

東山再起

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Soul mountain

Over a century after serving as a playground for foreign missionaries, the forested retreat 90 minutes from Hangzhou is now a weekend getaway for Chinese urbanites

百多年前，莫干山一直是昔日駐華外國傳教士的隱世天堂。這片位處中國山區的度假勝地，距離杭州僅90分鐘車程，現在更成為都市人的週末消閒目的地

“G

rant shot that himself,” my host proudly tells me, gesturing up to the stuffed head of some kind of antelope-like animal.

The curly-horned creature’s noggin is pinned to a prime spot on the pristine white wall of Naked Castle’s central atrium, flanked by a supporting cast of warthogs and deer. Piped classical music wafts serenely in the background as residents take selfies while perched on plush chairs in the nearby drawing room.

For those not squeamish about the dead heads, the vibe is more Instagram-ready rural Scottish castle than Chinese countryside retreat. But I am indeed out in the sticks in China – specifically, Moganshan, the bamboo-laden mountain area in the eastern Zhejiang province, three hours from Shanghai or a 90-minute drive from the provincial capital, Hangzhou.

I’m here because Moganshan, an area populated in the late 1800s by foreign missionaries zipping in from Shanghai, is once again enjoying a reputation as “The Hamptons of China”, a village-dotted nature-linked retreat that, like its New York comparator, offers city slickers a breezy escape from the urban grind. Just downhill from the main Moganshan peak, where tourists disembark tour buses in the summer months, less obvious trails slice through the forest, attracting adventurous bamboo-hacking hikers.

Crucial to this re-up is the Grant mentioned by my host. The latter person, incidentally, was introduced to me as Naked Castle’s resident “Scottish guard”. He’s actually a friendly young Russian chap named Slava, but he is wearing a kilt.

Grant Horsfield, the South African founder of the Naked hospitality company, opened the Naked Castle resort along with his architect wife Delphine Yip-Horsfield in May 2017. The resort’s eponymous castle, visible from many of the mossy walking trails threading through the Moganshan mountainside, has become a symbol of the area’s revitalisation over the past decade as a haven from the Hangzhou and Shanghai bustle.

Naked Castle’s European-style design was inspired by the original castle on the site, which had almost completely crumbled into history by the time Horsfield first poked around here. Built in 1910 by Dr Duncan Main, a Scottish Christian sent to China by the British church in 1881, it survives in grainy black and white photos adorning the walls of the new incarnation, and in design aspects such as its imposing main turret.

Near the completion of Main’s castle – which had a medical facility and the address Number One Moganshan – the mountainside had become dotted with other European-style buildings. They were largely weekend and holiday villas built by the

RIGHT: SLAVA, A RUSSIAN STAFF MEMBER OF NAKED CASTLE

右圖：俄羅斯裔的SLAVA是裸心堡其中一位接待專員



“Moganshan is a village-dotted nature retreat that offers city slickers a breezy escape from the urban grind”

「莫干山的優美村莊簇擁於大自然之中，讓城市人暫離繁囂，呼吸一口清新空氣」



LEFT: THE LUSH GREENERY ON THE GROUNDS OF NAKED CASTLE

左圖：裸心堡綠意處處

「這是Grant的戰利品。」東道主向上指往一個看似羚羊頭的標本，自豪地向我說。

那個長著彎角的獸頭，點綴裸心堡中庭一堵白色牆壁的顯眼位置，兩側以疣豬和鹿頭標本作陪襯。附近的會客室內，古典管樂在空氣中悠悠飄揚，住客在豪華舒適的座椅上忙著自拍。書櫃裡排列著厚甸甸的硬皮書籍；咖啡桌上一個打開了的木盒裡，放著一些金屬棋子，讓客人隨時對弈。

