



As we navigate through the latter half of 2023, China's outbound travel market continues to be a focal point of interest for stakeholders in the global travel and tourism industry. Our Q1 and Q2 reports have provided invaluable insights into the evolving travel ethos and preferences of the Chinese traveller. As we present our Q3 findings, our emphasis shifts towards understanding the maturation of these trends and identifying new patterns that have emerged.

In this quarter's survey, we once again provide a comprehensive overview of China's outbound tourism landscape. We delve into evolving demographics, offering a more in-depth examination of generational preferences in travel. This report also highlights emerging trends in desired destinations, revealing a growing interest in off-the-beaten-path locations and experiential travel. Notably in Q3, we present new findings related to digital behaviour, exploring how technology is increasingly integrated into travel decisions, from destination research to booking methods and in-trip experiences.

As in previous quarters, the objective of this report remains consistent: to furnish stakeholders with critical data and insights about China's outbound travel market. This enables them to refine their strategies effectively in marketing, product development, and policy-making.

This Q3 report aims to further enrich your understanding of the Chinese outbound traveller's ever-evolving profile and preferences. We present these findings with the aspiration that they serve as an indispensable tool in your China marketing strategy.

As the world of Chinese outbound tourism continues to change rapidly, especially in these still uncertain times, we extend an invitation for you to explore our findings thoroughly. Together, we continue this intriguing journey of discovery into the motivations, aspirations, and preferences shaping one of the world's largest outbound travel markets.

Please dive into the report for a detailed analysis, and thank you for joining us on this ongoing exploration.





Market conditions	In 2019, China's outbound travellers were 155 Million. In 2023 Year-to-date, China's outbound stood at 24 Million – expected to hit over 38 Million for the year. By 2028, Outbound travellers are expected to be 200 Million.
Profile of Travellers	Demography – 61.1% Female, 71.6% 18-29yr old, 59.2% Tier 1* cities. Education – 63% Bachelor's degree. Income – 14.9% have over 20K yuan monthly salary. Past Travel – 64.2% have not travelled overseas. Travel Plan – 35.1% at least 1 trip planned outside of HK/Macau in the next 6 months, 43% do not have any plans yet.
	Planning – 35% plan to travel abroad within the next 6 months.
	Lead-time – 69% prefer to book less than 1 month in advance.
	Top Countries – Singapore, Europe, South Korea, Malaysia, Australia.
Travellers Desire	Stay-Length – 57% prefer 5-10 days, 20% prefer 10-15 days.
& Intention	Top Airlines – AirAsia (22%), Singapore Airlines (20%), United Airlines (11%)
Survey	Travel Class – 86% choose economy, 7% choose business class.
	Travel Budget – 50% plan to spend at least 25,000 RMB
	Local Activity - Food, History and Culture, Nature
	Top Payment - Alipay, WeChat Pay, Credit Card.
	Planning Strategy - Xiaohongshu, Travel App, Official Destination Website



- 1. Data is collected through a combination of qualitative interviews, quantitative surveys and the CTD research desk.
- 2. The quantitative sample size of 17,441 respondents, via WeChat. The qualitative size was filtered to 10,137 after careful consideration.
- 3. Key criteria for the selection process were based on but not limited to the city of residence, gender, income bracket, education, etc.
- 4. Multiple choice questions were presented, and each household could only participate once.
- 5. Only invited respondents were able to participate and IP addresses were used to identify the location, ensure accuracy and avoid duplication.
- 6. Response time control a reasonable response time is allocated for each question. If questions are answered too quickly it is deemed invalid as not sufficient thoughts were given.
- 7. Research period 7th Sep 10th Sep 2023





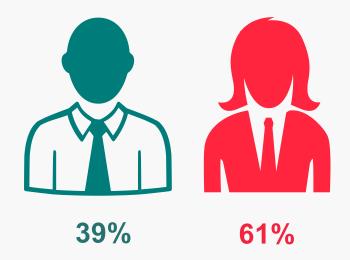
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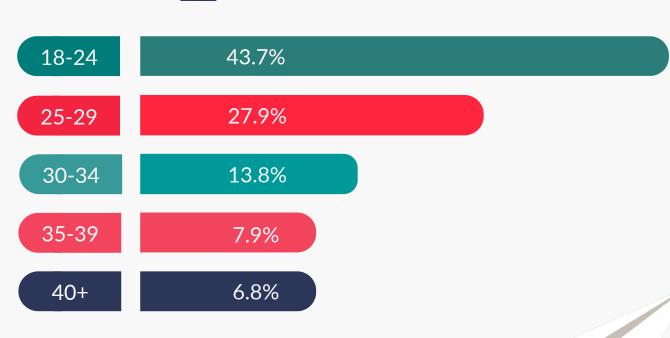




Gender

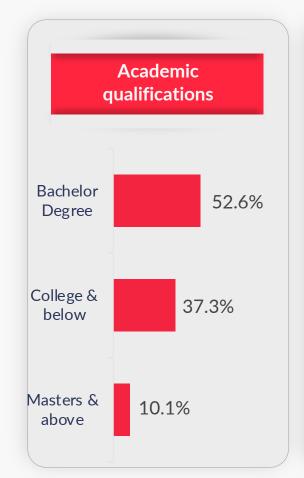


<u>Age</u>

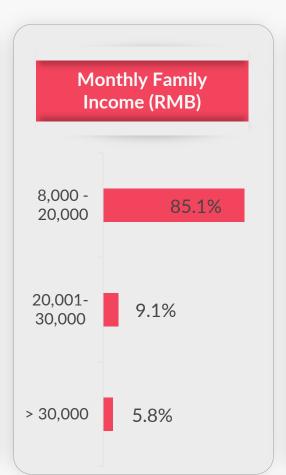


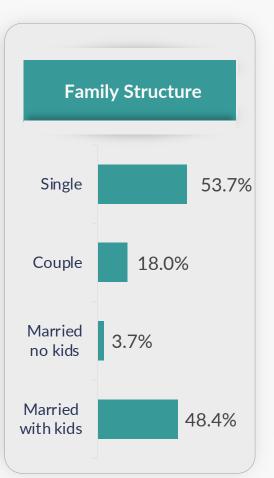
















Outbound Travel - Planning



Most of the travellers (35.1%) have plans to travel overseas within 6 months, with higher representation among the 18-29 Yr. old (73%) and Tier 1^* groups (58%).

Q: Is the following description in line with your plans to travel abroad in the near future? (except Hong Kong/Macau) (single selection)

Plan trip within 3 months

18.0%

Plan trip within 4-6 months

17.1%

Plan trip within 7-12 months

21.5%

No travel plans





Outbound Travel - Frequency



About 52.5% of tourists plan to travel abroad 1-2 times in the next 12 months, and more people from the 18-24 Yr. old (39.1%) and from Tier 1*(58.4%) plan to travel 1-2 times.

Q: How many times do you plan to travel abroad in the next 12 months? (except Hong Kong/Macau) (single selection) 1 to 2 times

52.5%

3 to 4 times

5.6%

≥ 5 times

1.3%





Outbound Travel - Frequency



Compared to the pre-pandemic period, most travellers (44%) will increase the frequency of overseas trips, especially the 18-24 Yr. old (48.9%) and the Tier 1^* group (58.4%).

Q: Compared to before the pandemic in 2019, will your outbound trips increase? (Single selection)



43.5%

Decrease

21.8%

No Change

34.7%





Outbound Travel - Ticket Booking



69% of travellers start booking tickets for overseas trips less than a month in advance, the rest are concentrated in the periods of 1 to 3 months (11.3%).

Q: How many days in advance do you usually start booking outbound tickets? (except Hong Kong/Macau) (single selection)

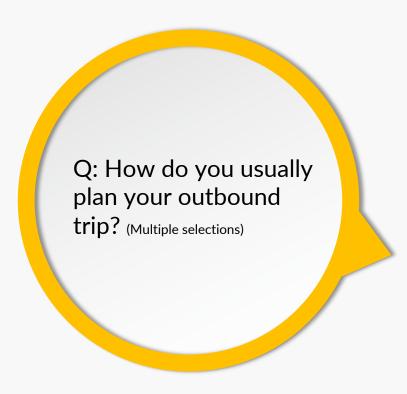


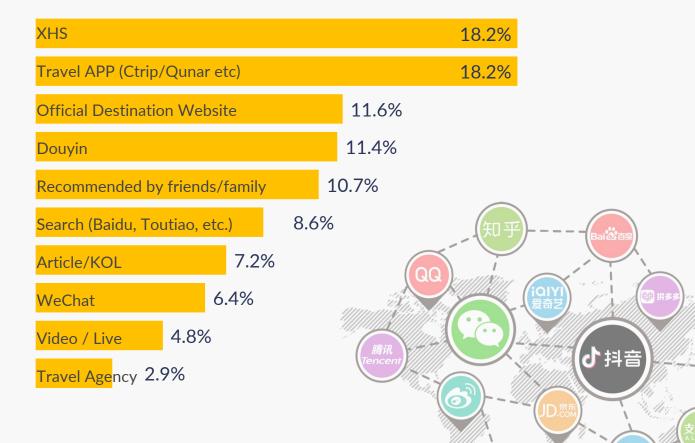


Outbound Travel - Access to information



In terms of travel strategies, XHS and Travel Apps (36.4%) are the preferred reference channel, followed by destination websites (11.6%), and Douyin (11.4%). In addition, 18-24 Yr. old have a high preference for XHS (49.3%)





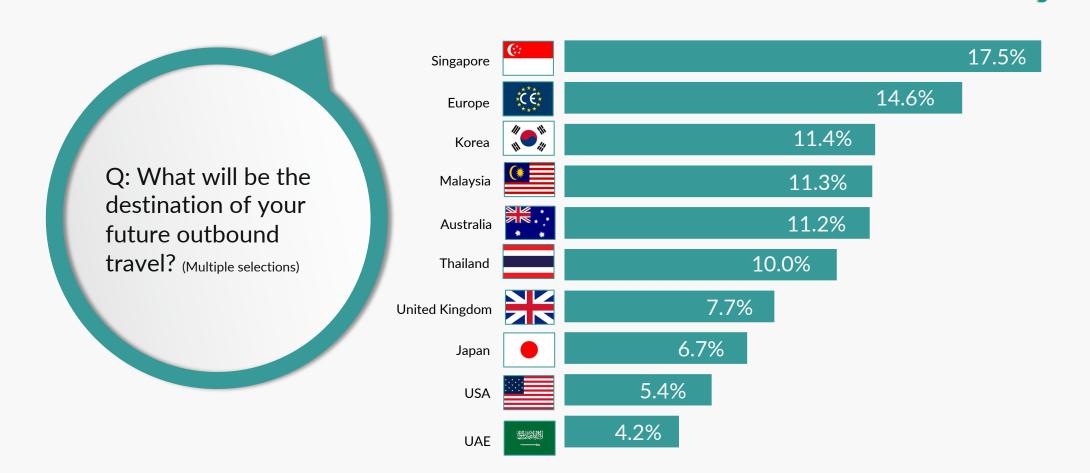




Outbound Travel - Destination



The preferred destination was Singapore (17.5%), followed by Europe (14.6%) and South Korea (11.4%). There is no significant differences between age groups and between cities.



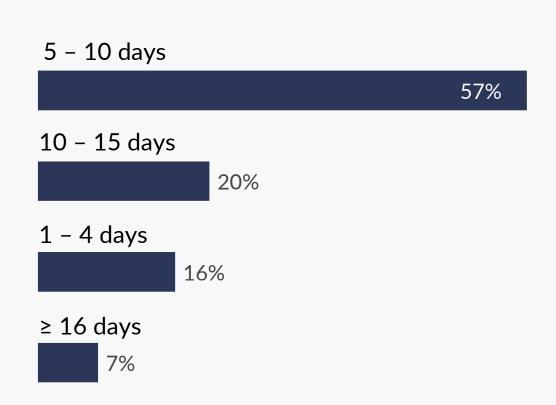


Outbound Travel - Length of Stay



Most tourists tend to visit for 5-10 days (57.4%), with the majority from 18-24 Yr. old (41.5%) and Tier 1* cities (58.4%).





