the 6th China International Senior Service Expo that Beijing has set a budget of 1.28 billion yuan (US\$190.55 million) for senior care in 2017, a year-on-year increase of 17.7 percent. The city also plans to invest 400 million yuan to establish a senior care fund with 1.6 billion yuan in initial equity in order to build its senior care network.

Each district's senior care guidance center will serve as the command hub for its local network, overseeing senior care centers that will provide long-term clinical care, and dispatch stations that will deliver services straight to the homes of senior citizens. Of the 350 senior care dispatch stations constructed in Beijing in the last two years, 259 are currently operating. The city plans to increase the number to 1,000 by 2020.

A part of the infrastructure for the regional senior care network is provided by the city as donation, and its operation is entrusted to private service providers. In addition, Beijing is mulling over new policies to support the growth of the senior service industry. Officials said they have learned through surveys that there are 4,104 locations throughout the city that could be turned into senior care centers. Meanwhile, the city will also reclaim vacant factory buildings and schools and transform them into senior care facilities.

[New high-speed railway opens in NE China](#)

A new high-speed rail line that connects Jilin province to Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region is set to open this Tuesday.

The project is part of the broader efforts to revitalize the economy of the rust belt region.



The high-speed rail way connecting Jilin province to Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region runs from Changchun to Ulanhot. [Photo/sina.com]

It is also the first trans-regional high-speed railway for Inner Mongolia.

The more than 400-kilometer railway runs from Changchun, the capital of Jilin province, to the city of Ulanhot, which is located next to Inner Mongolia's border with Jilin.

Baicheng, a city on the Jilin side of the border, will serve as the largest

stop along the route.

Renovation of the original railway through the area began in late 2014 in order to accommodate high-speed trains.

Cao Like, a railway official with the Jilin Provincial authority, says the renewal project is a big step forward in both speed and capacity.

“The new railway has a 60-million-ton load capacity for cargo, whereas the old railway could only accommodate 10 million tons. Cities along the route are now closer to each other. For example, from Changchun to Baicheng now only takes 2 hours and 40 minutes. Before today, it would have taken more than 4 hours.”

Xia Fan with the China Railway Corporation was the head of the team that renovated the railway.

He says they've made changes which should allow for even faster trains on the line in the future.

“We conducted an electrification-based renovation to the railway, as well as an upgrade to its communication systems. Speed of trains now will be limited to 160-kilometers per hour. But we've made the electrification of the line at a very high standard. So in the future, it will be feasible to raise the maximum speed to 200 kilometers per hour.”

The railway is bringing high-speed train services to the western part of Jilin for the first time.

Songyuan, a small city along the route, is home to Chagan Lake.

Residents near the lake are renowned for their thousand-year-old tradition of fishing during the winter.

Yan Liang, a local villager, has decided to expand his fish restaurant after hearing news about the new railway.

“We're going to have a growing number of tourists coming. My previous restaurant was just a small courtyard. It can't meet the demands of my customers, many of whom now need a place to stay overnight. So I decided to rent a big house for my business earlier this year.”

The renovated railway connects to the current high-speed line running from Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang, and Dalian, which is located at the bottom of the Liaodong Peninsula in Liaoning.

China's northeast, a combination of the provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang, is more than twice the size of Japan.

Authorities are planning to establish a high-speed railway network in the northeast by 2025 which will cut travel times throughout most cities in the region to no more than 2-hours.

Interconnection is viewed as a critical step in pulling the so-called 'rust belt' out of its current economic woes.

The three northeastern provinces have undergone the worst economic slowdown across the nation over the last few years, dragged by industrial overcapacity and inefficient state-owned businesses in the region.

Both the central and local authorities have been implementing plans to revitalize the local infrastructure, as well as tap the region's natural beauty and ruggedness as a draw for tourists.

[CMC calls for study of Xi's speeches](#)

The Central Military Commission (CMC) on Monday told the armed forces to study the speeches made by President Xi Jinping around the Army Day and strengthen their sense of loyalty and responsibility, according to an official circular.

Study of Xi's speeches is of great significance to inspire the military to unite more closely around the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, according to the circular issued by the general office of the CMC.

The speeches were delivered by Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the CMC, at a military parade and a rally marking the 90th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army.

Xi lauded the contributions made by the PLA in its 90 years' history to the country and the people, calling for better combativeness of the army in his speech at the Zhurihe military parade on July 30.

In his speech at the rally on Aug. 1, Xi reaffirmed the importance of military reform and the CPC's absolute leadership over the army. China must step up transforming its armed forces into a world-class military that is ready to fight and win wars as the country will never compromise on its sovereignty, he said.

The study is important for the CPC to achieve its goal of building a strong army in current circumstances and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, according to the circular.

The CMC circular called on the armed forces to improve combat-oriented training and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests.

China will never allow any people, organization or political party to split any part of Chinese territory from the country at any time, in any form, the

circular said.

The circular also ordered the military to act in accordance with the instructions of Xi and the CMC, bear in mind its duties, and boost national defense and military modernization.