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The Tahitian Islands: The Closest Thing to Paradise 塔希提群岛:最接近天堂的地方

By Walter Glaser ◎金今译

am sitting on the veranda of a native hut built right out over the water, a cool drink in my hand, and looking out at what must surely be the most beautiful scenery in the world. In front of me the lagoon is the bluest blue imaginable, turning to turquoise[®] where it gets shallow. Beyond that is a line of coral separating the open ocean from the lagoon. In the distance, huge white breakers pound onto the coral, unable to cross into the calm water. To my right the mountain looms out of the deep blue water, wearing a collar of lush, vivid green jungle. The granite peak juts 600 feet to the sky, its craggy top almost continually covered with a single halo-like cloud. And directly under where I'm sitting, hundreds of multi-hued tropical fish play in the crystal clear water. I cannot help thinking that this must be the closest thing to paradise one can find on earth!

Charles Darwin referred to Tahiti as, "the Island to which every Voyager has offered up his tribute of imagination".



我坐在当地小屋的露台上,小屋就建在水上。我手里端着一杯清凉的饮料,望着窗外——那定是世界上最美的景色。我面前的环礁湖有着人们所能想象到的最蓝的蓝色,到浅水处则转为青绿色。环礁湖外围是一圈将无边的海水和湖分隔开来的珊瑚。在远方,白色的巨浪不断拍打在珊瑚上,却无法跃人平静的湖水中。在我的右边,山脉在深蓝色的湖水映衬中隐约可见,环绕着一圈繁茂、蓬勃的青绿丛林。高达600英尺的花岗岩山峰直入云霄,峻峭的山顶几乎总是被一朵光晕状的云掩盖着。就在我所坐之处的正下方,成百上千条五颜六色的热带鱼在水晶般澄澈的湖水中畅游。我不禁产生这样的联想:这里一定是地球上最接近天堂的地方!

查尔斯·达尔文提及塔希提时是这样说的: "每位航海家都为

这座岛屿奉献出了自己充满想象力的颂词。"

① turquoise: 青绿色。

² granite: 花岗岩; craggy: 峻峭的。

This is as true today as it was when Darwin first saw Tahiti. Subsequently it became the great romantic destination of the 19th century. Painters, adventurers and writers like Melville, Conrad, R.L. Stevenson, Pierre Loti, Rupert Brooke, Somerset Maugham, Charles Nordhoff, James Hall and many others made Tahiti famous with their paintings and stories.

They arrived at Tahiti, like many others, with the intention of "just passing through", and where then caught by the magic of the South Seas, to stay for years—or maybe a lifetime. On Bora Bora you realise why poets, dreamers, and drifters have been so relentlessly drawn to this part of the South Seas.

The island of Bora Bora, is—to me—the ultimate "South Sea Island" and undoubtedly one of the most romantic in the world. With a population of only 4,000 people, it is still surprisingly unspoiled, in spite of the excellent five-star hotel complexes that have been sensitively constructed around its edge and lagoons.

International visitors who arrive in the Society Islands always land at Papeete on the island of Tahiti. Just walking along the Papeete waterfront and seeing yachts from every corner of the earth moored here. The owners of these yachts are the great seafarers of our time, sometimes taking a year off high-powered jobs in their home-countries to sail halfway across the world to reach Tahiti. As I pass, I tried to imagine the challenge of getting here through wild storms and heavy seas. It would not be an easy task!

Then, strolling two streets inland, I find myself amongst the small boutiques, shops and French-style supermarkets, where smiling, dark-haired Polynesian women in bright floral cottons chat with fair-haired French neighbours, buying their freshly baked baguettes and the Beaujolais and cheeses which have come to them from France halfway across the world.