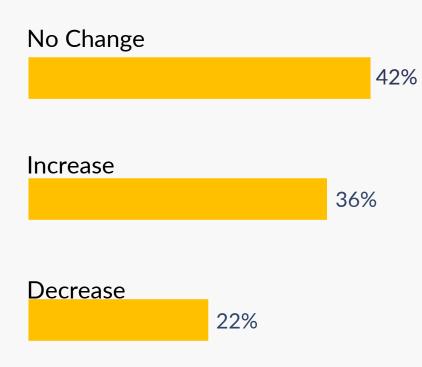


Outbound Travel - Length of Stay



Compared to 2019, most people prefer no change in their length of stay (41.7%) while 36.4% have plans to extend.

Q: Compared to 2019, do you plan to increase or decrease your trip length? (Single selection)







Outbound Travel - Airline Selection



For International airline preference, AirAsia (22.3%) is the top choice, followed by Singapore Airlines (20.2%) and United Airlines (11%)



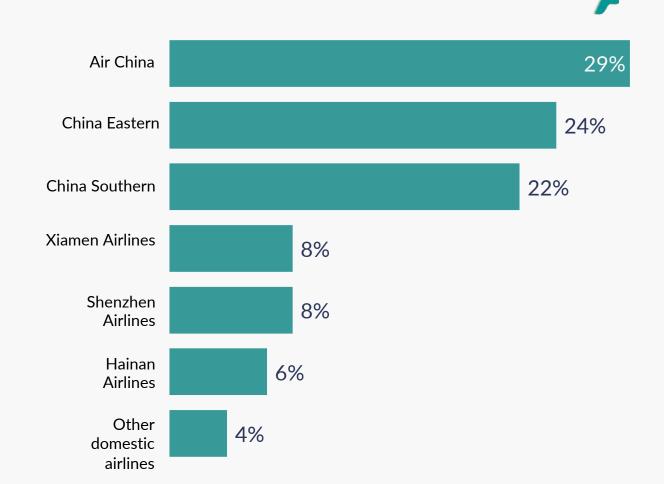


Outbound Travel - Airline Selection



For China airline preference, Air China is the most preferred (28.8%), followed closely by China Eastern (24.2%) & China Southern (21.9%).





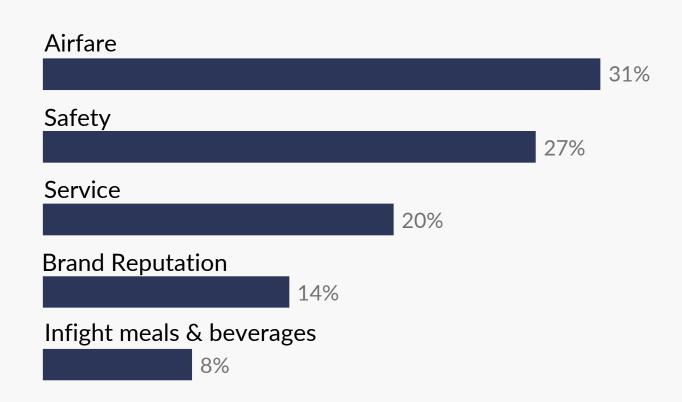


Outbound Travel - Airline Selection Criteria



Airfare (39.8%), safety (35.2%) and service (25%) are the key factors for selecting the top 3 airlines, especially by customers in Tier 1* cities.

Q: What factors influencing your choice of international airline? (multiple selection)





Outbound Travel - Flight Class Selection



Majority of the passengers (85.6%) choose economy class, and more post-80/90 travellers prefer an upgrade to higher class.

Q: In general, select the flight class of your outbound trip (single selection)

Economy

85.6%

Super/Premium Economy

7.3%

Business Class

5.0%

First Class

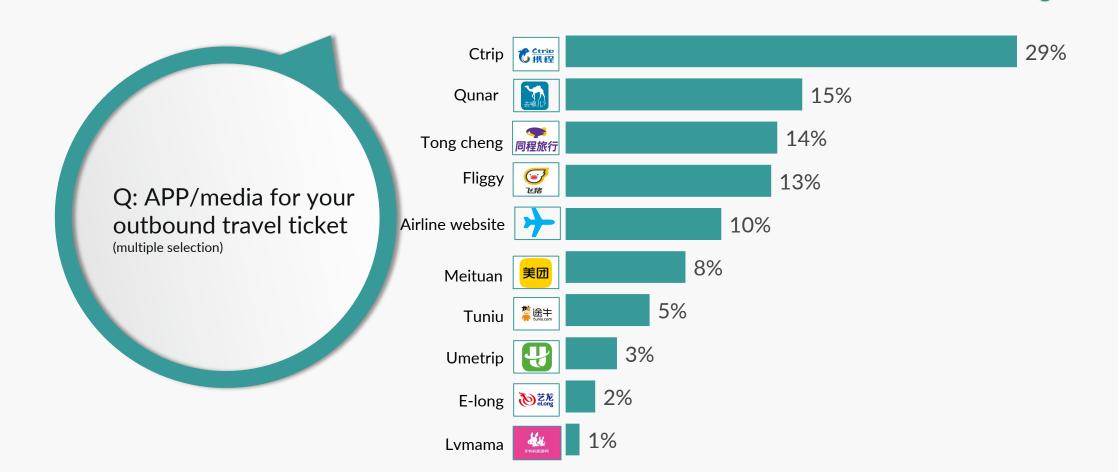
2.1%



Outbound Travel - Ticket Purchase Channels



Ctrip is the preferred channel for all passengers to purchase air tickets (29%), far ahead of other channels, especially for the post-80s/90s (49.3%) and Tier 1*travellers (59.6%).



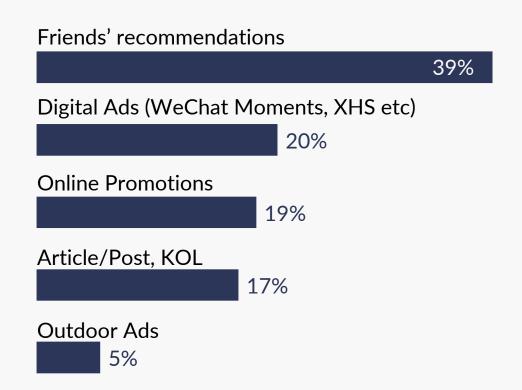


Outbound Travel - Considerations for ticket purchase



Friend recommendations (38.6%) is the top factor for customers to consider air ticket purchase, followed by digital ads (20.4%) and online promotion (18.6%).

Q: Select from the list of media your preferred considering for air ticket purchase. (multiple selection)





Outbound Travel - Travel Preference



51%

For outbound travel, 18-24 Yr. old prefer independent travel (47.5%), while 25-34 Yr. old (42.8%) prefer group tours.



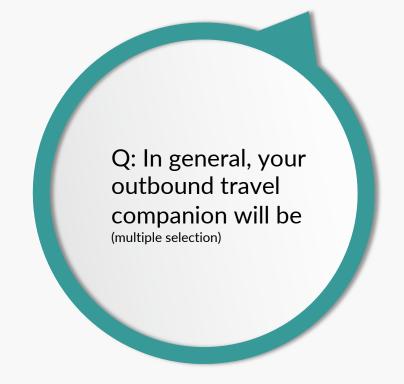


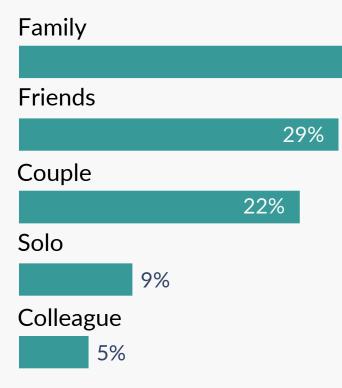


Outbound Travel - Travel Companion



In addition, relatively more 18-24 Yr. old tourists prefer to travel with friends (51.7%), and 25-29 Yr. old tourists prefer to travel as a couple (33.3%).





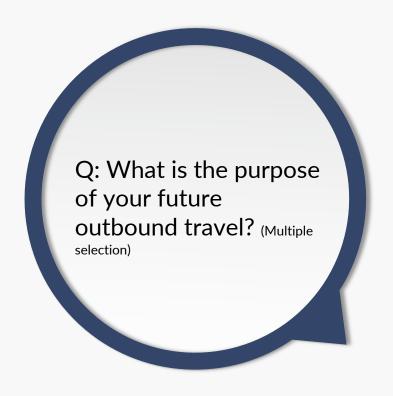




Outbound Travel - Purpose



Enjoying delicious food (33.6%), experiencing local history & culture (33.3%) and appreciating nature (33.1%) is the main demand of tourists travelling abroad who are 18-24 Yr. old tourists (44.8%).







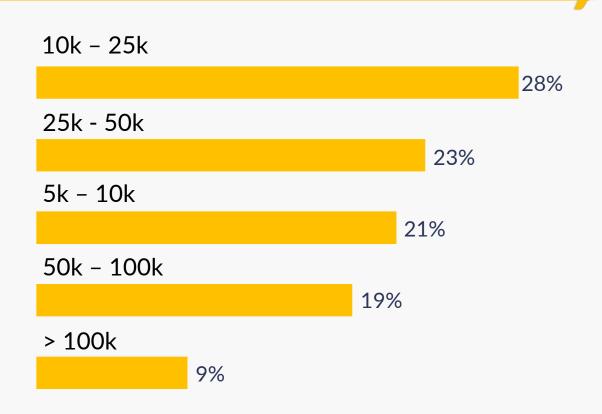


Outbound Travel - Budget



51% plan to spend at least 25,000 RMB for overseas travel. Relatively more Tier 1* travellers (>50k 58.4%)

Q: How much do you plan to spend on a single outbound trip (excluding air tickets and hotel expenses)? (RMB) (single selection)





Outbound Travel - Budget



Overall, about 44.9% of travellers reported that their travel budgets maintained compared to before the pandemic.

Q: Compared with 2019, do you plan to increase or decrease your travel budget (excluding air ticket & hotel)? (Single selection) Increased

Decreased

21%

45%

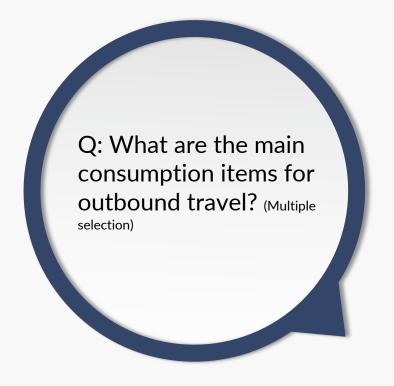


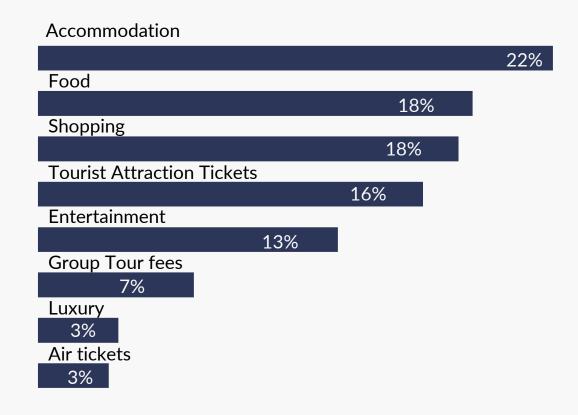


Outbound Travel - Consumption Goods



Accommodation (21.8%), food (718.4%) and shopping (17.8%) were the main consumer goods categories of tourists, with 18-24 Yr. old tourists preferring accommodation (44.5%), and 35-39 Yr. old tourists (50.1%) more interested in air ticket.







