



Passengers cash in on Chinese airline's fare glitch 中國東方航空烏龍 乘客撿便宜

Hundreds of Chinese air travelers scored a major bargain when a computer **glitch** allowed them to buy online tickets from China Eastern Airlines for less than US\$3.

The *Global Times* reported that China's third-largest carrier last week sold tickets, including some first-class fares, to at least 300 customers for just 20 yuan (US\$2.9, NT\$94) each.

As a result, flying from Nanchang in the southern province of Jiangxi to Beijing will be cheaper than some **crosstown** taxi rides in the capital.

One-way first-class tickets from Nanchang to Beijing were listed at around 2,000 yuan on the airline's Web site on Monday.

The company said it would **honor** the tickets despite be-

ing **out of pocket**, even though some of them were sold for travel during the peak-demand Lunar New Year holidays in February, when fares normally jump.

"It is a problem caused by our own system. Passengers (holding the cheap tickets) can get on board. Our promise made to them will not be changed," Luo Zhuping, China Eastern's spokesman in Shanghai, told AFP.

中國東方航空日前因電腦出錯，讓數百名上網訂票的旅客搶到低於三美元的便宜機票。

據《環球時報》報導，中國第三大航空公司上週售出每張只要人民幣二十元（兩點九美元，新台幣九十四元）的機票，其中包括部份頭等艙機位，至少有三百名消費者搶到便宜。

因此，這些從中國南部江西省南昌市飛往北京的機票，比北京一些跨區計程車費還要便宜。

據此一該航空公司網站標價，一張從南昌到北京的單程頭等艙機票約要價兩千元人民幣。

該公司表示，即使其中有若干開票日期為二月農曆新年、票價通常大幅上漲的尖峰需求時段，但該公司仍將認賠承兌這些機票。

中國東方航空上海發言人羅祝平對法新社表示：「這是我們內部系統的問題。（買到便宜機票的）乘客可以正常登機。我們承諾旅客的服務不會因此改變。」

(法新社/翻譯：袁星麗)

US President Barack Obama steps off Air Force One as he arrives at Pudong International Airport in Shanghai on Nov. 15, 2009. The Chinese characters read: "China Eastern Airlines."

PHOTO: REUTERS

二〇〇九年十一月十五日，搭乘空軍一號專機飛抵上海浦東國際機場的美國總統巴拉克·歐巴馬步下飛機。照片中清楚可見「中國東方航空」字眼。 照片：路透社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. glitch /ɡlɪtʃ/ n.

小差錯 (xiao3 cha1 cuo4)

例：A computer glitch has slowed down distribution from the warehouse. (一個電腦的小差錯造成倉庫出貨的速度減慢。)

2. crosstown /ˈkrɒs,təʊn/ adj.

跨市鎮的 (kua4 shi4 zhen4 de5)

例：We caught a crosstown bus to get home. (我們搭乘跨市客運回家。)

3. honor /ˈɑnə/ v.

信守 (xin4 shou3)

例：Marlene decided to honor her contract despite being refused a pay rise. (雖然要求加薪遭拒，但瑪琳還是決定履行合約。)

LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

out of pocket 虧本賠錢

You are **out of pocket** if you have lost money, especially in an unfair way. In the article, the airline is **out of pocket** after selling the tickets cheap.

Example: "I'll be **out of pocket** if we hold the party at my house. Why don't we find a different venue?"

如果說「out of pocket」，就表示虧本賠錢，尤指不合理的財務損失。上文中提到，該航空公司因為售出標錯價的機票而虧本。

例如：「如果在我家舉辦派對，我會虧錢。我們何不另覓聚會地點？」