對獸首標本處之泰然的賓客，盡可享受蘇格蘭鄉郊城堡般的迷人氛圍，自拍照片上載社交網站，讓人忘記正身處中國的度假勝地。事實上，我現在的確置身華東地區的莫干山——這片位於浙江省的竹林山區，由省會杭州駕車前往約需個半小時，由上海出發則為三小時。

我今次是為了莫干山而來。十九世紀末，外國傳教士紛紛由上海來到此地。時至今天，這裡也重拾「中國漢普頓」之美譽：就如紐約的度假勝地漢普頓，莫干山的優美村莊也是簇擁於大自然之中，讓城市人暫離繁囂，呼吸一口清新空氣。

莫干山之所以重新攫取人們的視線，一位名叫Grant Horsfield的男士實在居功至偉。而我的東道主Slava，則

稱為駐裸心堡的「蘇格蘭衛兵」。Slava雖然身穿蘇格蘭傳統格子裙，但他其實是年輕的俄羅斯人，友善可親。

來自南非的Horsfield是裸心度假村品牌的創辦人，他於2017年五月偕同任職建築師的妻子葉凱欣共同開設裸心堡。這座與度假村品牌同名的城堡，從莫干山上多條長滿苔蘚的遠足路徑上均可窺見一斑，象徵著該地過去十年來的復興，成為杭州和上海的避世山莊。

裸心堡的歐陸式設計，靈感源自前身的城堡式別墅，當Horsfield首次來到此地時，原有的建築物已幾乎受盡歷史洗禮。蘇格蘭傳教士梅藤更醫生於1881年獲英國教會派往中國工作，該別墅就是他在1910年興建。呈現城堡舊貌的模糊黑白照片，如今掛在裸心堡的牆壁上，建築設計也保留了不少舊有元素，例如一座宏偉的角樓。

梅藤更醫生的古堡取址莫干山一號，內裡設有醫療設施。城堡快將竣工之際，其他歐陸式建築也在山間紛紛落成，大多是外國權貴所建的週末度假別墅，當年他們會坐上轎子，僱用當地的窮苦村民從山腳抬到山上。別墅內，網球場和游泳池一應俱備，讓那些長著翹鬍子的外國人歡度悠閒週末。

我從裸心堡的後門走出來，在山頂一帶步行了幾分鐘

foreign elite who were carried to their pads on sedan chairs by poor locals from villages at the foot of the mountains.

A few minutes after walking out into the mountaintop area, from the back gate of the Naked Castle complex, I see further evidence of this elite missionary history: a single lonely brick house wall and its gnarled window frame, both losing the battle for space to the nearby bamboo. Higher up, there are more intact examples.

Weather-worn stone stairs drive through the greenery, with passage up or down them requiring foot swipes to clear encroaching grass. Grand but rustic villas stand dormant, completely abandoned or left locked up during my spring visit, until warmer months arrive. Some have been converted into small hotels, while others seem life-free aside from the occasional whistling gardener making slow attempts to prevent weeds from taking over.

“When I first went there 20 years ago Moganshan was a ghost town,” Mark Kitto, a British former magazine publisher credited with helping to kickstart the area’s recent revival, told me on Skype from the UK before my visit. After first visiting the area in the late ’90s, Kitto lived in Moganshan from 2005 to 2013, running Moganshan Lodge, a café on Yinshan Street, the closest the mountain has to a commercial centre, with a few rustic restaurants.

Kitto wrote about his early Moganshan experience in his 2009 book *China Cuckoo*, and for a while was basically Mr Moganshan – or at least Mr Foreign Moganshan. Every local I ask directions from still knows Moganshan Lodge as “Ma Ke Café”, Ma Ke being Kitto’s Chinese name.

Being plugged into Shanghai’s expat community, Kitto helped attract more foreigners to Moganshan from 2005, when he and Horsfield would spend days tramping among the bamboo, exploring. In 2007 Horsfield found the remains of Main’s castle, and the idea for his own version on the site was born.

