

Jiangxi makes tourism smarter for visitors

Tourists in Jiangxi province -- a popular tourism destination on the Chinese mainland -- stand to benefit from the province's major investment in making tourism smarter.

Hundreds of thousands of tourists to the southeastern province will enjoy a more comfortable travel, guided by big data infrastructures to avoid traffic jams and crowded tours.

During the just ended National Day "Golden Week", the province welcomed 56.4 million tourists -- up 10 percent over year's figure, with revenues reaching 34.2 billion yuan -- an increase of 11 percent from 2017.

Tourism is a significant industry in Jiangxi. According to the provincial government, total revenue from the sector soared 28.87 percent to 643.5 billion yuan last year, and is expected to reach 816 billion yuan in 2018.

With a focus on smart tourism, the province has invested heavily in building smart infrastructures in recent years, including introducing cloud services. Real-time data, including the capacities of the tourism sites and traffic conditions around tourist attractions will be

collected through the cloud system to better guide tourists.

Drivers and self-driving tourists can also make online bookings and payments for parking services near tourist spots with the country's first Narrow Band Internet of Things Intelligence Parking project having been set up in April.

The Big Data Center for Tourism in Jiangxi began operations in August, integrating data from more than 10,000 tourism-related companies and more than 100 local scenic spots. After analyzing the data with nearly 100 indexes, the tourism authorities will provide comprehensive observation reports to the tourism industry.

Last year, the first smart expressway went into service, with a monitoring system to provide real-time reports on traffic flow and safety controls. The expressway, with a built-in smart device, will warn drivers when it's covered with ice and can even clear up the ice automatically when necessary. It will also warn drivers on a bulletin board erected ahead of a curve.

Yang Zekun contributed to the story.

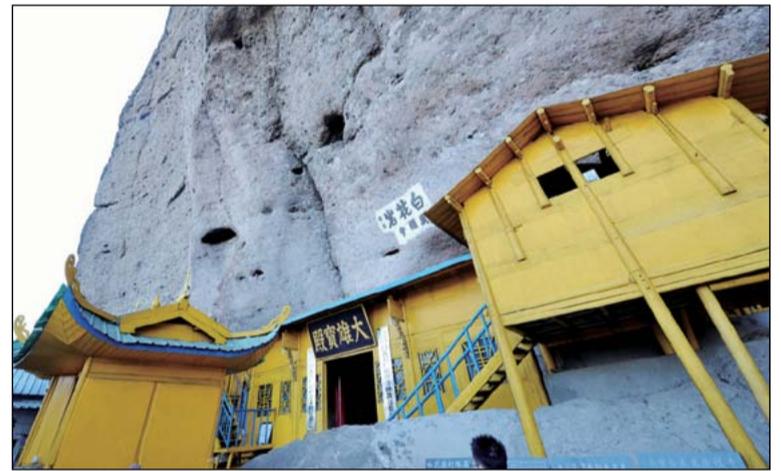


Million acres of rape flower terraces blossomed in Wuyuan County, Jiangxi Province in March.
ZHUO ZHONGWEI / FOR CHINA DAILY ASIA WEEKLY



In April, 47 elk were released into the wild in Poyanghu National Wetland Park in Jiangxi which marked the endangered animals under first-class state protection were going back to the Poyanghu lakeside.

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Guangfu Temple, dated back to the late Tang Dynasty and reconstructed in Qing Dynasty, was built on a 60 meter-high giant stone cliff in Tongbo Mountain, Jiangxi Province. ZHUO ZHONGWEI / FOR CHINA DAILY ASIA WEEKLY

'Red tour' lifts HK youths' national identity

About 200 Hong Kong youths, who went on a tour of Jiangxi province to learn about the nation's history, said they were impressed by the courage and perseverance of those who took part in the revolution in the 1920s.

The tour, held annually since 2016, has seen more than 600 teenagers from the SAR visiting the province's historical attractions that are significant to the revolution led by the Communist Party of China from 1921 to 1949.

The week-long visit, organized by the China Civic Education Promotion Association of Hong Kong (CCEPA), was aimed at enhancing young Hong Kong people's understanding of the nation's history.

Choi Yuen-ki, a high school student at Elegantia College of Hong Kong, said: "During the visit, I was deeply impressed by the bravery

and tenacity of the revolutionists despite the difficulties and challenges they faced."

Another student, surnamed Lai, from the same school, joined the tour for the second time in two consecutive years. He said his decision to make another visit was because last year's tour was not enough, and there was more for him to see.

The tour, from March 28 to April 3, took the visitors to major historical sites at various places, including the provincial capital Nanchang, Lushan, Ruijin and mountainous Jinggangshan, which is dubbed the "cradle of China's revolution" and home to the first revolution base founded by the CPC, in the border region between Hunan and Jiangxi provinces.

Jiangxi, with mountains and forests, has played an important role in the country's revolutionary history since the CPC's founding in

1921. According to official records, there are 2,344 historical sites relating to that time. The attractions have become one of the major income sources for the provincial government and local authorities hosting tourists longing for a taste of history.

Besides touring the "red" tourism spots, the Hong Kong group exchanged views and ideas with local students at their homes.

"We hope Hong Kong's young people can learn more about history and the culture of their motherland through a series of activities. We also want to build up the friendship between students from Jiangxi province and Hong Kong," said CCEPA Chairman Keung Yuk-deoil.

The organizers said the event would raise Hong Kong teenagers' national pride and identity.

Chen Zimo contributed to the story.



Hong Kong teenagers, on a 7-day tour to red tourism attractions, take a picture in front of a historical site in Jiangxi province in 2018.

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