Outbound Travel - Luxury Items



The main factors tourists look for when buying luxury goods abroad are competitive pricing (25.2%), discounts (22.2%) and variety (16.6%).





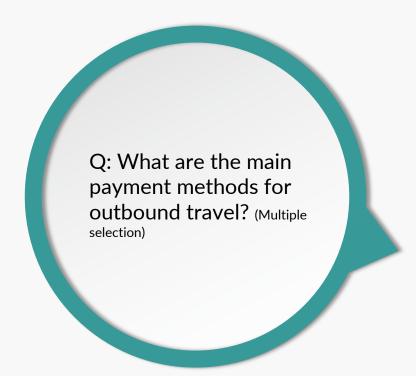


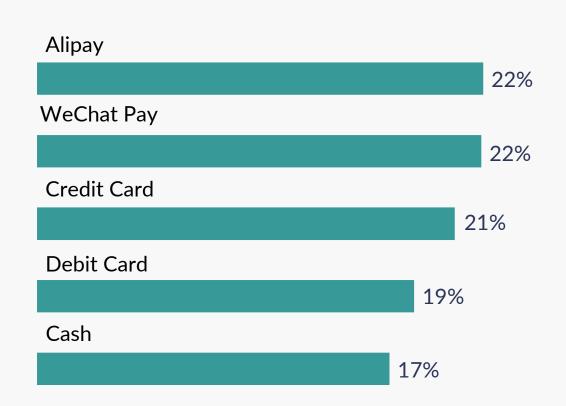


Outbound Travel - Payment Methods



Alipay (21.9%) were the main payment method, followed by WeChat Pay (21.8%), and Credit Card (20.5%).



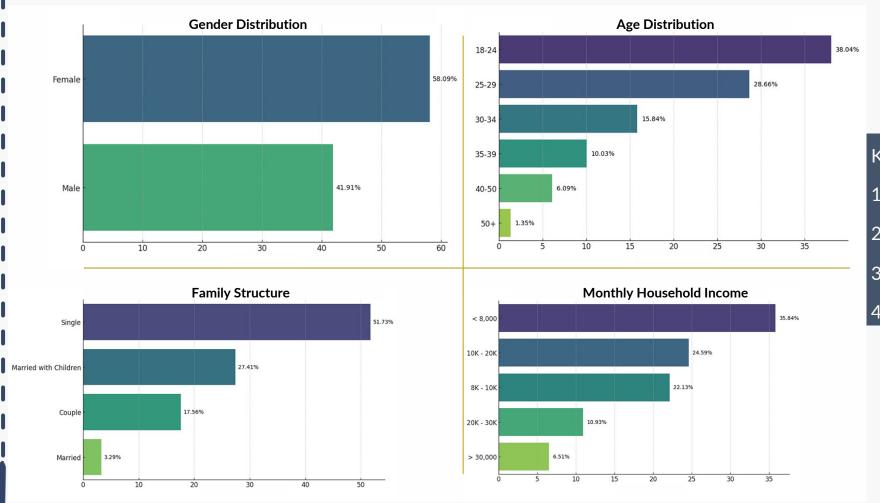


Destination specific Travel Sentiments **Destinations** Singapore Europe South Korea United Kingdom Thailand



Destination - Singapore





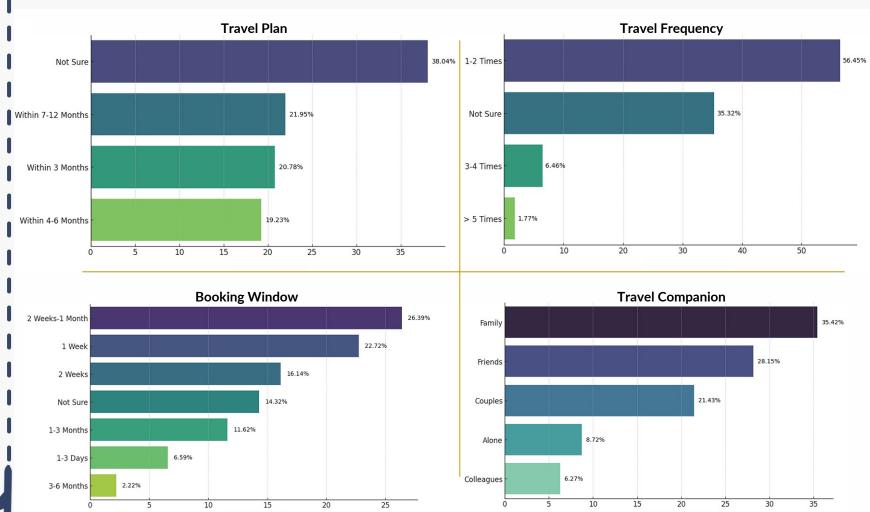
Key Observations -

- 1. Close to 60% are female travellers
- 2. 66% are less than 30 years old
- 3. Over 50% are single
- 4. 60% earn less than 20,000 RMB



Destination - Singapore



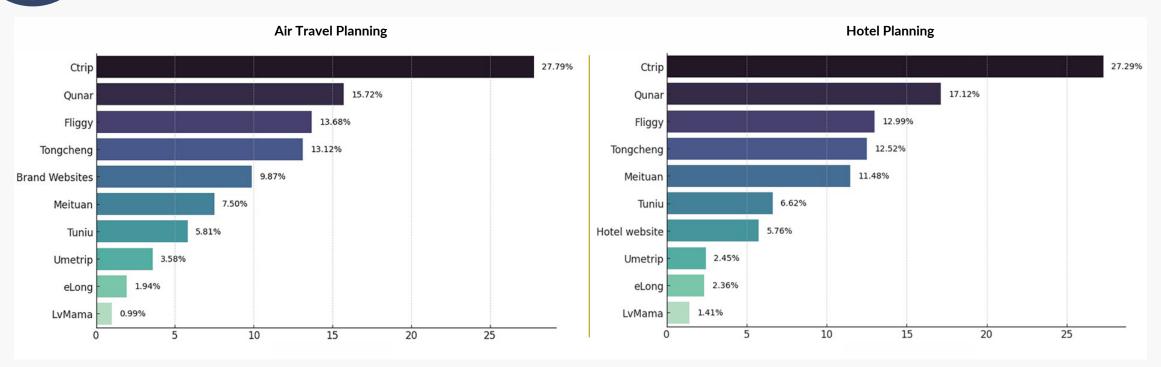


Key Observations -

- 1. 40% plan to travel within 6 months
- 2. Over 56% plan to travel 1 2 times to Singapore
- 3. Close to 72% plan to book within a month in advance, whereas close to 23% plan to book within a week.
- 4. Most prefer to travel with family or friends.





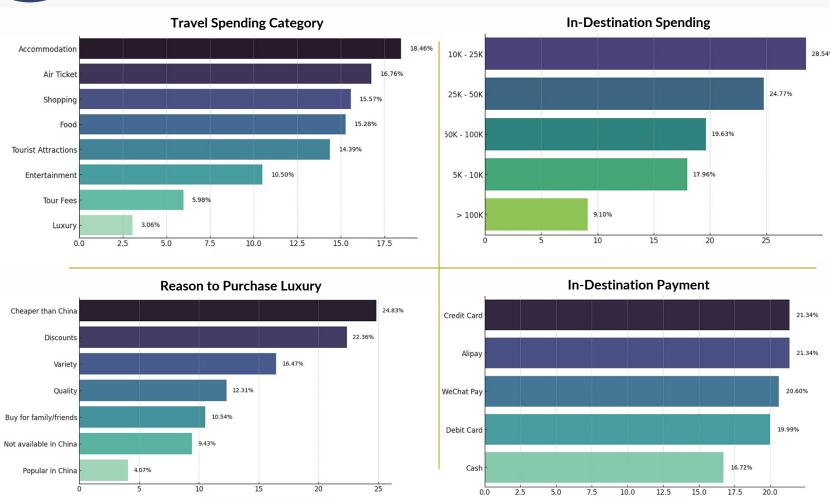


- 1. Ctrip, Qunar and Fliggy are the top 3 main sources for Chinese to book their air tickets or hotels
- 2. Brand website for hotels is lower than airlines.



Destination - Singapore



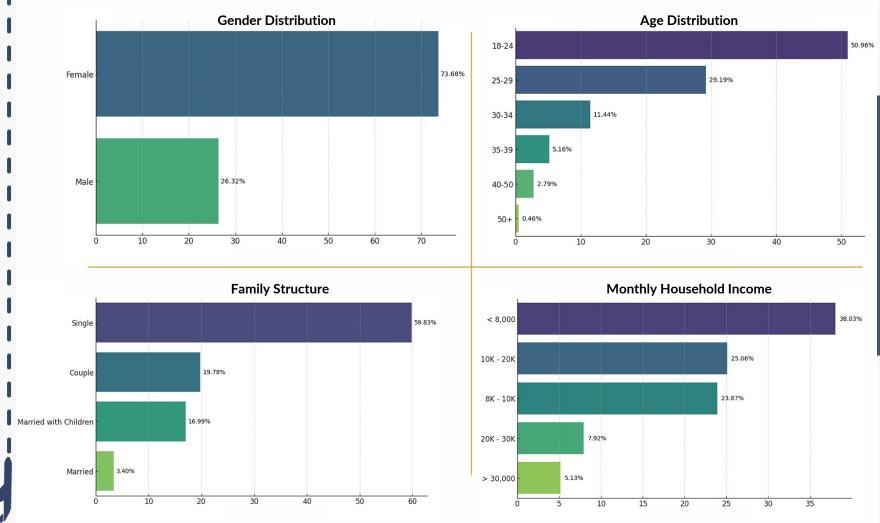


- Accommodation, air ticket & shopping are the top 3 spending during the trip
- 54% plan to spend at least 25K RMB per trip, with 9% planning over 100K spend.
- 3. Over 47% of Chinese travellers are price-sensitive in purchasing luxury items
- 4. Credit Card (Union Pay) is the top payment choice



Destination – South Korea



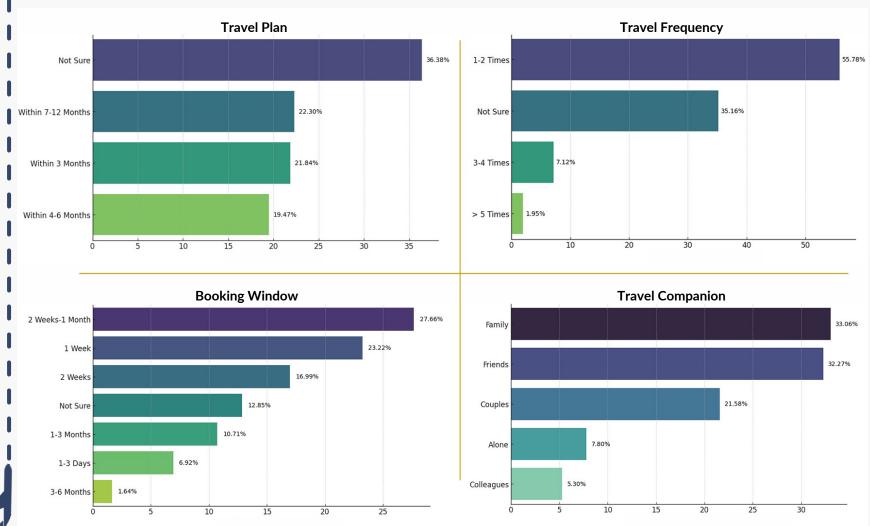


- Close to 74% are female travellers the highest among all destination groups.
- 2. 80% are less than 30 years old
- 3. Over 50% are single
- 4. 62% earn less than 20,000 RMB



Destination – South Korea



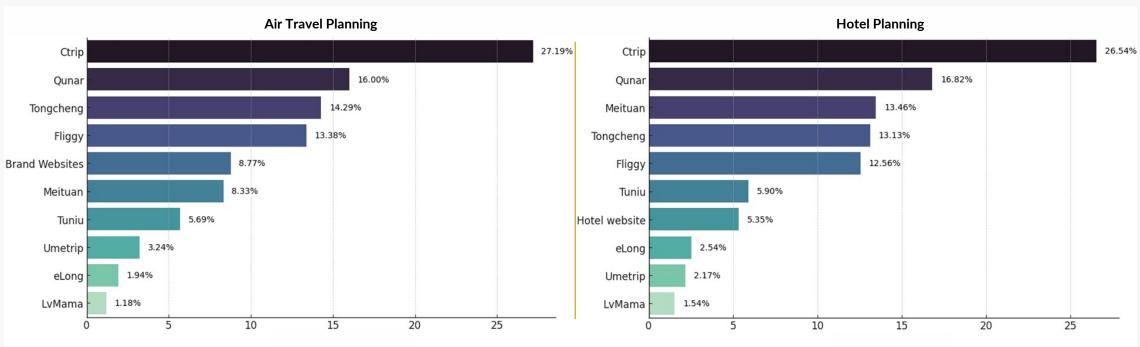


- Around 40% will travel within 6 months
- 2. Over 56% plan to travel 1 2 times to South Korea
- 3. Over 60% plan to book within a month in advance, whereas around 23% plan to book within a week.
- 4. Most prefer to travel with family or friends.



