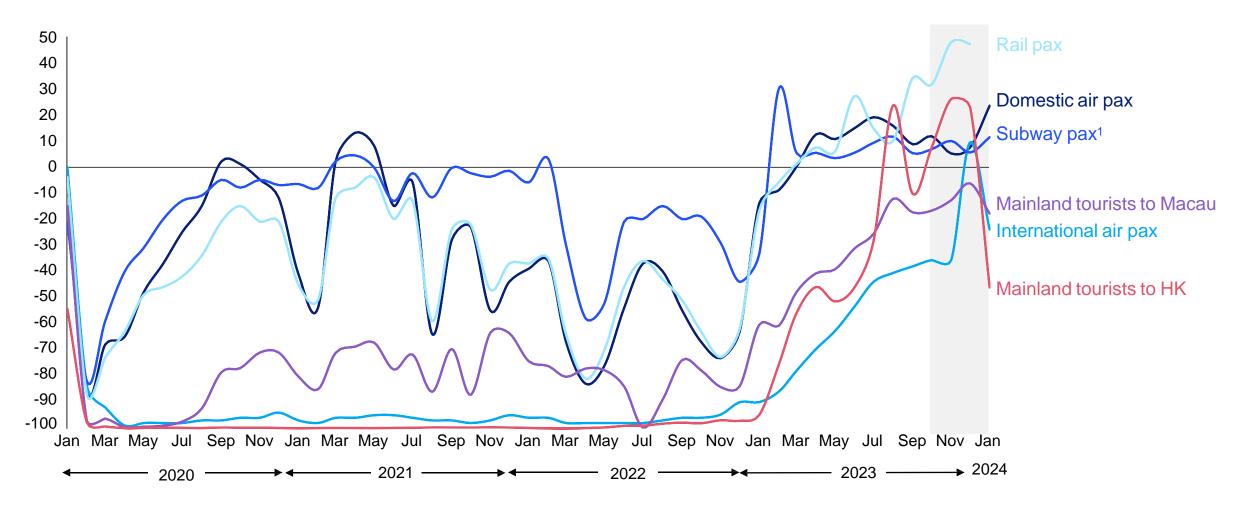
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# Navigating consumer trends

Steve Saxon, Leader of Asia Travel Practice Hong Kong Tourism Overview 21 March 2024

## Travel indicators have picked up since December of 2022, with domestic travel back to 2019 levels

Recovery rate by travel subsectors in China (change over 2019,%)

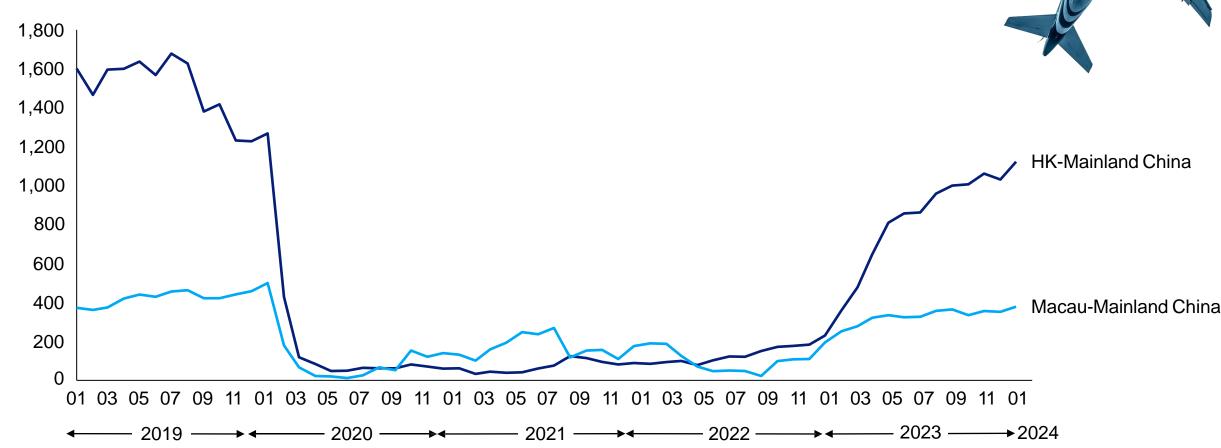


Including subway passengers for Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu