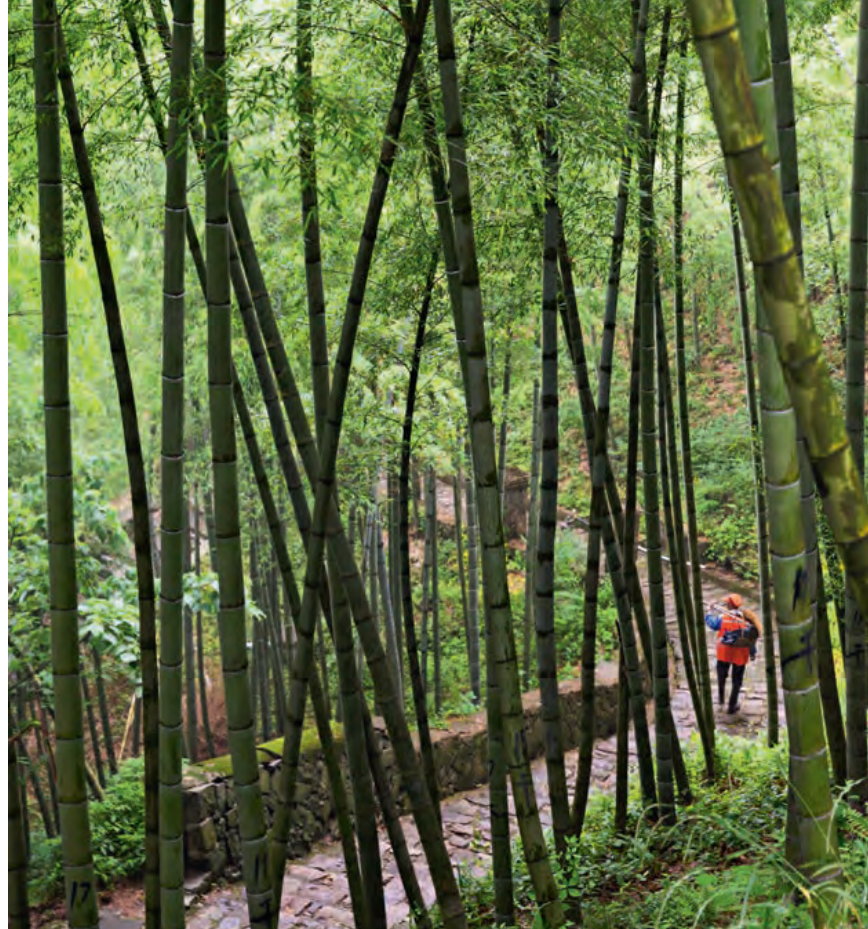
“The buildings around the Moganshan area were largely derelict and abandoned; it did really feel like [the missionaries] had just left,” Kitto said. “My mates and I used to peek inside and explore. You had to root around – you’d be wandering around the mountain and suddenly find a hole in the ground, and it’d be a swimming pool. Some of them were half natural; the locals developed rock pools and plumbed them. It was magical.”

For the domestic tourists riding coaches along the rally course-style roads up the mountain, a draw equally popular is the nearby sparsely decorated, gnarly walled stone house presented as “the temporary lodging of Chairman Mao”.

Following the Japanese invasion of the 1930s and the formation of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, after which the Chinese communists turfed the foreigners out of Moganshan, Mao Zedong reportedly visited the area.

