

How tartan went from country *chic* to fashion cool

Tartan, suddenly, is big in fashion again. There it is at Gucci, in the guise of a *maxi kilt*; and at Dior in skirts and jackets that make Gucci look cheap.

chic 时髦

tartan 苏格兰格纹

maxi 长大衣; 长裙

kilt 褶裙

There's plenty more tartan on the way for spring 2020. Chanel has tailored tartan playsuits. Alexander Wang used it as a trim on denim. Khaite, hitherto one of those New York labels with a *minimalist bent*, has turned it into dreamy *tulle-swathed* ball dresses. So if you too have a minimalist bent, prepare to be seduced.

minimalist 极简主义

bent 弯曲; 倾向

tulle 薄纱

swathe 紧裹; 捆绑

Tartan has many excellent qualities, not least that it's one of those *uncompromising*, geometric patterns that never looks *twee*, even when it's in the most toothachingly *cutesy* contexts.

uncompromising 不妥协的

twee 矫情的

cutesy 扭捏的

Perhaps that comes from its *rebellious* history. In the 17th century the English tried to *outlaw* it among fighting *Scottish* clans. Somehow it has managed to hang on to that *anarchic aura*. That fact that some people still believe the red tartans (*aka* Battle Tartans) were designed in that shade so that blood wouldn't show up, just proves how out-there they have always been.

rebellious 反抗的

outlaw 取缔; 放逐

Scottish 苏格兰人; 苏格兰的

anarchic 无政府的

aura 光环

aka 又名

That said, it should be approached thoughtfully. Either go for a consciously classic (but sleek) approach, wearing a *midi* or maxi skirt (minis look great too) with a slimline, waistcropped jumper, or go *rogue* with some print clashing, mismatching it with something *floral* or paisley for instance. Other than that, the rules are fluid.

midi 中裙

rogue 流氓; 凶猛

floral 花的