### Airline seat capacity is recovering

#### **Seat capacity on HK and Macau routes**

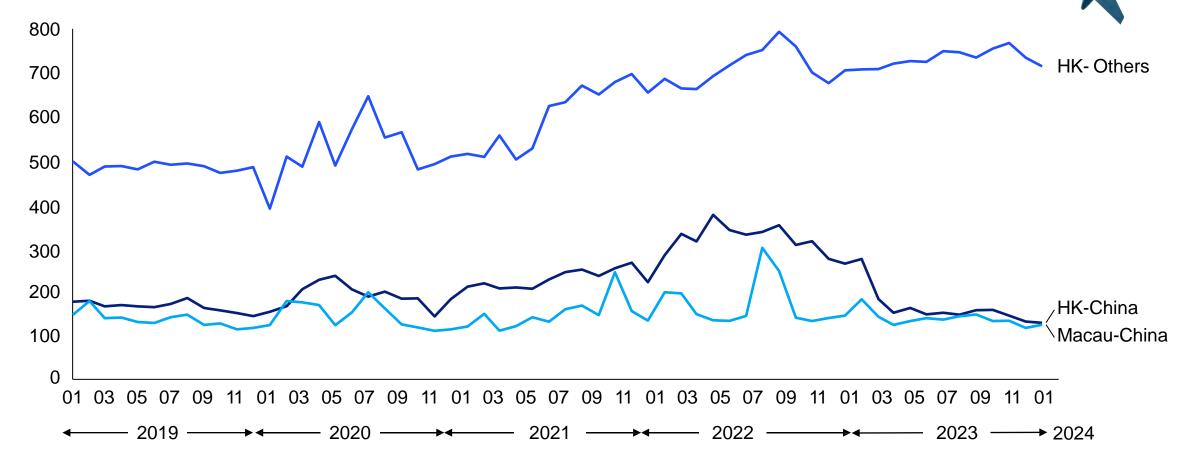
2019 – 2023 monthly seat capacity by route, both directions, 000s



## Mainland to Hong Kong air fares are competitive with pre-COVID levels

#### Air fare on HK and Macau routes for China mainland travelers

HK-Mainland China, both directions, monthly average air fare, USD



#### How is aviation different post COVID?

#### Some things are not different





The airline sector remains structurally challenged and under-performs others in the value chain





There continue to be some airlines which do create economic profits: they excel on six factors

#### In other areas, the industry is different post-COVID





Demand recovery has been guicker than capacity recovery, leading to elevated yields across the industry, and the industry paying back much of its debt

Capacity is almost fully back; Q4 2024 could be weak





Some competitors have radically restructured cost bases, e.g., through bankruptcies renegotiating leases

Others are seeing costs inflate, e.g., pilot wage deals





Sustainability is increasingly a license to operate, and SAF is the main solution





developments

mature, with

aviation, e.g.,

GenAl for trip

intelligence in

management;

digital twins in

operations

planning;

artificial

revenue

New technology Online booking boomed in the pandemic, and applications for direct channels will continue to dominate Customer data allows airlines to personalize experience,

offers and

response





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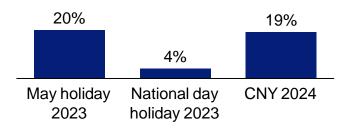
New media channels are the new mustwin battlefield

### Chinese New Year 2024 was a new high in domestic travel

### Chinese New Year 2024 was the best ever for domestic travel

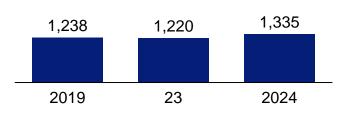
### Number of holiday trips recovered from the same period in 2019

% increase compared to 2019



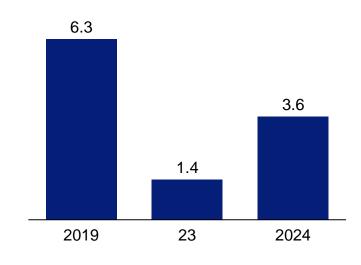
### **Average domestic tourist spending during the Chinese New Year holiday**