TOP TO BOTTOM:
MOGANSHAN HAS
HIKING TRAILS
APLENTY; A
STRUCTURE BUILT IN
THE EARLY 20TH
CENTURY LIES
DERELICT

上至下：莫干山附近滿佈
不少叢林遠足徑；一幢建
於20世紀初期的建築物現
在只剩下頹垣敗瓦





後，便發現了更多昔日外國傳教士的歷史遺跡：一堵單獨的磚牆及其滿是歲月痕跡的舊窗框，已被旁邊長出的竹子弄得甚為破落。高處的舊房子則保存得較為完整。

光滑的石梯受盡風吹雨打，在草叢之間伸延，在梯級上下行走時，經常要用腳撥開雜草。我在春季來訪，那些既具氣派又樸實的別墅都處於沉睡狀態，它們不是已被荒廢，就是重門深鎖，到了較溫暖的月份才會甦醒過來。另外也有些改建成小型酒店，有些看來無生氣，偶爾只有吹著口哨的園丁緩慢地除草，免卻雜草叢生。

「我20年前首次踏足莫干山時，那裡就如一座死城。」英國人Mark Kitto曾任雜誌出版人，在推動莫干山發展上貢獻良多。在我起程出發之前，遠在英國的他就跟我進行了視像對話。Kitto於1990年代後期首訪莫干山，其後在2005年至2013年居於當地，在蔭山街經營咖啡店Moganshan Lodge；蔭山街還有幾家素樸的餐廳，組成了莫干山的「市中心」。

Kitto於2009年出版著作《China Cuckoo》，談及在莫干山的早期體驗。曾經有好一段時間，他被視為當地的宣傳大使，或叫作「老外宣傳大使」。我向當地人問路的時候，他們仍會將Moganshan Lodge稱為「馬克咖啡

廳」，而「馬克」就是Mark的中文譯音。咖啡廳的氣氛至今依然親切友善，木材裝潢瀟灑著英式鄉村酒吧的悠閒情懷。

從2005年開始，Kitto成為上海外國人社群的一分子，更介紹不少外國人前往莫干山，當時他與Horsfield在山區一留就是好幾天，在竹林裡尋幽探秘。到了2007年，Horsfield發現了梅藤更古堡的遺址，建造裸心堡的意念就此萌生。

「莫干山一帶的建築物，大多日久失修或遭受荒廢，彷彿停留在傳教士剛剛離開的時空。」Kitto說。「我跟朋友以前會好奇地張望，到處探索一番。仔細觀察是必要的——遊走山間的時候，你可能會突然發現一個大地坑，那很可能是一個游泳池。它們有些呈天然狀態，是本地人從岩石開鑿出來的，十分不可思議。」

當我穿越樹林，前往Moganshan Lodge的時候，果然給我發現一個明顯是泳池的龐大地坑，立即在腦海裡的旅遊清單劃上大大的剔號。地坑裡滿是泥濘，其實算不上是不可思議，但在僻靜的森林中央，這始終是不可多得的奇妙發現。其後我來到水源充沛的劍池，幽美的小橋附近，我還看到一個天然岩池。

不少內地旅客都乘坐旅遊巴士，沿著蜿蜒彎曲的山路緩緩而上。對他們來說，「毛主席下榻處」的吸引力絕不遜於附近的劍池，石屋外牆質樸粗糙，室內陳設簡單。這裡經歷過1930年代日本侵華，而在1949年中華人民共和國成立後，據說毛澤東也曾到訪此地。

雖然一些當地人說，毛澤東在莫干山行色匆匆，整段行程只有數個小時，但是這位歷史名人的確至少來過一次。「我記得，小時候曾經見過他來開會。」現年76歲的退休稻農王福弟（音譯）說，她鑲了一隻金牙，長著一頭鬢曲白髮。我在莫干山主峰以南的庾村碰見她，這裡開設了一間有趣的單車博物館，還有一些新穎的咖啡室。「那時候，公安成行成列地駐守在路邊。」她眯起雙眼，專注回憶毛澤東到訪的往事。

回到山上的Moganshan Lodge，53歲的經理老王，細想他過去十年見證的轉變。除了文革其中五年被派往偏遠農村，度過艱苦的童年生活之外，他一直以莫干山為家。「這裡每一個人，無論是我還是女服務員們，都非常熱愛莫干山，不會離開。」他笑言。