Destination – South Korea





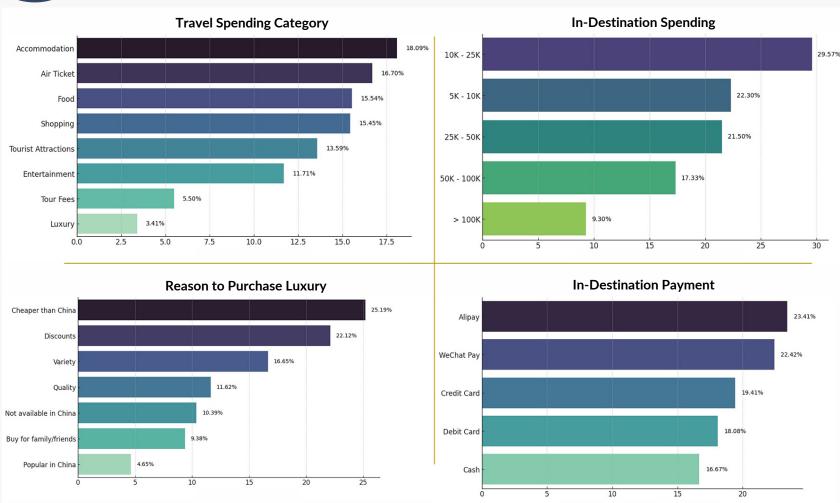
Key Observations -

1. Ctrip and Qunar are the top 2 main sources for Chinese to book their air tickets or hotels



Destination - South Korea





- L. Accommodation, air ticket & food are the top 3 spending during the trip
- 48% plan to spend at least 25K RMB per trip, with 9% planning over 100K spend.
- 3. Over 47% of Chinese travellers are price sensitive in purchasing luxury items
- Alipay/WeChat Pay is a more prominent payment choice.



Destination – Europe



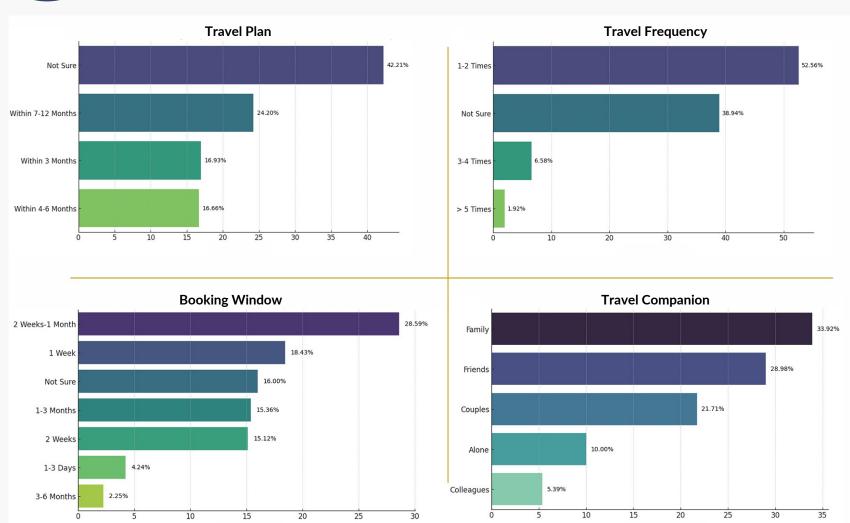


- 1. Close to 61% are female travellers
- 2. Over 70% are less than 30 years old
- 3. Over 55% are single
- 4. 81% earn less than 20,000 RMB



Destination – Europe

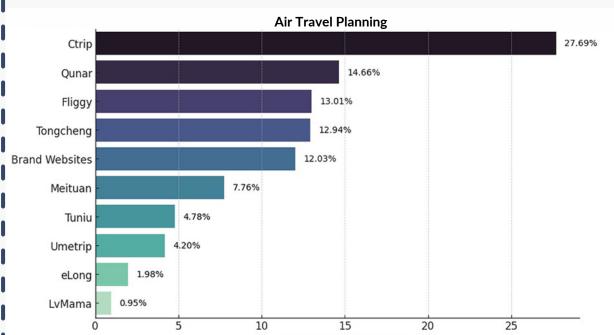


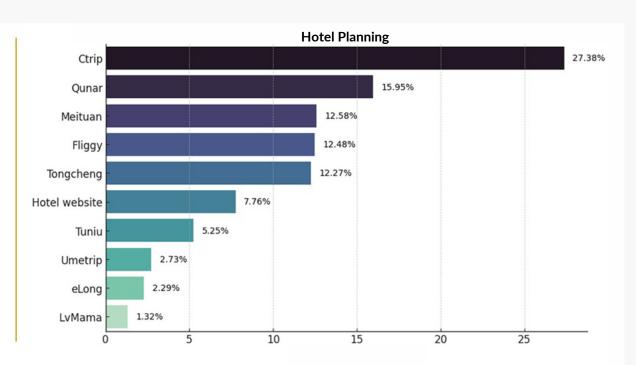


- L. Travellers planning Europe are more cautious, close to 42% are not sure of their plans yet.
- 2. Over 52% plan to travel 1 2 times to Europe.
- 3. Over 66% plan to book within a month in advance, and around 23% plan to book within a week.
- 4. Most prefer to travel with family or friends.









- 1. Ctrip and Qunar are the top 2 main sources for Chinese to book their air tickets or hotels
- 2. Meituan has a stronger presence for hotel booking preference vs airline booking.



Destination - Europe





- Accommodation, air ticket & food are the top 3 spending during the trip.
- 2. 55% plan to spend at least 25K RMB per trip, highest for any travel destination.
- 3. Around 47% of Chinese travellers are price sensitive in purchasing luxury items
- 4. Credit Card (Union Pay) is the top payment choice



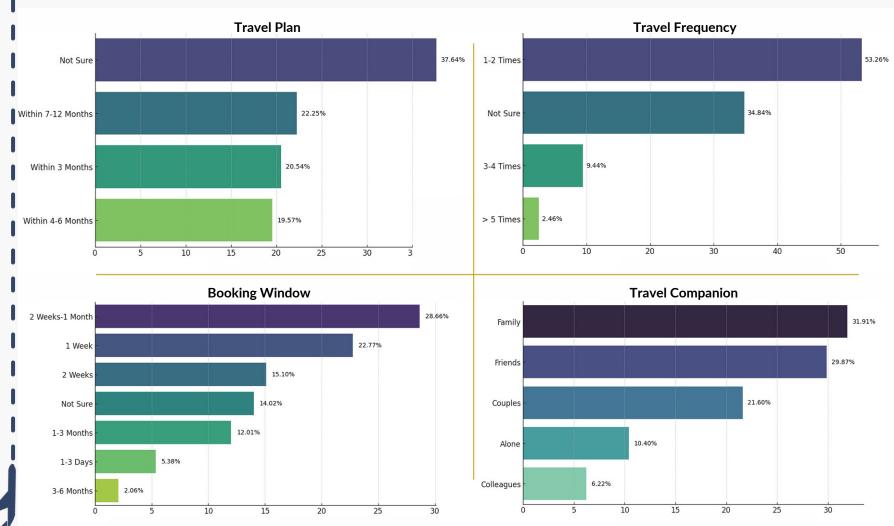




- 1. Over 65% are female travellers
- 2. 80% are less than 30 years old, the highest percentage of young travellers to any destination.
- 3. Over 63% are single, again highest for any destination.
- 4. 42% earn more than 10,000 RMB



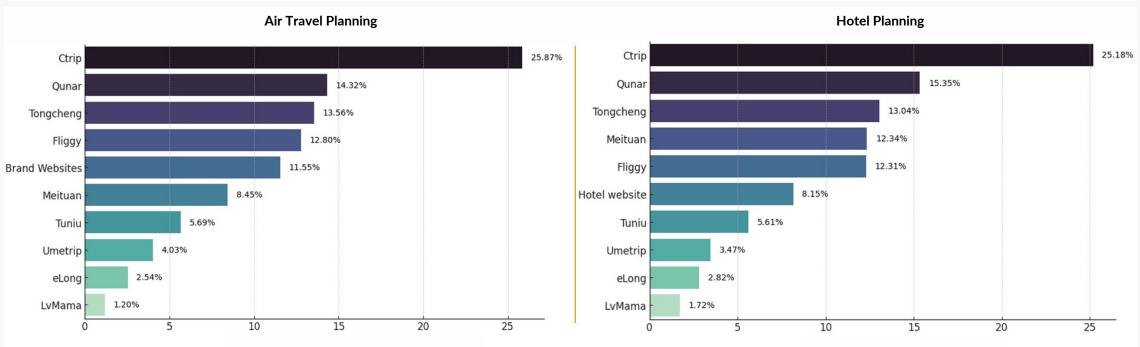




- 1. 40% plan to travel within 6 months
- 2. Over 53% plan to travel 1 2 times to UK
- 3. Close to 72% plan to book within a month in advance, whereas close to 29% plan to book within a week.
- 4. Most prefer to travel with family or friends.





