

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

New Railway to Weave 'One-Hour Commute Circle' Around Ningbo



A rendering of the Tongsu Jiayong High-Speed Railway.

[Photo provided to Ningbo Times]

By Jin Lu

At 10:00 a.m. on November 30, 2022, the groundbreaking ceremony of the Zhejiang Section of the Tongsu Jiayong High-Speed Railway was held in Ningbo's Qianwan New Area. Now that construction has begun, Ningbo is poised to accelerate towards a brighter future, supported by an ever-growing dense transportation network.

The 309.8-km line will have 10 stations, with a total investment of ¥108.09 billion. After completion, it will bring convenience to Ningbo citizens travelling around the Yangtze River Delta for business and tourism.

Basic Facts About the Tongsu Jiayong High-Speed Railway

The Tongsu Jiayong High-Speed Railway's full name is "Nantong-Suzhou-Jiaxing-Ningbo

High-Speed Railway". It will be an integral part of China's coastal railway network and an important intercity link bringing Yangtze Delta cities closer together to form Zhejiang's "Bay Area". Zhejiang Province attaches high importance to the construction of the Railway, as it aligns with the national strategy of Yangtze River Delta Integration.

The new Railway runs in the north-south direction, linking southeast Jiangsu Province with northeast of Zhejiang Province and passing through the heart of the Yangtze River Delta metropolis cluster. The line starts from Nantong West Station in Nantong, Jiangsu, merges into the main line of the existing Yantong Railway, crosses the Yangtze River via the Shanghai-Nantong Fourth Line Bridge to reach Suzhou and Jiaxing, then crosses the Hangzhou Bay via a new railway bridge before reaching Ningbo.

300.7 km of the 309.8-km

line will be newly built, with a design speed of 350 km/h and bridges and tunnels taking up 98% of the total length. The line will call at 10 stations: Nantong West, Zhangjiagang, Changshu West, Suzhou North, Fenhui, Jiaxing North, Jiaxing South, Haiyan West, Cixi, and Zhuangqiao.

The construction is expected to take 5 years and an estimated investment of ¥108.09 billion, according to feasibility studies. The overland section in Ningbo starts from the landing point of the sea-crossing railway bridge and runs eastwards to Zhuangqiao Station. The newly-built section (excluding the sea-crossing bridge) is approximately 62.9 km. Construction will take place over an area of 175 hectares, with an estimated cost of ¥23 billion.

Significance of the New Railway

New transportation infra-

structure projects will generate new prospects for Ningbo's urban expansion, economic growth, and rural revitalization, drawing a more skilled workforce to the city and stimulating growth. Railways are the lifelines of economic vitality. Stronger connectivity will help Ningbo integrate more meaningfully into the wider Yangtze River Delta metropolitan region.

The Tongsu-Jiayong High-Speed Rail will be a highly significant addition to the regional transportation network. At present, to travel from Ningbo to Shanghai or Suzhou, trains need to head west and make a detour in Hangzhou first. Between Suzhou, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Ningbo, the high-speed railway lines form a zigzag.

In 2008, the Hangzhou Bay Cross-Sea Bridge was completed and opened to vehicle traffic, a speed lane connecting Zhejiang Province to Shanghai and other

Yangtze River Delta cities.

Thanks to the Cross-Sea Bridge and the connectivity it afforded, Ningbo's economy reached new heights. Now, the construction of the Tongsu-Jiayong High-Speed Railway will forge an even closer tie between Ningbo and the greater metropolitan circles of Shanghai and Suzhou; it also represents a solid step towards full high-speed railway coverage in southern Jiangsu and northern Zhejiang.

In the future, after Railway's completion, commute time within the core area of the Yangtze River Delta will be greatly shortened. By then, Ningbo, Suzhou, and Shanghai will all be within a one-hour radius. Furthermore, travel time from Ningbo to Beijing is expected to shorten to just five hours, bringing Ningbo closer to new opportunities for economic and social development.