CNY per person



### Outbound travel in terms of trips during the CNY 2024 is recovered to around 60% vs pre-Covid level

Number of outbound trips during the Chinese New Year holiday millions



Top 5 popular outbound destinations during the holiday on Tongcheng

- 1 Hong Kong
- 2 Macau
- (3) Thailand
- 4 Vietnam
- 5 Singapore

## The recovery of the Chinese tourism industry in 2023 has coincided with the emergence of three new tourism themes



#### Speedy tourism

Visiting multiple scenic interests in a short, intense period







一天步数4W+,24小时挺遍北京 极限5天逛遍6个省 爬完泰山爬黄山,链完杭州挺苏州





#### **Concerts / shows**

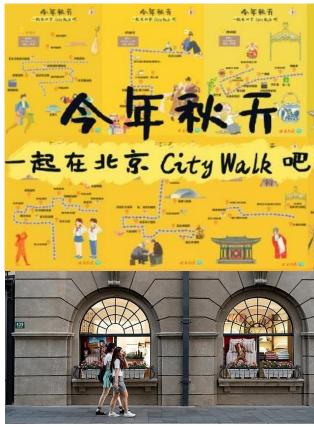
Concerts bring considerable ticket revenue, and gather massive tourists in a short period of time





#### City walk

Taking a leisurely stroll through the streets in a city

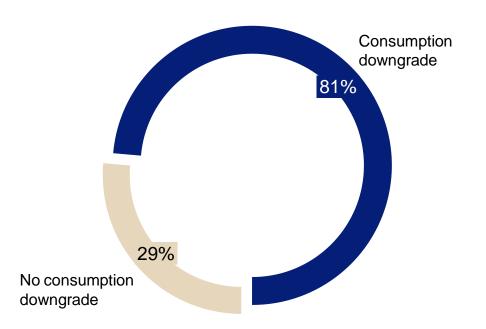


#### Looking ahead, consumers plan to spend less

More than 80% of consumers interviewed are experiencing consumption downgrade...

Proportion of respondents who changed consumption behavior

% of respondents

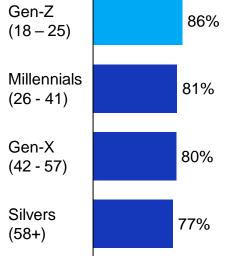


The proportion of consumption downgrades increased in all age groups (except Gen-Z), and increased significantly in high-income groups

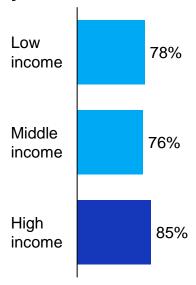
Proportion of respondents of different age groups and income levels who experience consumption downgrade

% of respondents





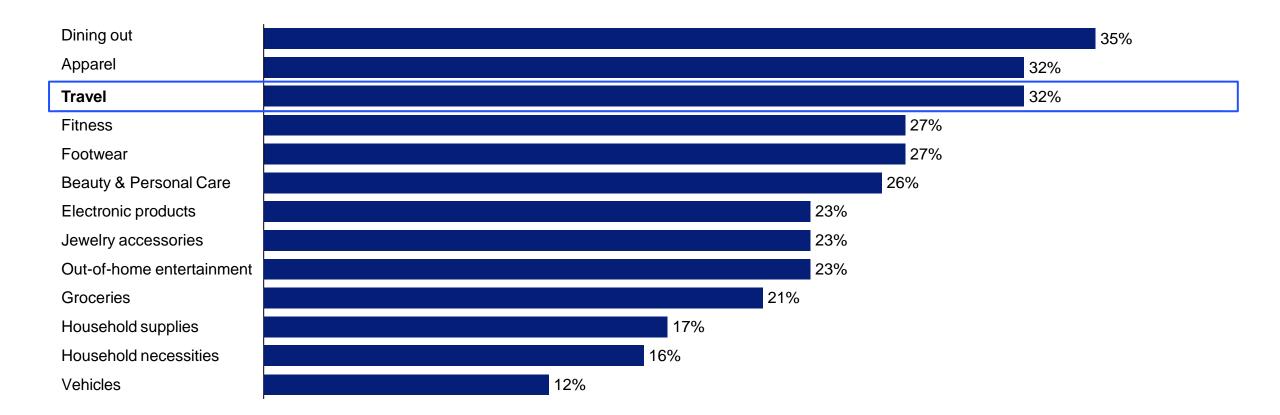
### % of consumption downgrades by income level