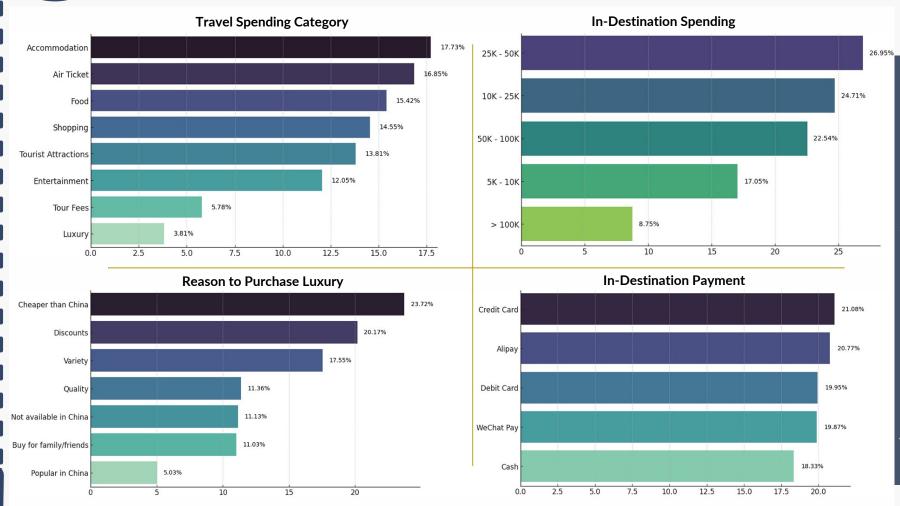


Key Observations -

1. Ctrip, Qunar and Tongcheng are the top 3 main sources for Chinese to book their air tickets or hotels





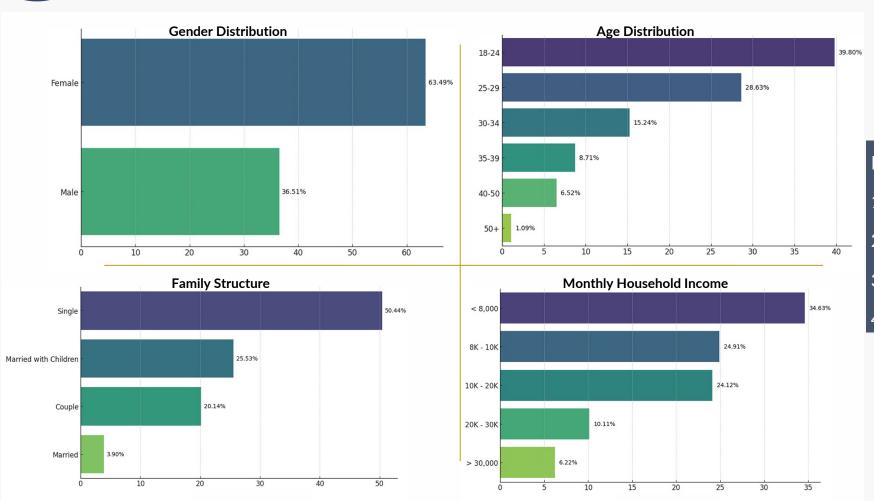


- are the top 3 spending during the trip, shopping a close 4th.
- 2. 58% plan to spend at least 25K RMB per trip, with 9% planning over 100K spend.
- 3. Close to 44% purchase because of lower price, one of the lowest for any destination.
- 4. Credit & Debit account for 42% of payment choice.



Destination - Thailand



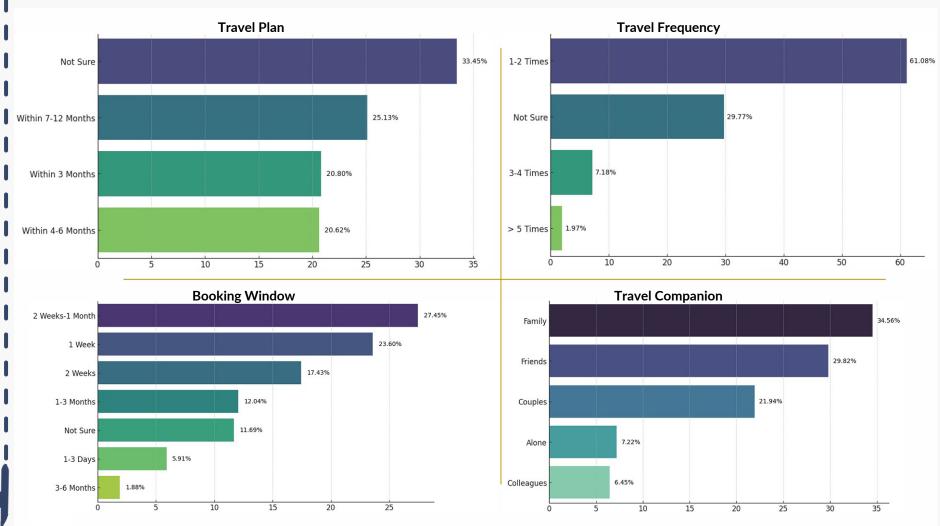


- 1. Over 63% are female travellers.
- 2. 68% are less than 30 years old.
- 3. Over 50% are single.
- 4. 40% earn more than 10,000 RMB



Destination – Thailand

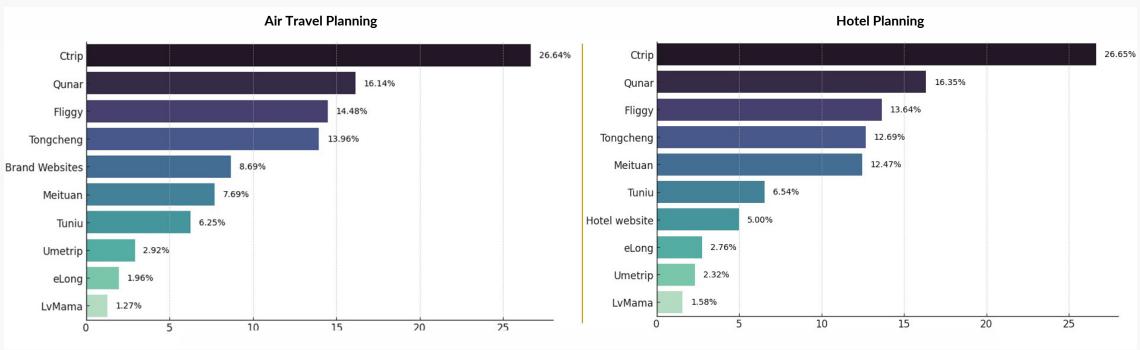




- 1. 40% plan to travel within 6 months
- 2. Over 60% plan to travel 1 2 times to Thailand
- Close to 75% plan to book
 within a month in advance,
 whereas close to 29% plan to
 book within a week.
- 4. Most prefer to travel with family or friends.







Key Observations -

1. Ctrip, Qunar and Fliggy are the top 3 main sources for Chinese to book their air tickets or hotels

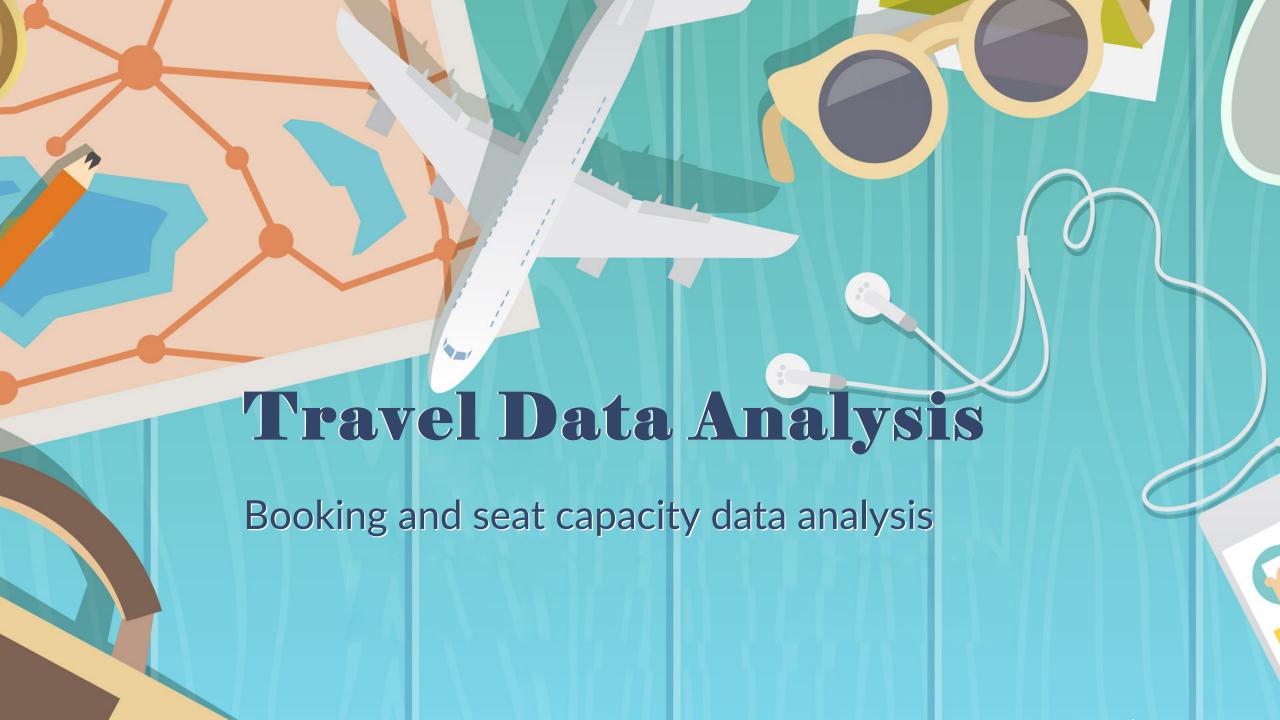


Destination – Thailand





- Accommodation, air ticket & food are the top 3 spending during the trip, shopping a close 4th.
- 2. 48% plan to spend at least 25K RMB per trip, with 8% planning over 100K spend.
- 3. Over 48% purchase because of lower price or discount.
- 4. Alipay & WeChat Pay form the highest payment choice.

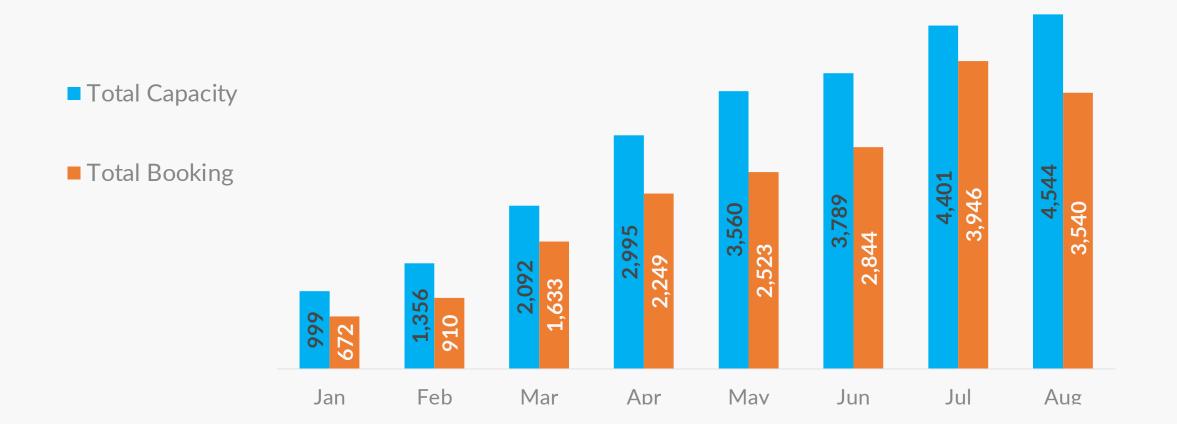






2023 Actual booking - China to worldwide (Jan – Aug, '000).

Both total capacity & booking have been steadily increasing and expected to reach over 30M for the year.



