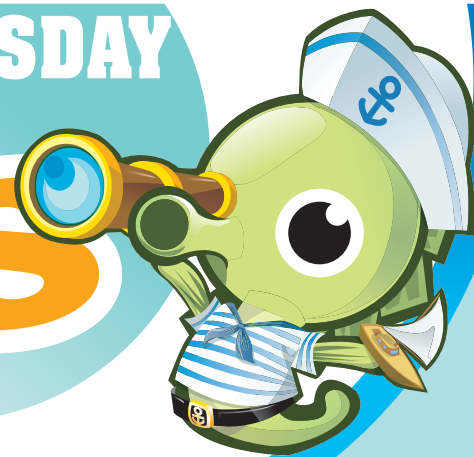


May
2018

16

WEDNESDAY

Goodies



All aboard!



Oh, I want
to try it so
much!

Editor's Note

Hi! I really like long train journeys that do not have many stops along the way. I used to just gaze out of the window and look at the sheep and the cows. That does not happen often now so I am looking forward to taking the high-speed train to Guangzhou when it is finally in service. Did you know that there are people in other countries known as trainspotters? Their hobby is to make a note of all the trains that go past them. Maybe now that more trains are coming from the mainland, trainspotting might become a popular hobby! Turn to P2 to learn more about the XRL line.



Simon

RECENTLY, we often hear people talk or read news about Hong Kong's Express Rail Link or high-speed rail, such as when it will open, or that there are problems like over-budgeting, falling behind schedule, and derailment. But what exactly is high-speed rail? And how is it different from ordinary trains?

Fast track to China

Great speed

THE Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link (廣深港高速鐵路) is a kind of high-speed rail (高鐵), and what we often hear about these days is its Hong Kong section. As the name implies, high-speed rail is very fast. But exactly how fast is it? Usually, a train has to **attain** a speed of 200 kilometres per hour to count as high-speed rail. In other words, it is about two or three times the speed of normal trains.

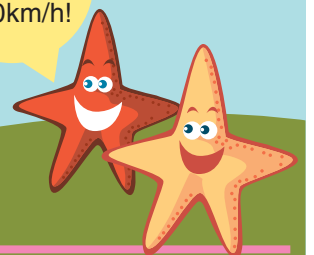
Two kinds

THERE are actually two kinds of high-speed trains: the wheeled trains and the maglev trains. Most high-speed trains are wheeled ones. This means that the trains have wheels that run on rails.

As for maglev, it refers to magnetic levitation (磁懸浮), which means the trains float above the rails, and do not touch them. This lessens friction **significantly**, which is why maglev trains can run at such a fast speed.



It can go as fast as 200km/h!



Hong Kong section

Here is the basic information of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

alignment	runs from the station in West Kowloon, heading north to the Shenzhen (深圳) / Hong Kong Boundary, where it connects with the Mainland Section
station	located to the north of the West Kowloon Cultural District (西九龍文化區) and will be linked to Austin Station (柯士甸站) and Kowloon Station by footbridges and subways; there will be no intermediate stations in the Hong Kong section
length	approximately 26km
speed	maximum operating speed is 200km/h
journey times	Between Hong Kong and Futian (福田), Shenzhen: 14 minutes Between Hong Kong and Shenzhen North: 23 minutes Between Hong Kong and Guangzhou (廣州) South: 48 minutes
target date of completion	September of 2018

