



# 摩洛哥的山羊会上树

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摩洛哥如同一个天方夜谭的国度：在公路上会突然看见满树的山羊；古城内人人捧着面包，朝同一目的地进发；夜市里，吃饭如同上了一堂解剖课……漫游在这古老的国家，眼睛和心灵一次又一次的被艳丽的阿拉伯文化所冲击。皮革、神灯、香料、魔毡，还有黑纱背后那双深邃的大眼睛，使人念念不忘。

在摩洛哥南部一望无际的撒哈拉大沙漠中，有一座叫亚特拉斯的山，山的周围是无边无际的沙漠。这里气候炎热干燥，很难找到一块绿洲。

不远处，一群山羊在树下吃草，一派原始乡郊气息……咦？我眼没花吧？怎么羊会爬树的！原来这些爬树的山羊，只生长在摩洛哥的西南



在树上山羊纵跳如履平地。  
Goats walk on trees as if it were a level ground.



“上来吧，哥们！” Come up, brothers!

部，它们只对坚果树有兴趣。说到底，离不开“寻食”两个字。摩洛哥伊撒维拉至阿卡迪尔之间有数百万棵坚果树。当地居民早在几百年前已经发现，用坚果提炼而成的油，既有独特的果仁香气，又可制作美食；而搽在皮肤上，还有抗衰老和去皱纹之神奇效用。可惜，果实的外皮甚为坚韧，靠人手很难摘除。直到有一天，牧羊人发现，山羊竟然会爬树吃坚果，而且它们的消化系统，根本就是天然的“去壳机”！人与羊从此一拍即合！羊上树吃掉果实，排出难以消化的果仁硬壳，人们收集粪便，清洗干净，砸开硬壳，取出小小的果仁拿去榨油提炼。就这样，人和羊各取所需，数百年来，一直如此合作。当地人更将坚果拿来制作各式商品出售，例如面包酱、淋浴露、洗发液、润肤霜和面膜等等。就在往伊撒维的路上，便有多间提炼坚果油的合作社，让游客选购，同时

还可见到农妇用石头砸开硬壳的工作情形。

我参观了规模较大的一家，负责人告诉我，现在已经很少有人依赖山羊，等待它们消化实在太费时间，都改用机器了。也难怪，全球对坚果油的需求，正逐渐增加。科学家说，坚果油含丰富的不饱和脂肪酸，维生素E也比橄榄油多两倍，换句话说，就是更健康。打开盖子，我已闻到果仁的清香，油色流丽金黄，质地醇厚，试一小口，那胜似花生又似榛子的甜香，渐渐飘近，在口腔蔓延、扩散，口感浓郁醇美，却不霸道，末尾还带泥土气息，层次丰富多变。

地处摩洛哥南部的撒哈拉大沙漠，气候炎热干燥、寸草难长；然而，这里却分散着一些耐旱耐高温、适于南部撒哈拉大沙漠气候的灌木林。山羊在缺少水源、缺少草地的条件下，为求生存，便使自己逐渐具备了上树

的本领，最终它们能够攀登、跳跃，还能站立在树干或树枝上。前不久，摩洛哥的山羊上树现象还被有关部门评为“全球自然七大奇观”之一呢。

摩洛哥朋友晓钦穆汗先生陪我来到亚特拉斯山一带的绿洲，他说山羊上树的情景只有在摩洛哥才能经常看到。实际上，山羊上树不仅带给当地丰富的旅游资源，而且这些上树山羊的粪便也是一笔财富。山羊上树听起来有些荒谬，但摩洛哥当地农民认为山羊上树确能产生巨大的经济效益。

目前，相应的团体组织在坚果树主要生长区域建立生物圈加以保护，同时，让世界范围知晓坚果油的作用，让人们知道坚果油是一种口味独特的食品，并具有抗衰老作用。但是人们却很少知道这种珍贵的用于食品烹饪和美容的坚果油，竟是通过山羊吞食后排便收集的。□

# Goats Climb Trees in Morocco

By Sheng Wen

Morocco is a nation directly out of “Arabian Nights”: you spot goats in trees when you travel in southern provinces of the desert country such as Agadir and Essaouira; in an ancient city, you see people all march in one direction, holding bread in their hands; if you dine at a restaurant at a night market, you may find the meal resembles a lecture on anatomy. First-time visitors would be charmed by lanterns, spices, rugs, and invisible eyes behind veils. The first time I saw a group of goats climb trees, I couldn’t believe my eyes. How could goats make their way onto trees there? It turns out that goats in this part of the desert country climb Argan trees in search of food, which is otherwise sparse.

The food the goats in this part of Morocco hunt in Argan trees is Argan seeds. Argan trees grow only in this part of the world and nowhere else. Hundreds of years ago, the kernel oil from Argan seeds was discovered for industrial uses. The oil extracted from Argan seeds is

now highly used for nutritional and esthetic purposes as well as for some other medical treatments.

Local shepherds follow their herds of goats to gather seeds. Goats climb trees and eat the seeds before they excrete the kernels they fail to digest.

For hundreds of years, goats and people worked together this way perfectly. On my way to Agadir, I saw many cooperatives where nut oil was extracted and finished oil products were made and sold to tourists. I saw some women cracking the kernels open.

While visiting a big oil cooperative, I learned that nowadays local people rarely depend upon goats to do the digestion work. Machines are used to reap Argan seeds and get kernels. I was invited to try some Argan oil products. They smelt great and they tasted great.

Sahara Desert is known for a dry climate where it rarely rains and it is extremely hot. To survive and flourish, goats there have learned to make their

way up shrubs and trees sometimes up to 30 feet in height. These hoofed creatures have learned to navigate from one shrub to another. And they have learned to climb trees. Goats climbing trees has been selected the seventh incredible world wonder recently. A friend in Morocco told me that goats on trees are a sight that attracts tourists from all over the world.

However, Argan trees are disappearing from Morocco due to excessive grazing of goats and excessive harvesting of Argan trees. Now many people and organizations have banded together to try to save Argan trees. The endangered species is now under protection of UNESCO. An area of about 2.5 million hectares where the trees grow has been declared a biosphere preserve. The local government has issued rules forbidding shepherds to get goats to climb Argan trees in order to allow the seeds to ripen and fall off naturally. □



这可不是栖鸟，而是山羊上树觅食。  
These are not birds perching in the tree. They are goats.



山羊吃的坚果  
Argan seeds: a favorite food for goats in Morocco



名副其实的“奇观”  
A really amazing sight



广

角

VISTA