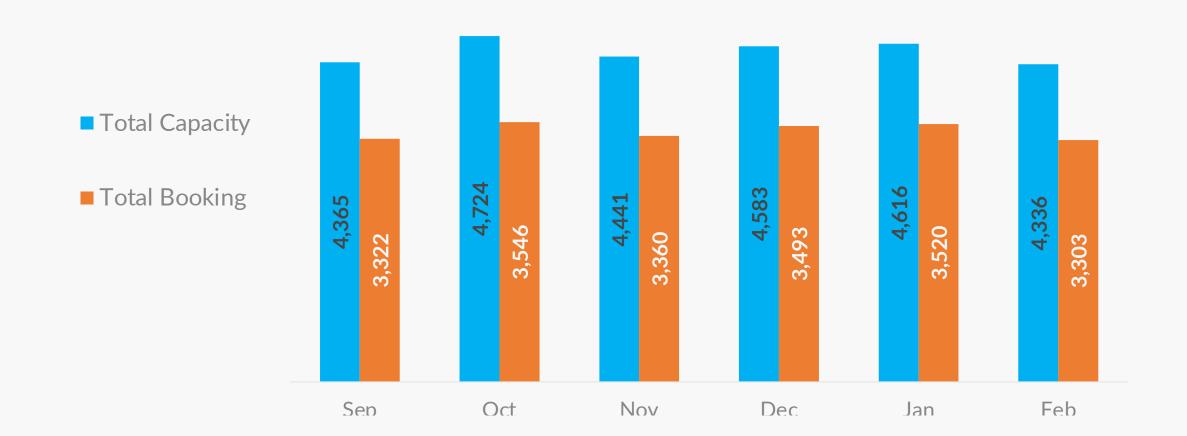


China Outbound Travel



2023 Forecast - China to worldwide (Sep - Feb'24, '000).

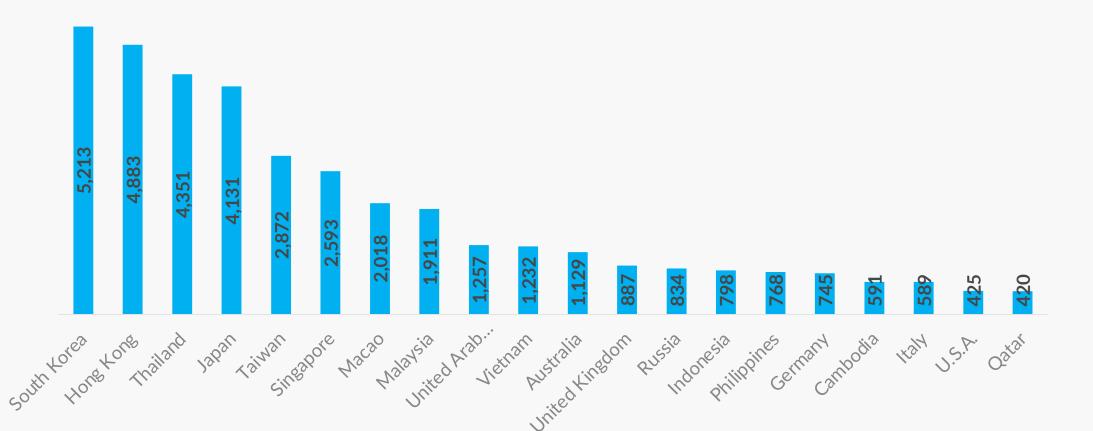
Total Capacity and Forecast based on our AI modelling of the China travel pattern & travel sentiments.



China Outbound Travel



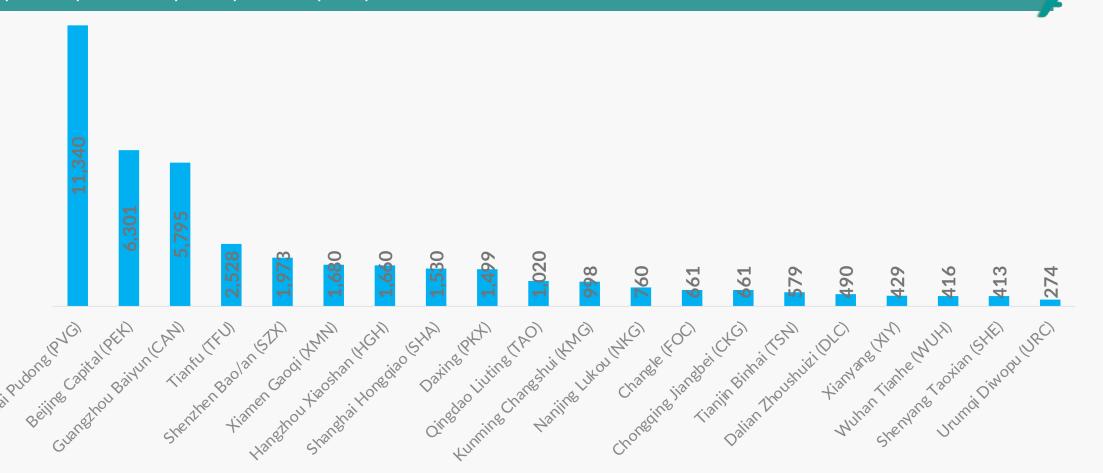
2023 China to worldwide total capacity (Sep – Aug'24, '000). Top 20 destination countries by total capacity



China Outbound Travel



2023 China to worldwide total capacity (Sep – Aug'24, '000). Top 20 departure airport by total capacity



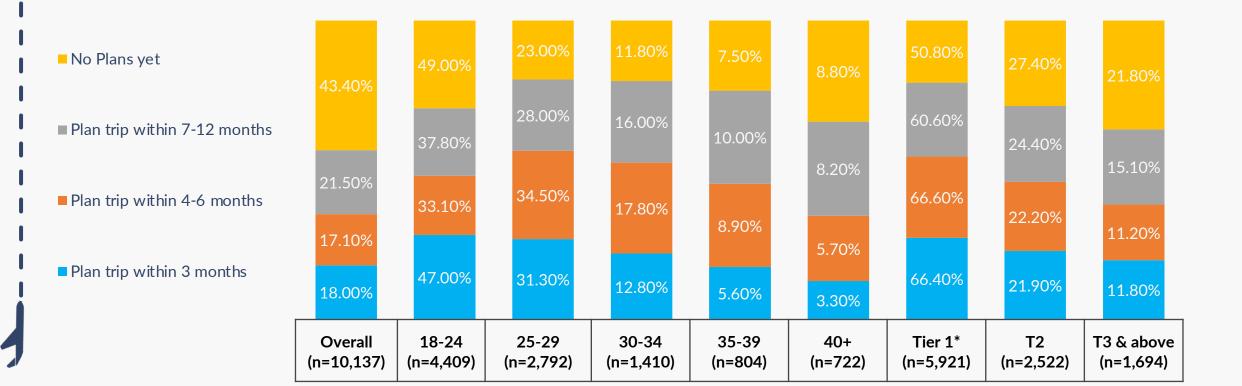




Outbound Travel - Planning



Q: Is the following description in line with your plans to travel abroad in the near future? (except Hong Kong/Macau) (single selection)

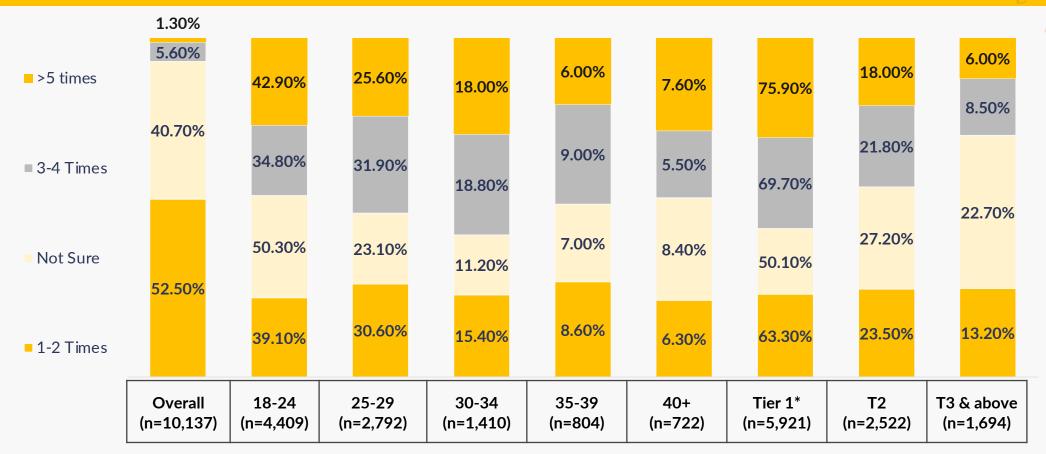




Outbound Travel - Frequency



Q: How many times do you plan to travel abroad in the next 12 months? (except Hong Kong/Macau) (single selection)

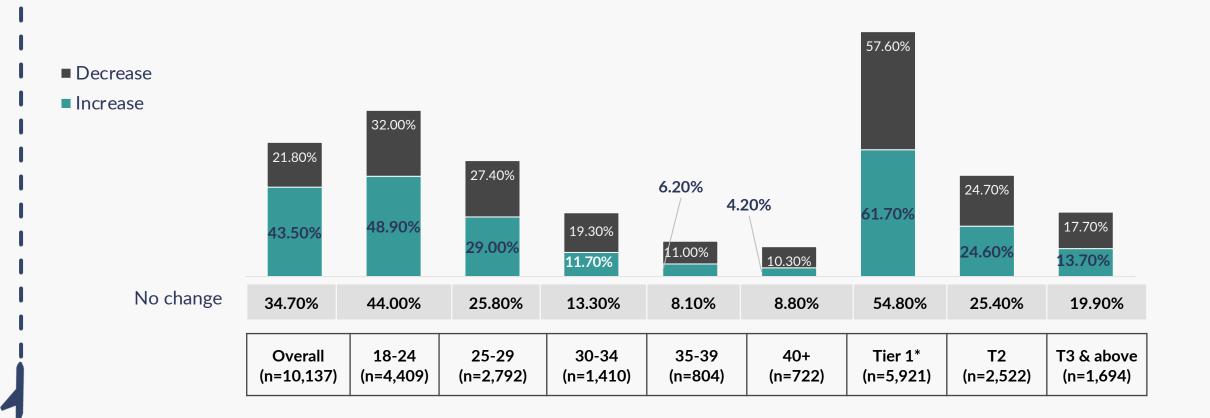




Outbound Travel - Frequency



Q: Compared to before the pandemic in 2019, will your outbound trips increase? (Single selection)

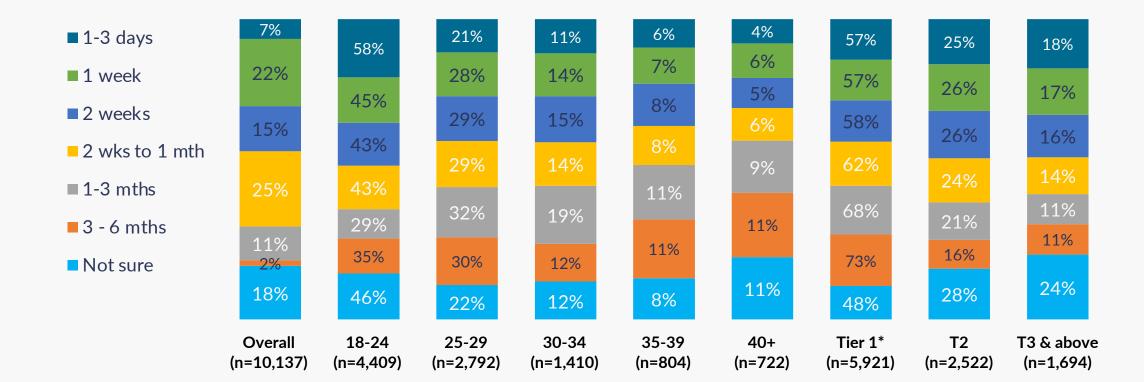




Outbound Travel - Ticket Booking



Q: How many days in advance do you usually start booking outbound tickets? (except Hong Kong/Macau)





Outbound Travel - Access to information



Q: How do you usually plan your outbound trip? (Multiple selections)



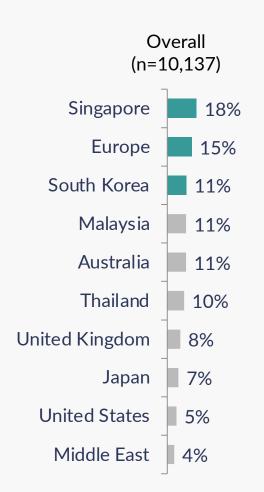
18-24 (n=4,409)	25-29 (n=2,792)	30-34 (n=1,410)	35-39 (n=804)	40+ (n=722)	Tier 1* (n=5,921)	T2 (n=2,522)	T3 & above (n=1,694)
49%	30%	12%	6%	4%	59%	25%	16%
40%	28%	15%	9%	8%	59%	25%	16%
45%	27%	12%	7%	8%	59%	25%	17%
51%	27%	12%	7%	5%	57%	26%	17%
43%	28%	14%	8%	8%	60%	25%	16%
40%	29%	15%	9%	7%	61%	24%	15%
44%	31%	14%	7%	4%	62%	23%	15%
44%	26%	14%	8%	8%	60%	25%	16%
49%	29%	11%	6%	5%	60%	24%	17%
33%	26%	15%	11%	14%	61%	24%	16%



