Travel in Europe

欧洲之旅

I had a strong desire to roam. I wanted to wander through Europe. I did make the trip.

我曾强烈渴望漫游。我想在欧洲漫无目的地游荡。我确实完成了这次旅行。

One of the small marvels of my first trip to Europe was the discovery that the world could be so full of variety, that there were so many different ways of doing essentially the same things, like eating and drinking, and buying cinema tickets.

我第一次去欧洲旅行的一个小奇迹是发现世界可以如此多样化，有如此多不同的方式来做本质上相同的事情，比如吃饭、喝酒和买电影票。

I remember on my first trip to Europe going alone to a movie in Copenhagen. In Denmark you are given a ticket for an assigned seat. I went into the cinema and discovered that my ticket directed me to sit beside the only other people in the place, a young couple locked in the sort of passionate embrace associated with dockside reunions at the end of long wars. I could no more have sat beside them than I could have asked to join in, so I took a place a few seats away.

我记得在我第一次去欧洲旅行时，一个人去哥本哈根看电影。在丹麦，你会得到一个指定座位的票。我走进电影院，发现我的票让我坐在唯一其他人旁边，一对年轻情侣紧紧拥抱在一起，这种激情的拥抱与漫长战争结束后在码头重逢的场景相关。我不可能坐在他们旁边，就像我不可能要求加入他们一样，所以我坐在了几排之外的地方。

People came in, consulted their tickets and filled the seats around us. By the time the film started there were about 30 of us sitting close together in the middle of a vast and otherwise empty cinema. Two minutes into the movie,a woman made her way with difficulty down my row,stopped beside my seat, and told me in a stern voice that I was in her place. This caused fretful re-examining of tickets by everyone nearby until word got around that I was an American tourist and therefore unable to follow simple seating instructions. Finally, I was directed in some shame back to my assigned place. So 30 of us crowded together like refugees in an overloaded lifeboat. It occurred to me then that there are certain things that some nations do better than everyone else and certain things that they do far worse.

人们进来，查看他们的票，填满了我们周围的座位。电影开始时，我们大约有30人紧挨着坐在一个巨大且其他部分空无一人的电影院中间。电影开始两分钟后，一位女士艰难地沿着我的排走过来，停在我的座位旁边，用严厉的声音告诉我我坐在了她的位置上。这导致附近每个人都焦虑地重新检查他们的票，直到大家传开说我是一个美国游客，因此无法遵循简单的座位指示。最后，我在一些羞愧中被指示回到我的指定位置。于是我们30人挤在一起，就像超载救生艇中的难民。那时我意识到，有些事情有些国家做得比其他人好，有些事情他们做得远不如其他人。

Sometimes a nation's little inventions are so singular and clever that we associate them with that country alone - double-decker buses' in Britain, windmills in the Netherlands, sidewalk cafés' in Paris. And yet there are some things that most countries do without difficulty while others cannot get a grasp of them at all.

有时一个国家的一些小发明是如此独特和聪明，我们只将其与那个国家联系起来——英国的双层巴士、荷兰的风车、巴黎的人行道咖啡馆。然而，有些事情大多数国家都能毫不费力地做到，而其他国家却完全无法掌握。

The French, for instance, cannot get the hang of queuing. They try and try, but it is beyond them. Wherever you go in Paris, you see orderly lines waiting at bus stops,but as soon as the bus pulls up, everyone scrambles to be the first aboard, quite unaware that this defeats the whole purpose of queuing.

例如，法国人无法掌握排队的技巧。他们尝试了一次又一次，但这超出了他们的能力。在巴黎无论你走到哪里，都能看到有序的队伍在公交车站等待，但一旦公交车到达，每个人都争先恐后地成为第一个上车的人，完全不知道这完全违背了排队的目的。

The British, on the other hand, do not understand certain of the fundamentals' of eating, as evidenced by their instinct to eat hamburgers with a knife and fork. To my continuing amazement, many of them also turn their fork upside down and balance the food on the back of it. I've lived in England for over a decade and I still have to fight an impulse to go up to strangers in pubs and restaurants and say, "Excuse me,can I give you a tip that'll help stop those peas bouncing all over the table?"

另一方面，英国人不理解某些饮食的基本规则，这从他们用刀叉吃汉堡的本能就可以看出。令我持续惊讶的是，他们中的许多人还把叉子倒过来，把食物平衡在叉子背上。我在英格兰生活了十多年，我仍然有一种冲动，想走到酒吧和餐馆里的陌生人面前说：“打扰一下，我可以给你一个小贴士，帮助阻止豌豆在桌子上弹跳吗？”

Germans may be confused by humour, the Swiss seem to have no concept of fun,and the Spanish think there is nothing unusual about eating dinner at midnight.

德国人可能对幽默感到困惑，瑞士人似乎没有乐趣的概念，而西班牙人认为在午夜吃晚餐没有什么不寻常的。

Yes, there are many differences among Europeans, and language is one of them.

是的，欧洲人之间有很多差异，语言是其中之一。

When I told friends in London that I was going to travel around Europe and write a book about it, they said, "Oh, you must speak a lot of languages."

当我告诉伦敦的朋友们我要去欧洲旅行并写一本书时，他们说：“哦，你必须会说很多语言。”

"Why, no," I would reply with a certain pride, "only English," and they would look at me as if I were crazy. But that's the great thing of foreign travel, as far as I am concerned. I can't think of anything that excites a greater sense of childlike wonder than to be in a country where you are ignorant of almost everything. Suddenly you are five years old again. You can't read anything; you have only the most fundamental sense of how things work; you can't even reliably cross a street without endangering your life. Your whole existence becomes a series of interesting guesses.

“为什么，不，”我会带着某种自豪感回答，“只有英语，”他们会看着我，好像我是疯子。但这就是我心目中国外旅行的伟大之处。我想不出有什么比在一个你几乎对一切都一无所知的国家更能激发出孩子般的惊奇感。突然间，你又回到了五岁。你什么都读不懂；你对事物如何运作只有最基本的感觉；你甚至不能可靠地过马路而不危及你的生命。你的整个存在变成了一系列有趣的猜测。

In my hotel in Oslo, the chambermaid each morning left me a packet of something called Bio Tex Blå, a "minipakke for ferie, hybel og weekend," according to the instructions. I spent many happy hours sniffing it and experimenting with it,uncertain whether it was for washing out clothes, or cleaning the toilet bowl. In the end I decided it was for washing out clothes, but for the rest of the week everywhere I went in Oslo I heard people saying to each other, "You know, that man smelled like toilet-bowl cleaner."

在奥斯陆的酒店里，女服务员每天早上都会留给我一包叫做Bio Tex Blå的东西，根据说明，这是一个“用于假期、温室和周末的小包装”。我花了很多快乐的时光闻它并尝试使用它，不确定它是用于洗衣服还是清洁马桶。最后我决定它是用于洗衣服的，但在那之后我在奥斯陆去的任何地方都听到人们互相说：“你知道吗，那个人闻起来像马桶清洁剂。”

However, I wanted to be puzzled and charmed, to experience the endless variety of a continent where you can board a train and an hour later be somewhere where people speak a different language, eat different foods, work different hours, live lives that are at once so different and yet so oddly similar. I wanted to be a tourist.

然而，我想感到困惑和迷人，体验一个大陆的无尽多样性，你可以登上一列火车，一个小时后到达一个人们说不同语言、吃不同食物、工作不同时间、过着既不同又奇怪相似的生活的地方。我想成为一个游客。