

HOLIDAYIMAGE



Left: A passenger boards train No 5630 with vegetables on March 30. **Center:** Passengers are seen on train No 5630. **Right:** Crew members sell tickets to a passenger on No 5630. PHOTOS BY YANG WENBIN / XINHUA

Villagers in Wumeng Mountains make vegetable sales with help of historic trains



Passengers on board train No 5630 in Tongzi county in Guizhou province on March 30. YANG WENBIN / XINHUA

Since the operation of an alternative railway route in 2018, the Chuanqian (Sichuan-Guizhou) Railway, which had been completed in 1965, became a route only for cargo trains. Except for a pair of slow-speed trains: No 5630 and No 5629.

The pair of trains, running between Zunyi in Guizhou province and Chongqing, stop at 20 stations on their 300-kilometer journeys, and the lowest ticket price costs only two yuan (\$0.31). People living in the Wumeng Mountains use the trains to go to schools, visit doctors and do businesses. Running for 28 years on the Chuanqian Railway, the pair of trains still offer convenience for people in the Wumeng Mountains.

The train stations passed on the route are mostly set in the deep mountainous areas along the line. The train also provides opportunities for villagers to do business, like selling vegetables.

"Every household in the village grows vegetables, so we don't have to buy ours. So we have to find a bigger market." Li Wenrong, a local villager, told China News Service that residents are more inclined to take the green-skinned trains than try to sell their vegetables locally. The train transported the vegetables to Tongzi county in Guizhou, 33 kilometers away, where they were sold. "There are a lot of people in the county, and they have regular customers. They just like our fresh vegetables."

47-year-old Li Wenrong is the "old face" on No 5630 train. In 2009, by chance, Li took the train out of the village for the first time at the direction of her family. Because the train ticket was cheap and the timetable was reasonable, Li came up with the idea of taking the train to sell vegetables. She said that the first time she shipped vegetables to sell, she was pleased with the results. "I sold out in less than 10 minutes, and the income was good!"

Feng Xia, a Songshan villager, has sincere appreciation for this train. She helps villagers check the train's running times and also teaches them how to use WeChat to track the train. She used to follow her mother on this slow train to sell vegetables. Now, she carries the vegetable basket herself and sells them from the train. "It's all seasonal vegetables and fruits, and sometimes it comes with homemade peppers and dried beans to sell."



Clockwise from left: A crew member helps a passenger get off train No 5630 in Tongzi county. ZHENG MINGHONG / XINHUA The train No 5630 is running in Tongzi county. YANG WENBIN / XINHUA A crew member registers passengers' information on train No 5630. YANG WENBIN / XINHUA Passengers of train No 5630 arrive at Tongzi county of Guizhou province. ZHENG MINGHONG / XINHUA Passengers of train No 5630 sell vegetables in Tongzi county. YANG WENBIN / XINHUA