SPOTLIGHT

Tea-Brewing Over Charcoal Fire—the Latest Winter Lifestyle Fad

By Xu Zhuowei

Among Ningbo's trendsetting young consumers, tea-brewing over charcoal fire (围炉煮茶) is quickly becoming the latest slow-living fad. This new way to enjoy tea is gaining popularity across many Chinese cities, especially with the onset of colder weather.

A teahouse would provide a charcoal stove with which patrons could lightly roast the tea leaves before boiling them in a kettle over the fire. A group of friends could sit cosily around the stove, enjoying roasted fruits, nuts, and other snacks with their hot tea.

As an additional attraction, some teahouses in Ningbo are also putting up TVs tuned in to the World Cup, so that patrons could watch the matches as they sip their warm drinks.

"Reservation is required. The price for a two-person package is ¥136 yuan. It includes the charcoal grill/pit, tea, and a platter of food for roasting," said a teahouse staff. In teahouses around the city, there's a wide variety of new deals: tea paired with crispy snacks, rice candy, dried plums, and fruits.

"We are doing great business with 'charcoal-fire tea-brewing'. Most consumers are young people. Now that the weather is cold and the World Cup is on, people like to come at night, savouring a pot of tea with an exciting match," said Mr. Zheng, the head of a new Chinese-style teahouse in Yinzhou.

Ms. Chen, another Ningbo teahouse owner, believes that young people have a particularly strong demand for social interaction after the pandemic. On general, the average per person spending on "charcoal-fire tea-brewing" ranges from ¥50 to ¥80. Patrons can roast all kinds of food over the charcoal fire: sweet potatoes, peanuts, jujube, oranges, persimmons, etc.

Huang Xuan, a twenty-something citizen, has recently fallen in love with "charcoal-fire tea-brewing" for the slow-paced socializing it provides. "Sitting around the charcoal stove, my friends and I chatted over cup after cup, flipping over the food cooking over the charcoal every now and then. Nobody was fiddling with their phones. We felt closer to each other."

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双语汇 Different Tongues

大堰村：依山傍溪、人杰地灵

By Dong Na

Dayan Village is located along the upper reaches of Fenghua River, backed by the ridges of Tiantai Mountain. It has beautiful scenery and is the hometown of many great politicians and writers, such as Wang Fang, the Minister of Public Works in the Ming Dynasty, and Ba Ren, a famous 20th-century writer. In 2019, it was included in the fifth list of "China's Traditional Villages".

大堰村地处奉化江上游，背倚天台山余脉，山清水秀、人杰地灵，是明代工部尚书王钊和近代著名作家巴人的故里。2019年被列入第五批中国传统村落名录。

Dayan Village has a long history and rich cultural heritage. The name "Da Yan" means "big weir" in Chinese, a

commemoration of the village's major dam project. The village had a magistrate surnamed Zhou in the Song Dynasty. He mobilized the villagers to build a dam for flood control and irrigation in the nearby river to ensure the safety of the community. Today, several overflow dams have been built in the riverway near the original weir, over which water calmly flows. The trees along the bank and the clear river surface form a beautiful landscape and a natural "water park" for visitors.

大堰村历史悠久、文化底蕴深厚。其名是为纪念村中建造的大堰工程，宋朝时一位周姓县令发动村民，在村边的河道中修筑了一条用来防洪灌溉的堤坝，以保百姓平安。如今，古堰遗址附近的河道中修建了若干漫水坝，水从坝上缓缓流过。河岸边的古树与清溪组成一幅美丽



Dayan Village./大堰村。

[Photo by Fan Jianwei] 樊建威 摄

的画卷，成为村里的玩水胜地。

Villagers' homes line the river, stretching for nearly a kilometer from north to south. There are many locations of interest in the village: the ancient weir, writer Ba Ren's

former residence, historical architecture, and a lane of quaint stores and B&Bs. The village is also surrounded by fitness trails, fruit-picking farms, rafting clubs, and camping resorts that attract many tourists.

村居沿溪而建，南北绵延近一公里。村子里分布着古堰遗址、巴人故居等文物古迹和古建筑，以及客栈风情街、民宿等。大堰村周边还有许多健身步道、水果基地，以及漂流和露营胜地，吸引了众多游客前来观光游玩。

