

Suspended service! China unveils its first ever elevated monorail where carriages are HUNG from the tracks like a rollercoaster

- **Train carriages were filmed in action on Friday during its official test run**
- **The trials will continue until engineers have given it the system the all clear**
- **As of yet, no official opening date has been announced for the technology**

By [Sadie Whitelocks for MailOnline](#)

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http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-3817276/Suspended-service-China-unveils-elevated-monorail-carriages-HUNG-tracks-like-rollercoaster.html

China's first suspended railway has completed its test run without a hitch on Friday.

The hanging train carriages were filmed in action in the city of Chengdu as they zipped along the elevated monorail at speeds of 60kmph.

According to reports, the tests will continue until engineers have given it the all-clear but as of yet, no official opening date has been announced.



Speeding along: China's first suspension railway, in the city of Chengdu, has completed its test run without a hitch

Instead of electricity, the suspension system is powered by lithium batteries.

Zhai Wanming, chief designer of the project, told [People's Daily China](#), that the new train is more cost-effective and environmentally friendly compared to electric and diesel rail systems.

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Each coach on the upside-down monorail will be able to carry up to 120 passengers.

Further tests will be conducted to monitor the train's ability to turn and climb up the tracks before it can be opened to the public.



Sneak preview: Train carriages were filmed in action on Friday as they zipped along the elevated monorail at speeds of 60kmph



Behind-the-scenes: The tests will continue to run until engineers have given it the all-clear

The battery charging stations will also be examined.

Wangming added: 'The test runs will continue for tens of thousands of kilometres to check performance capabilities before official operation.'

Chengdu, which also operates an underground Metro system, is the first city in China to officially unveil a suspension railway but the cosmopolitan city of Shanghai will also be opening one next year.

Shanghai announced plans for its futuristic suspended 'Skytrain' in 2015 at the China International Rail Transit Technology Exhibition.



Room for all: Each coach on the upside-down monorail will be able to take 120 passengers



Modern touch: Instead of electricity, the suspension system is powered by batteries

MailOnline reported that five districts in the city's financial hub have indicated they would be interested in being linked by the Skytrain.

The conductor-less train will operate above the ground at a height of around six metres - the equivalent of a three storey building.

Qi Zhiheng, project manager of the Shanghai Air Train Rail Technology Corporation, said the columns which will support the suspended railway will be just 80cm wide.

He said the pillars are so narrow they could even be built on the green belt in the middle of the road.

Suspension trains are usually compiled of six carriages.

Ahead of the game: Chengdu - which also operates an underground Metro system - is the first location in China to open a suspension railway

However, the trains Shanghai plans to use will have just four carriages - each carriage will hold up to 70 passengers.

The train runs at around 30kmph. It is a little slower than the city's subway trains, which run between 30 and 40 kilometres per hour.

Skytrain would cost an estimated 120 to 150 million yuan to build - around £16.3million.

Developers said the train will accommodate around 15,000 commuters every hour, and the space-efficient transit system would run silently through the city.

The design is based on similar suspended railways running in Germany.

Germany set up a 1.05-kilometre-long suspension route in 1984 to connect two school areas of Dortmund University.

Read more:

[China's first suspension railway completes test run - People's Daily Online](#)

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