LEFT: A HIKER TAKING A BREAK AT A PAVILION

左圖：遠足客於莫干山森林裡的亭台觀賞景色

STAYING NAKED 裸心住宿體驗

The *Aspire* team stayed as guests of the eco-friendly Naked Castle and Naked Stables resorts. The former is located just south of the main Moganshan peak area and features rooms ranging from luxury suites and bungalows to themed suites inside the resort's castle. The castle also features a Chinese restaurant, bar, viewing platforms, lounges, library rooms and a museum area. Outside the castle, there is a restaurant, coffee shop, spa, activity centre with a pool and ping pong tables plus a lawn bowling green. The resort organises activities including hiking tours, cycling and yoga sessions.

Naked Stables is located a 15-minute drive away from Naked Castle. The resort has 121 rooms built into the bamboo forest valley it inhabits, ranging from luxury huts to villas with private balconies and Jacuzzis. The resort keeps horses and offers riding plus activities such as cycling, yoga and archery. It has three on-site restaurants and three swimming pools.

《優遊》的採訪團隊這次以客人身分下榻注重環保的裸心堡和裸心谷兩個度假村。前者位處莫干山主峰山頂區南部，擁有格調奢華的套房和小屋，以及置身城堡內的主題套房。城堡內部也設有中菜餐廳、酒吧、觀景台、酒廊、圖書室和博物館；而城堡外亦配備無邊際泳池、餐廳、咖啡室、水療中心、附設泳池和乒乓球桌的活動中心，以及草地滾球場。此外，裸心堡提供豐富活動選擇，如山林徒步遊、越野單車和瑜伽班等。

裸心谷距離裸心堡約15分鐘車程。該度假村座落竹林山谷之中，擁有121間客房，包括豪華小屋，以至設有私人露台和按摩浴缸的樹頂別墅。度假村內養有馬匹，供客人體驗騎馬樂趣，並提供越野單車、瑜伽及射箭等活動。與此同時，裸心谷設有三間餐廳和三個游泳池。nakedretreats.cn; +86 21 3401 2288



Some locals claim that Mao's Moganshan trip was fleeting – just hours long – but there is little debate over the fact that the man responsible for the 1966–1976 Cultural Revolution devastation came here at least once. “I was young but I remember him coming here for a meeting,” says Wang Fudi, a 76-year-old retired rice farmer with a gold tooth and white corkscrew hair. I meet her south of the main Moganshan peak in Yu Village, where a cute bicycle museum and a smattering of new, mildly trendy coffee shops have sprung up. “There were policemen lining the roads,” she adds, bunching her eyelids in concentration as she searches for the memory.

Further up the mountain at Moganshan Lodge, the venue's manager Lao Wang considers the change he's seen over the past decade. Aside from a five-year period during the Cultural Revolution when he was sent away to work on a farm as a child, he has lived here all his life.

“The biggest change happened after Mark opened his café [Moganshan Lodge, which Wang now runs] in 2005,” he continues, sitting on the terrace outside the café, overlooking sweeping green-covered mountains. “When he was here many foreign tourists started to come; before that it was just local villagers plus domestic holidaymakers on organised tours. Mark has made a great contribution to Moganshan.”

Beyond Naked Castle and Naked Stables, its nearby sister venue that opened in 2011, the development of luxury retreats such as Le Passage Mohkan Shan in recent years have once again helped make Moganshan a getaway for the elite. A century ago that meant rich foreign missionaries; now it's local and foreign business types from Hangzhou and Shanghai, bashing bamboo instead of Bibles – or just

soaking in the resorts' infinity pools, cocktail in hand.

Wang rattles through a list of other notable visitors to Moganshan. Chiang Kai-shek, the Chinese Nationalist leader, reportedly took his honeymoon here with his wife, Soong Mei-ling, in 1927. The Shanghai gangster elite was represented by drug lords Zhang Xiaolin and Du Yuesheng – the latter used his opium trade-derived fortune to hole up in a grand villa that now has a beautiful view of Naked Castle.