Outbound Travel - Destination







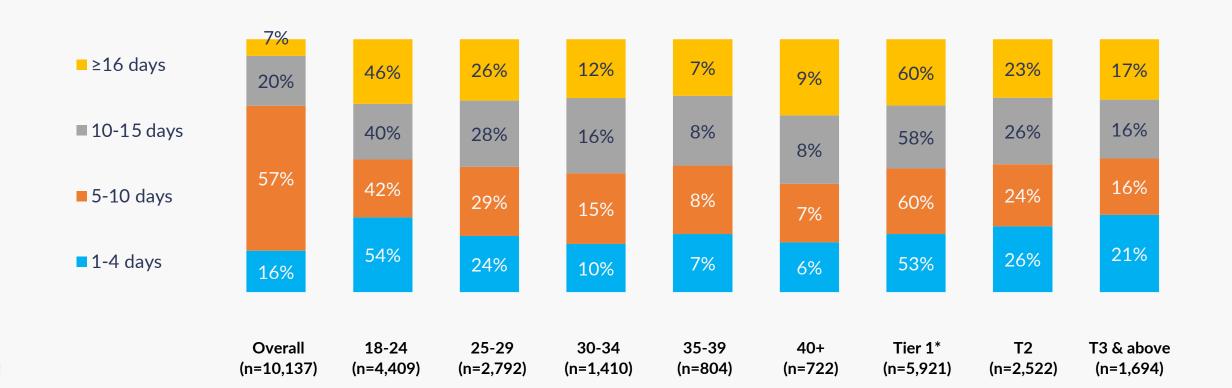
18-24 (n=4,409)	25-29 (n=2,792)	30-34 (n=1,410)	35-39 (n=804)	40+ (n=722)	Tier 1* (n=5,921)	T2 (n=2,522)	T3 & above (n=1,694)
38%	29%	16%	10%	7%	61%	24%	15%
43%	29%	14%	7%	7%	61%	24%	15%
51%	29%	11%	5%	3%	58%	26%	16%
38%	29%	17%	10%	6%	61%	23%	16%
45%	27%	14%	7%	6%	60%	25%	15%
40%	29%	15%	9%	8%	64%	22%	15%
53%	28%	10%	5%	4%	61%	26%	13%
42%	31%	14%	7%	6%	65%	23%	12%
50%	26%	12%	5%	7%	63%	22%	15%
46%	24%	13%	9%	9%	56%	25%	19%



Outbound Travel - Length of Stay





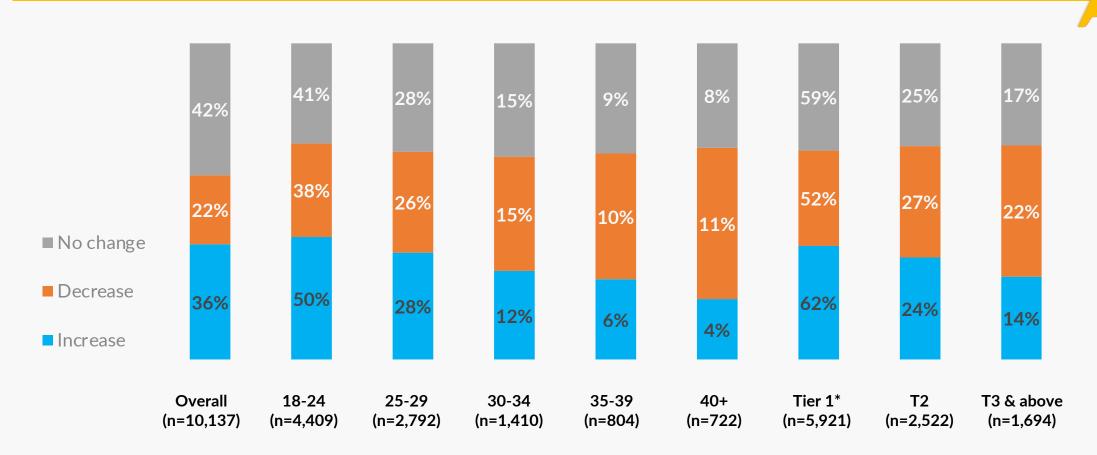




Outbound Travel - Length of Stay



Q: Compared to 2019, do you plan to increase or decrease your trip length? (Single selection)

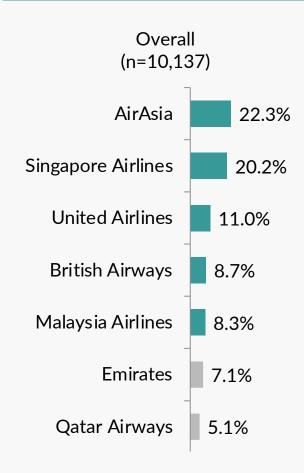




Outbound Travel - Airline Selection



Q: What are your preferred foreign airlines for outbound travel? (Multiple selections)



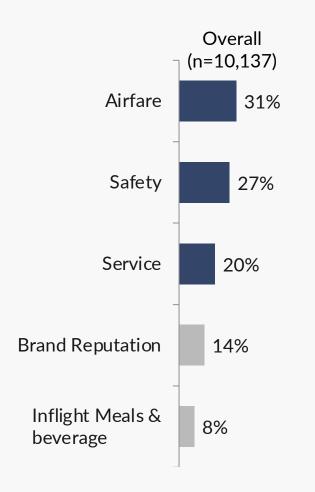
18-24 (n=4,409)	25-29 (n=2,792)	30-34 (n=1,410)	35-39 (n=804)	40+ (n=722)	Tier 1* (n=5,921)	T2 (n=2,522)	T3 & above (n=1,694)
46%	28%	13%	7%	6%	60%	25%	15%
39%	29%	15%	10%	8%	62%	23%	15%
44%	30%	13%	8%	5%	62%	23%	15%
47%	31%	11%	7%	5%	63%	24%	13%
44%	29%	14%	8%	5%	60%	25%	16%
34%	31%	18%	10%	7%	67%	22%	11%
35%	30%	17%	10%	7%	65%	22%	13%

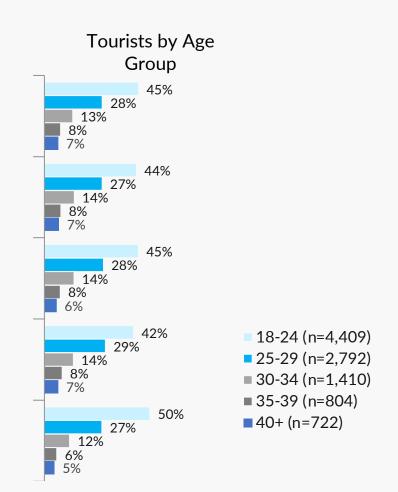


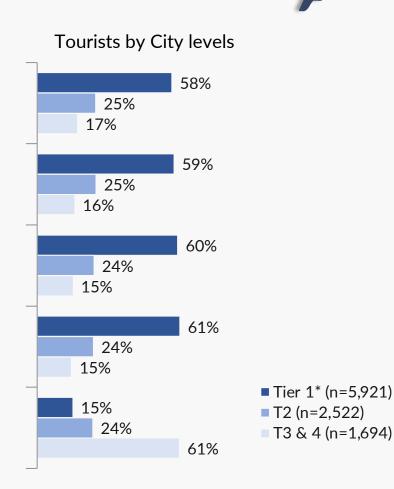
Outbound Travel - Airline Selection Criteria









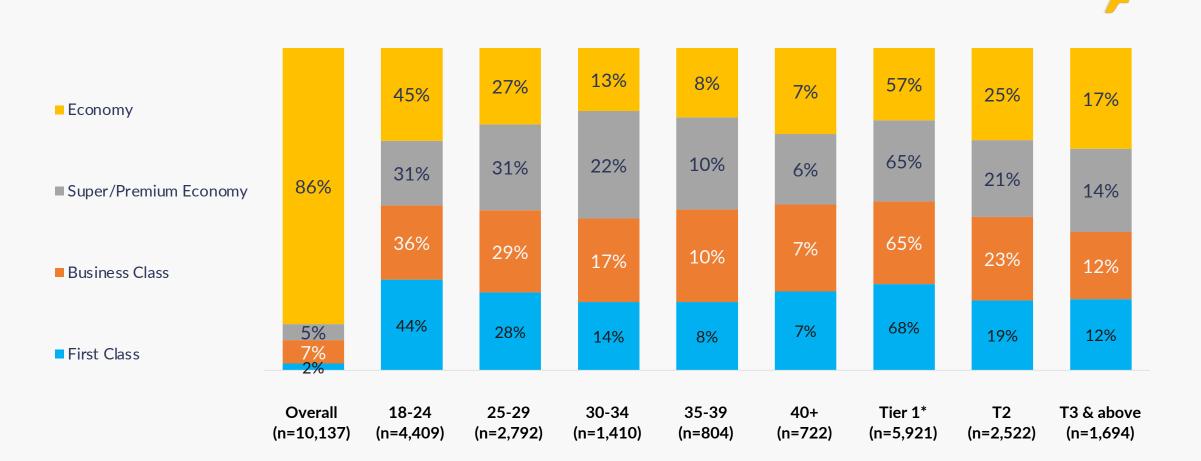




Outbound Travel - Flight Class Selection





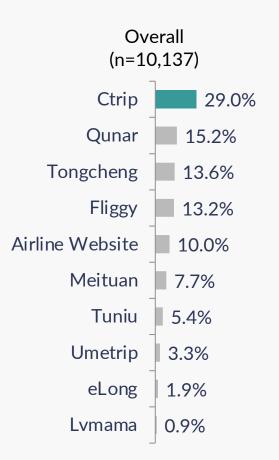








Q: APP/media for your outbound travel ticket (multiple selection)



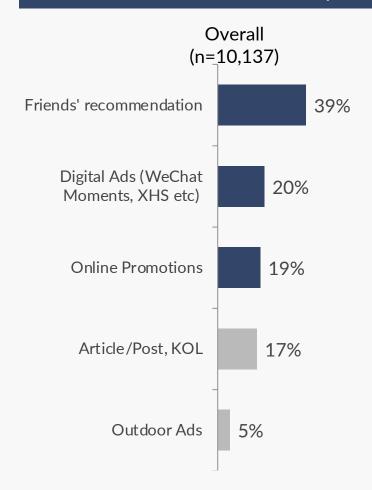
18-24 (n=4,409)	25-29 (n=2,792)	30-34 (n=1,410)	35-39 (n=804)	40+ (n=722)	Tier 1* (n=5,921)	T2 (n=2,522)	T3 & above (n=1,694)
44%	28%	14%	8%	7%	59%	25%	16%
41%	29%	15%	8%	6%	59%	25%	16%
48%	27%	13%	7%	6%	57%	26%	17%
35%	34%	16%	8%	6%	62%	24%	15%
45%	27%	13%	7%	8%	61%	23%	16%
50%	27%	11%	6%	5%	57%	26%	17%
34%	28%	19%	12%	8%	62%	24%	14%
37%	35%	14%	7%	6%	66%	21%	13%
32%	32%	18%	11%	7%	62%	23%	15%
31%	31%	20%	10%	8%	67%	19%	14%