#### Despite overall spending reduction, travel remains a high priority

#### Spending categories that consumers want to "treat themselves"

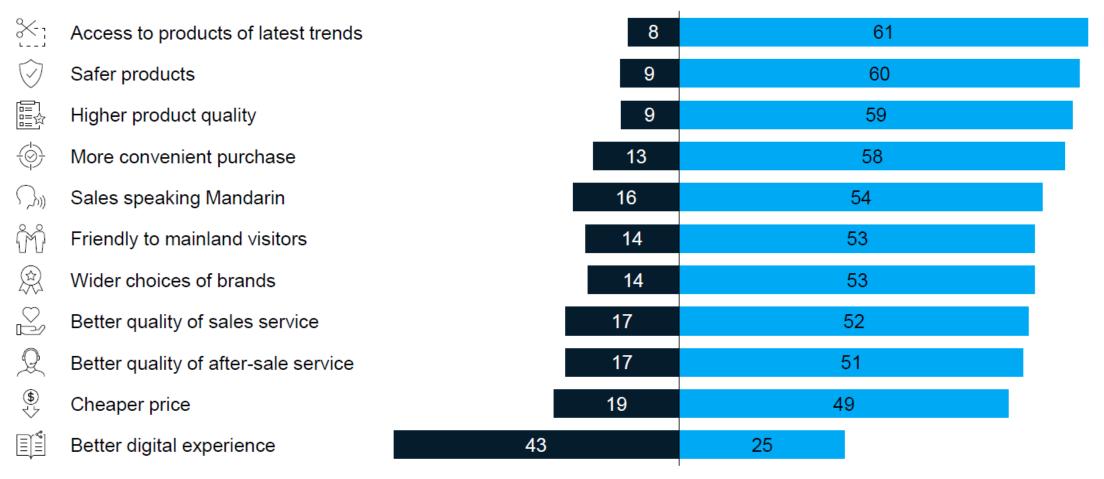
Among the respondents who plan to purchase luxury goods and upgrade consumptions



## Hong Kong retail industry remains competitive in their products, but needs to improve on services and digital experience for tourists

Strongly disagree/disagree Strongly agree/ agree

**Q**: Why do you choose to shop in Hong Kong?, % n=1,002



### Travel and tourism providers can up-sell or cross-sell experiences and entertainment

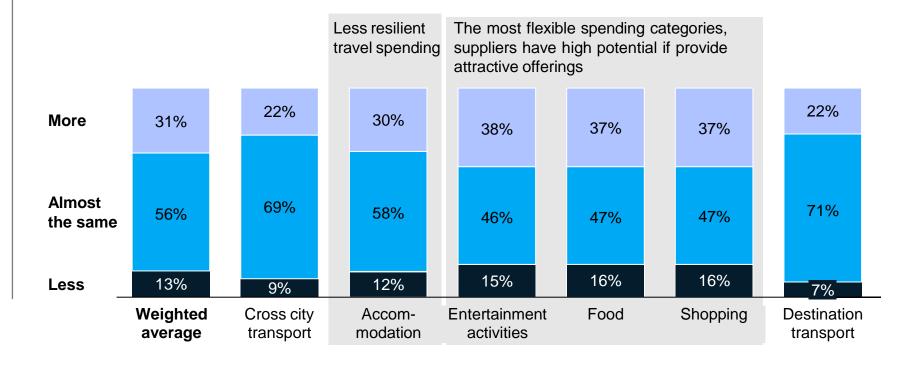
## Travel and tourism providers should invest in polishing product offerings

- Craft an authentically local offering that appeals to experience-driven
  Chinese travelers
- Social media is emerging as one of the most important sources of inspiration for travel
- Scale with the right channel partners
- Create a seamless travel experience for the digitally savvy Chinese tourist



Entertainment activities, food, shopping could be up-sell experience

How will your next trip budget differ from previous travel experience? Weighted % of respondents



#### In summary

Travel recovery is well underway, with China mainland domestic recovered, and international growing back

Previous barriers to international travel recovery are gone

But, there remains overall caution on spending in mainland; travel may be somewhat insulated

Hong Kong remains a popular destination, especially for shopping and sightseeing

Connectivity to HK is good: similar to pre COVID, and affordable

Opportunities to further develop in digital ecosystem, and marketing through newer video channels and mainland OTAs, and driving engagement in entertainment and experiences

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## Thank you





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