Kitto is critical of how the area at the peak of Moganshan has been managed, saying that authorities only allowing short property leases these days has resulted in bad quality accommodation. However, he agrees that resorts such as the Naked places along with less expensive farmhouse-style accommodation, located next to the main peak area, are “fantastic, and they're booming. The new urban class in China wants to get out and go hiking, and they're flocking there.”

I spend my final day in Moganshan trekking downhill from Naked Castle to Yu Village, passing a huge, dramatically collapsed silver mine Wang Fudi's husband used to work in. Having closed nearly a decade ago, the dormitories near the mine lie eerily empty of life, despite hand-scrawled slogans such as “Please make effort to keep this room tidy!” still visible on the walls. In defiance of such instruction, bullet-shaped thermos flasks lie strewn on the ground, as if the place was deserted in a rush.

Sights like this make it clear that although the missionaries are long gone, there's more to discover around Moganshan than the depths of a cocktail glass. ✨



TOP TO BOTTOM:
A PLAQUE
COMMEMORATING
MAO ZEDONG'S
ONE-TIME LODGING;
NAKED STABLES HAS
121 ROOMS BUILT INTO
A BAMBOO FOREST
VALLEY

左圖及下圖：顯示毛澤東曾經到訪過莫干山的一面紀念牌；裸心谷於竹林山谷裡建有121間客房

「從馬克於2005年開設咖啡廳（即現時由老王經營的Moganshan Lodge）以來，最大的轉變就是，當他在這裡的時候，不少外國旅客開始慕名而至。以前這裡只有本地村民出沒，以及參加旅行團的內地觀光客。馬克對莫干山真是貢獻良多！」老王坐在咖啡廳外的露台，邊說邊眺望著翠綠山巒。

位於裸心堡附近的姊妹物業裸心谷，在2011年開幕，而除了裸心品牌物業之外，區內近年也開設了其他奢華酒店，如莫干山里法國山居，令莫干山再次成為社會精英的避世勝地。一個世紀前的上流精英，是指富裕的外國傳教士；但如今杭州和上海的國內外商界精英，亦紛紛前來探索其竹林之美，又或者手執一杯雞尾酒，在度假村內的無邊際泳池寫意休憩——昔日傳教士鑽研聖經的情景，今天已成絕響。

老王一口氣說出莫干山的知名訪客。除了毛澤東以外，國民黨領袖蔣介石也曾到訪此地，據說他在國民黨外交部長黃郛的邀請下，於1927年與妻子宋美齡前來度蜜月。至於上海黑道的代表人物，則有大毒梟張嘯林和杜月笙。相傳前者曾經拿妾銀虎，後者則用販賣鴉片所得的錢財興建豪華別墅，該別墅坐擁裸心堡的壯麗美景。

Kitto認為，裸心等品牌旗下的度假酒店，以及毗鄰主峰山頂區且價格合理的農舍式旅館，皆達到「無與倫比」的水平。「它們發展得欣欣向榮。中國的新興都市階層，都希望暫離城市，故此蜂擁而至，前來遠足散心。」

在莫干山的最後一天，我由裸心堡沿著山坡下行至庾村，途中經過一個龐大的銀礦遺址，破敗不堪。銀礦在大約十年前關閉，附近的礦工宿舍空空如也，留下的只有「保持整潔」等手繪標語，地上佈滿長形保溫水壺，彷彿無視牆上標語，整個地方看似被倉促遺棄。

眼前一片景象，證明了雖然傳教士已經成為歷史，莫干山卻還是有更多有趣的事物可以發掘，並非只有酒店裡的高級雞尾酒。

Hong Kong Airlines flies to Hangzhou daily. For more information, visit hongkongairlines.com

香港航空每日均設有航班往來香港與杭州。查閱更多訊息，請瀏覽hongkongairlines.com