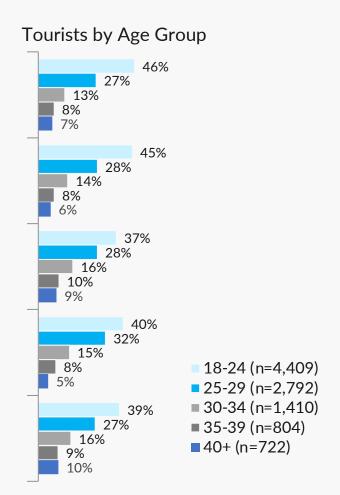


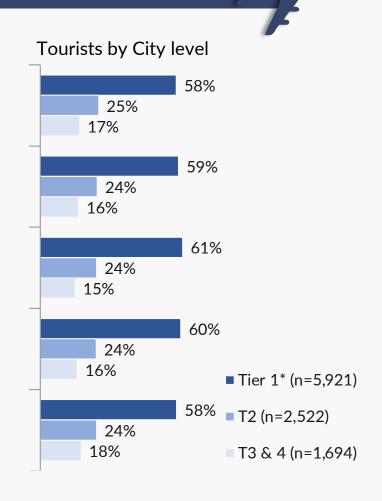
Outbound Travel - Considerations for ticket purchase



Q: Select from the list of media your preferred considering for air ticket purchase. (multiple selection)





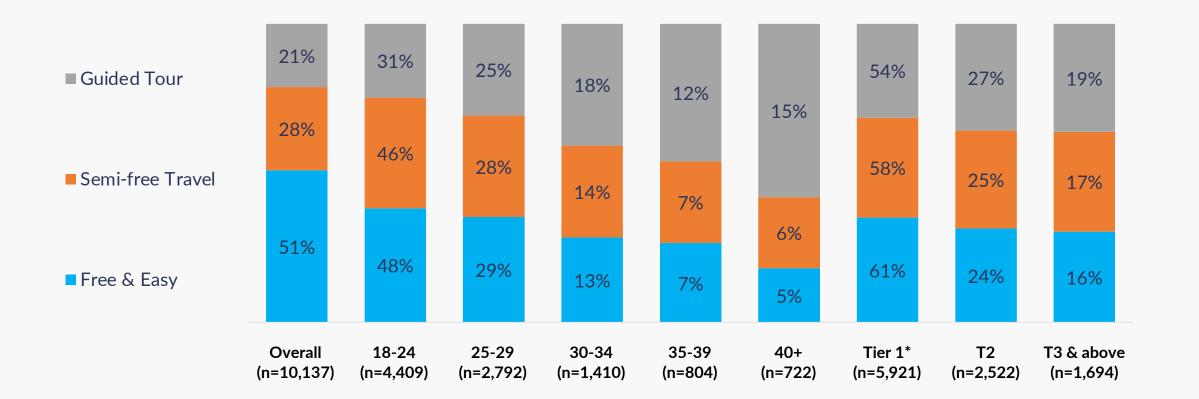




Outbound Travel - Travel Preference



Q: In general, the way you travel abroad is (single selection)

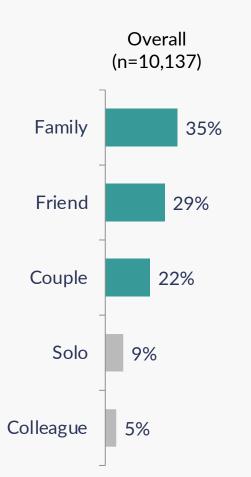




Outbound Travel - Travel Companion



Q: In general, your outbound travel companion will be (multiple selection)



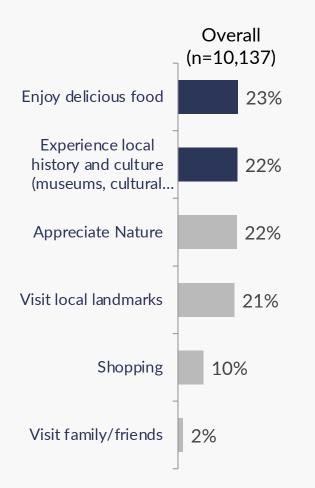
18-24 (n=4,409)	25-29 (n=2,792)	30-34 (n=1,410)	35-39 (n=804)	40+ (n=722)	Tier 1* (n=5,921)	T2 (n=2,522)	T3 & above (n=1,694)
40%	25%	16%	10%	9%	58%	26%	16%
52%	28%	11%	5%	5%	59%	25%	17%
49%	33%	12%	4%	2%	59%	25%	16%
53%	26%	11%	6%	4%	60%	22%	18%
39%	28%	15%	10%	9%	63%	20%	17%

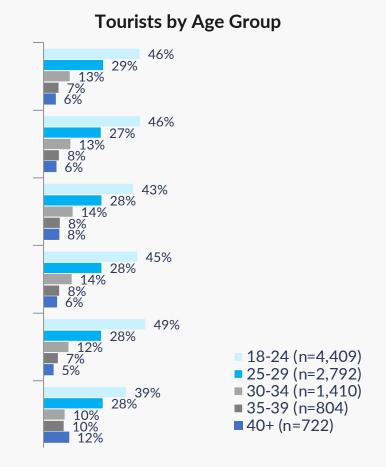


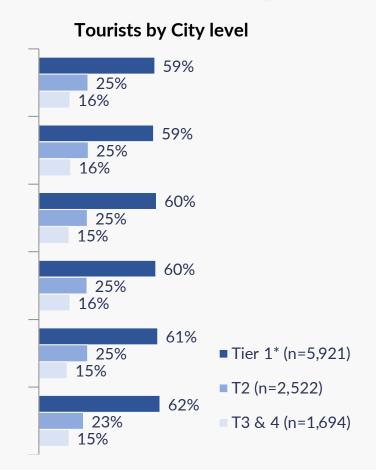
Outbound Travel - Purpose









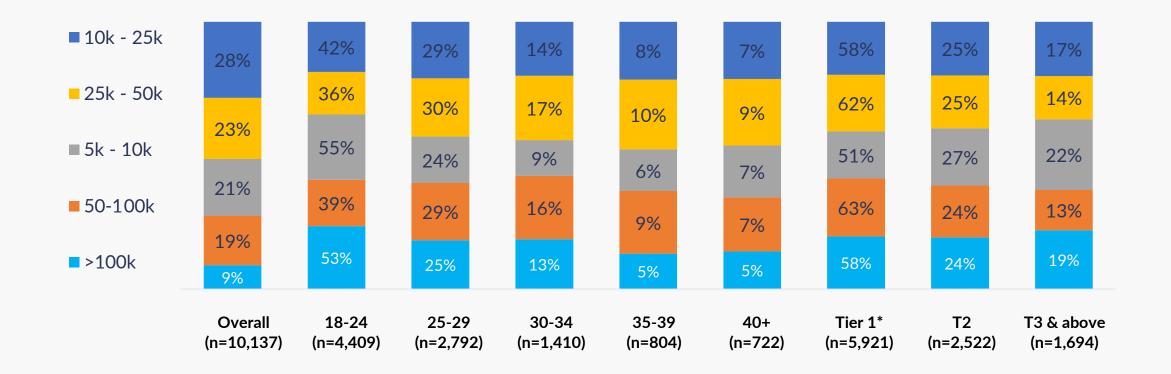




Outbound Travel - Budget



Q: How much do you plan to spend on a single outbound trip (excluding air tickets and hotel expenses)? (RMB) (single selection)

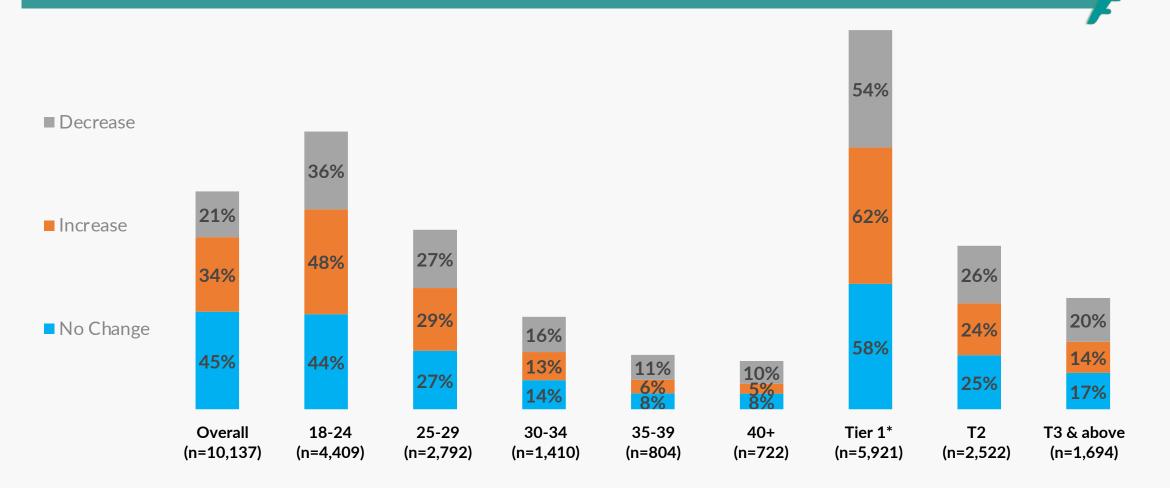




Outbound Travel - Budget



Q: Compared with 2019, do you plan to increase or decrease your travel budget (excluding air ticket & hotel)? (Single selection)





Outbound Travel - Consumption Goods



Q: What are the main consumption items for outbound travel? (Multiple selection)



18-24 (n=4,409)	25-29 (n=2,792)	30-34 (n=1,410)	35-39 (n=804)	40+ (n=722)	Tier 1* (n=5,921)	T2 (n=2,522)	T3 & above (n=1,694)
45%	28%	14%	7%	7%	59%	25%	17%
45%	28%	13%	7%	7%	59%	25%	16%
45%	28%	13%	8%	6%	59%	25%	16%
43%	28%	14%	8%	7%	59%	24%	17%
51%	28%	12%	6%	4%	59%	25%	16%
34%	27%	17%	11%	11%	58%	25%	17%
42%	30%	15%	7%	6%	65%	21%	14%
0%	0%	5%	50%	45%	60%	22%	19%



Outbound Travel - Luxury Items



Q: Why do you buy luxury goods overseas? (Multiple selection)



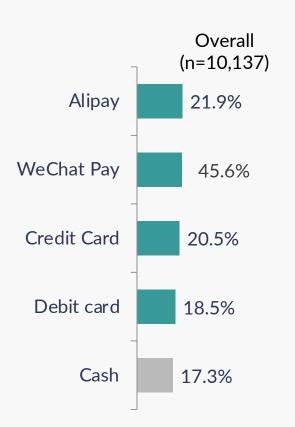
18-24 (n=4,409)	25-29 (n=2,792)	30-34 (n=1,410)	35-39 (n=804)	40+ (n=722)	Tier 1* (n=5,921)	T2 (n=2,522)	T3 & above (n=1,694)
42%	28%	15%	8%	7%	60%	24%	16%
44%	28%	13%	8%	6%	58%	25%	17%
46%	28%	13%	7%	5%	61%	24%	15%
42%	26%	14%	9%	8%	60%	24%	17%
46%	27%	12%	6%	2%	58%	25%	17%
44%	30%	14%	8%	5%	64%	22%	14%
40%	30%	16%	8%	6%	57%	26%	17%



Outbound Travel - Payment Methods



Q: What are the main payment methods for outbound travel? (Multiple selection)



18-24 (n=4,409)	25-29 (n=2,792)	30-34 (n=1,410)	35-39 (n=804)	40+ (n=722)	Tier 1* (n=5,921)	T2 (n=2,522)	T3 & above (n=1,694)
46%	28%	13%	8%	6%	58%	25%	17%
48%	26%	12%	8%	6%	56%	26%	18%
34%	28%	18%	11%	9%	62%	24%	14%
42%	31%	14%	8%	5%	61%	24%	16%
48%	27%	12%	7%	6%	59%	25%	16%