❸ moor: 停泊。

The Tahitian Islands: The Closest Thing to Paradise 塔希提群岛: 最接近天堂的地方



达尔文初次看到塔希提时的感受,如今的人们同样还能体会。 此后,这里成了19世纪的浪漫圣地。画家、探险家和作家,如梅尔 维尔、康拉德、史蒂文森、皮埃尔・洛提、鲁伯特・布鲁克、萨默 塞特・毛姆、查尔斯・诺德霍夫、詹姆士・霍尔,还有其他很多人 都通过自己的绘画或写作让塔希提闻名于世。

他们像其他很多人一样,抱着"仅是走一遭"的打算来到塔希提。来了之后,他们就被南太平洋的魔力深深吸引,于是一待就是多年——或者可能是一生。在波拉波拉岛,你会领悟到为何诗人、梦想家和浪子都会如此执著地沉迷于南太平洋上的这个地方。

波拉波拉岛对我来说是最好的"南太平洋岛屿",它无疑是这个世界上最浪漫的地方之一。这里只有4,000个居民,尽管有顶级五星级酒店的建筑楼群巧妙地建造在岛的周边和环礁湖旁,这座岛屿仍旧令人惊讶地保持着原貌。

来到社会群岛的各国游客都会在塔希提岛上的帕皮提登陆。漫步于帕皮提的滨水地区,会看到来自世界各个地方的帆船停泊在这里。这些帆船的主人都是我们这个时代伟大的航海家。他们有时会抛下他们在本国如日中天的工作,用一年的时间航海跨越半个地球,最终来到塔希提。当我走过的时候,我竭力去想象(他们)在穿越狂暴的风暴和波涛汹涌的海面时所经受的挑战。这可真不简单啊!

接下来在岛内的两条街道上闲逛时,我发现自己置身于各类小精品店、商店和法式超市之中。笑容可掬、黑头发的玻利尼西亚妇女身着色彩鲜艳、带有花朵图案的棉布衣服,她们一边和金发的法国邻居聊着天,一边采购新鲜烘焙的法式长棍面包、博若莱葡萄酒和奶酪——这些食物全都来自半个地球之外的法国。



There are many other things I like to do in Papeete. In the mornings, there is nothing more fascinating than to visit the downtown produce market and watch housewives shop for their daily food requirements. Fishermen bring their best selection to the fish section, their freshly-caught catch strung up on sturdy wooden sticks. Farmer's wives sit cross-legged on the floor, the fruit, vegetables, and flowers that they have brought set out in a semicircle in front of them. Everyone laughs and jokes, purchasers carefully examine the offerings before making decisions, and the market is a happy, laughfilled structure.

For some, the pace of these islands will undoubtedly be too slow—those people should head for Hawaii—but for others these islands will be their paradise.



The Tahitian Islands: The Closest Thing to Paradise 搭希提群岛: 最接近天堂的地方

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在帕皮提, 我还有很多喜欢做的事情。清晨时分, 最吸引人的

莫过于去逛市区的农产品市场,去看家庭主妇们采购她们每日所需的食品。渔夫们将自己挑选出的最好的海货摆在鱼摊上,刚捕上来的鱼挂在结实的木棍上;农夫的妻子盘着腿坐在地上,她们带来的水果、蔬菜和鲜花在各自面前摆放成半圆形。每个人都在笑着彼此逗着趣儿。买主们在作决定前仔细地挑选着货物。整个市场就是一个快乐的、充满了欢笑的地方。

对有些人来说,这些小岛上的节奏无疑太慢了——他们应该去夏威夷——但是对另外一些人来说,这里就是他们的天堂。

■



他们是生活在大漠上的一个神秘的游牧民族。浩瀚辽阔的撒哈拉沙漠赋予他们浪漫、不羁、自由的感觉,但同时恶劣的自由的感觉,但同时恶劣的沙漠气候与生活条件也让他们的日子十分难过。因为常穿蓝色的衣服,所以人们称他们为"撒哈拉蓝人"。让我们去沙漠中寻觅他们的踪迹。

Who Are the Blue Men of the Sahara?

解密"撒哈拉蓝人"

The Blue Men of the Sahara is a name for the Tuareg people. People call them this name because they often wear blue clothes and the pigment in the cloth easily stains the wearer's skin dark blue. There are between 300,000 and one million Tuareg today. They have lived in the Sahara Desert for thousands of years. It is hot, dry, and windy there. Their lives are difficult because of the desert weather and life.

