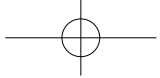


在中国的高铁上点外卖

Ordering Takeout on China's High-Speed Train

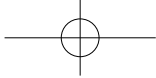


Ordering Takeout on China's High-Speed Train

As many may know, the development of the internet makes ordering takeout via mobile phone app fairly convenient in China. This has become part of people's lives. But many people have never done this while travelling on the high-speed train. They can hardly imagine how the takeout can be delivered to them. Thomas is one of them.

Thomas, who is living in Shanghai with his family, is from Germany. When he came to China for the first time on a class trip in 2007, he was fascinated by this exotic country. Back home after the trip, he learned the Chinese language and culture and looked forward to getting another chance to revisit China. In 2016, Thomas and his wife decided to live and work in Shanghai. Being optimistic, he opened a social media account and began to upload videos to share his



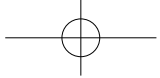


experiences in China. He is keen on promoting Sino-German cultural exchanges and has become a cultural envoy between the two nations.

Though Thomas often heard about ordering takeout on a high-speed train, he had no experience and was curious about this. This time, he would try it on a business trip to Guangzhou and record this new experience in China.

Owing to epidemic response measures and no experience in ordering takeout on the high-speed train, Thomas arrived at Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station before 7 am. Everything was in good order as the passengers, each wearing a mask, queued up to pass the security check. Since Thomas' train was scheduled to depart at 8 am, he had ample time to finish the security check. As soon as he got to the waiting hall, Thomas fished out his phone and began to operate with the slightest delay. The app showed quite a number of combos that were still available, and the order may be placed in much the same way as he had always done at home. To make it easier for the viewers to know the whole process of ordering takeout on the high-speed train,

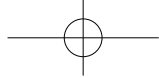




Thomas particularly displayed the prices and delivery charges of the combos in the video. The delivery charge was eight yuan, pretty much the same as usual — not more expensive because it was a service on the high-speed train. Thomas browsed through the pages excitedly before selecting two combos: one spicy beer duck at 37 yuan to be delivered upon arrival at Nanchang at 11:04 am and one panini at 47 yuan upon arrival at Changsha at 12:28 at noon. He had placed two separate orders because he wished to experience the delivery services at different stations as scheduled. “Will the delivery boy ride to the platform on his scooter?” Thomas wondered.

Thomas was happy to see the bright, clean and tidy platform, the white, aerodynamic high-speed train, and the spacious red seats in the carriage. Amazingly, the soft seats can be laid flat, so the passengers can lie down to enjoy the safe journey. As the train cruised along in top gear, the mountains and trees flashed across the window. But Thomas had dozed off. A pretty comfortable trip, wasn't it?

Thomas woke up when the train is approaching Nanchang. He got a bit nervous when he remembered his takeout. “But I'll get my takeout later,” he explains with a smile to the camera. “I've never ordered takeout on a high-speed train.” As the train came to a halt at the railway station, passengers waiting to board the train had lined up on the platform. At the end of the queue was a young man carrying a white case. “My takeout must be in this case,” said Thomas confidently. “I think my guess was right! So, my takeout is delivered into the carriage.” When the young man stepped into the carriage, Thomas waved at him and longed to get the takeout. Thomas looked at the young man with a smile. To his surprise, the latter walked straight



past him without a facial expression. If Thomas had read Xu Zhimo's poems, he might recall a line from one of Xu's masterpieces: "Gently I flick my sleeves, not even a wisp of cloud will I bring away." The young man went away without even a casual glance at Thomas. Apparently, this was not the delivery man. Thomas heaved a disappointed sigh and looked anxiously out of the window. He waited and waited. The train was pulling out, but there was still no sign of the delivery man's scooter. Where was the takeout? Was the takeout-ordering service reliable on the high-speed train?

Restless, Thomas asked a train attendant, and the latter told him that her colleague in the dining car would deliver the takeout to the passenger's seat. Thomas felt relieved to learn this. He soon received his food, the beer duck combo, from the train attendant. There seemed to be nothing special with the takeout, soundly packed and with no leakage. Thomas opened the package and the contents — duck meat, eggplant, and egg — are still steaming hot. He took a few mouthfuls at once and nodded his head in satisfaction. The duck was too spicy,