The Tuareg do not live in one place. They move from place to place to find water and food for their animals. The Tuareg live in groups of four or five families. Everybody helps each other. The Tuareg live and sleep in the tents. Tuareg tents are usually made of animal skins, but today some Tuareg have plastic tents.





"撒哈拉蓝人"指的是图阿雷格人。人们这样称呼他们是因为他们常穿蓝色的衣服,而这种蓝布的染料又容易把穿衣人的皮肤染成深蓝色。图阿雷格人已在撒哈拉沙漠里生活数千年了,如今他们的人数在30万到100万之间。撒哈拉沙漠气候炎热、干旱而且多风。恶劣的沙漠气候与生活条件使得图阿雷格人的日子十分艰难。

图阿雷格人并不在一个地方定居。为了给他们的牲畜寻找水和 食物,他们不停地从一处迁徙到另一处。四五个图阿雷格家庭聚居 在一起生活,互相照应。图阿雷格人住在帐篷里,这些帐篷通常是 由动物皮制成的,但如今也有些图阿雷格人使用塑胶帐篷。



The Tuareg dress in a special way. The men cover their faces. The women do not. The men travel a lot in the desert. They need to protect their faces from the dry air and sand.

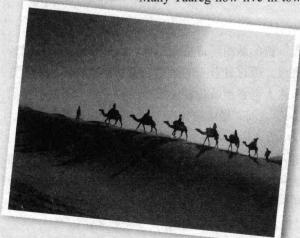
The Tuareg men have many customs about their faces. They start to cover their faces at age 25. They do not cover their faces for friends. They use black or white cloth. The cloth is five yards long. They wrap the cloth around their face and neck. You see their eyes, but you don't see their nose and mouth.

Every Tuareg man wraps his cloth in a unique way. In this way, everyone knows each other. On special occasions, they cover their faces with blue cloth.

Tuareg men marry women from the same group. They often marry cousins. The Tuareg women have a lot of freedom. They decide important things about their lives. The Tuareg women have long hair and are very beautiful.

Today, many Tuareg do not live in the desert. Countries around the Sahara Desert do not want groups of people going from place to place.

Many Tuareg now live in towns. Soon it will be



hard to find the Blue Men of the Sahara.

图阿雷格人的穿着很特别。男人们会用头巾遮住他们的面孔, 女人们却不这么做,因为男人们经常在沙漠中跋涉,他们需要保护 自己的脸免受干燥的空气和沙子的伤害。

图阿雷格男子的遮脸习俗还有很多讲究。他们25岁时开始遮住脸部,但不在朋友们面前遮。他们用(来遮脸)的布是黑色或白色的,布长5码;他们用布包住自己的脸部和颈部,眼睛露在外面,但鼻子和嘴是看不到的。

每个图阿雷格男人都以其特有的方式裹布。正因如此,每个人都可以辨认出彼此。在特别的场合,他们会用蓝布遮住脸。

图阿雷格男人会娶同一部落的女子,通常就是自己的堂姐妹或 表姐妹。图阿雷格女子享有很多自由,她们一生中的重大事情都由 自己来决定。她们留着长发,非常美丽。

现今,很多图阿雷格人已不住在沙漠里了,(因为)撒哈拉沙 漠周边的国家不希望一群一群的人四处迁徙。如今很多图阿雷格人 住到城里去了。不久的将来,"撒哈拉蓝人"就该踪迹难觅。■ 

To Hell and Back

死谷之行

By Conor Caffrey ◎初晓菲译

Boiling air streamed through open windows and the air-conditioner switched off, as overheating the engine was the last thing we wanted to do.

Death Valley is in the Californian Mojave. It is an arid inhospitable place. The earth's second highest temperature ever was recorded here (56.7 degrees C) in 1913. Nine years later it was pipped by one degree in some godforsaken place in Libya. The hottest temperatures in the valley are in July and August.

Nobody, except a few crazy Europeans, goes to Death Valley at this time. But we did.

We drove in the dark to the campsite and put up our little tent. We spent just one night and the early morning in the valley of death—then we were off to Vegas.

That night the temperature hovered around 38 degrees C. The tent was like a furnace. Sleeping on the ground was like lying on top of a radiator. Howling of the coyotes in the near distance provided a melody of lullaby.