



# A Glimpse of Ghana

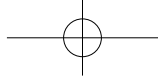
## 加纳掠影

by Karen Zhang  
翻译: 芥子

西非国家加纳对于很多人来说是一个陌生的国度。这个位于几内亚湾北岸的国家由于盛产可可而赢得“可可之乡”的美誉，还因盛产黄金而被誉为“黄金海岸”。然而从十五世纪开始，这片土地被多个国家相继入侵，直到1957年才宣布独立。

加纳的现状如何？我们请来亲自到访过当地的颂夷MM（Karen曾经在*CE:Teens*担任过多年编辑哦）给我们讲讲她在加纳的见闻和感想。





There're no beautiful roadside **lawns**<sup>[草坪]</sup>, but torn plastic bags **strewn**<sup>[撒满]</sup> on the dusty ground. There're no skyscrapers, but **clusters**<sup>[一群]</sup> of green, red and yellow tin-roofed cottages adding color to the landscape (green, red and yellow are the three main colors of the competing phone companies that use the buildings as ads). There're no empty sidewalks, but pathways filled with endless streams of people **crisscrossing**<sup>[交叉往来]</sup> one another. Many of the people wear **sandals**<sup>[凉鞋]</sup>; the women wear wrap skirts with babies tied to their backs and goods balanced on their heads. The **lush**<sup>[葱翠的]</sup> palm trees and the coconut **stands**<sup>[货摊]</sup> remind visitors this is a tropical country—to be specific, Ghana in West Africa.

I wasn't traveling alone. My **companion**<sup>[同伴]</sup> was an American veteran who served in the U.S. Peace Corps as the first volunteer group in Ghana 50 years ago. It was my first time to step on the soil of Africa. **Cautious**<sup>[谨慎的]</sup> and curious, I followed my companion to sightsee in the capital, Accra, and also Elmina, a coastal town about 160 km westward from Accra.

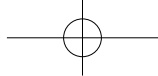
We were lucky with the weather during our stay. Mild **breezes**<sup>[微风]</sup> and **moderate**<sup>[适中的]</sup> temperatures **accompanied**<sup>[陪伴]</sup> us in late August. The local people said the hottest months were from October on. The less rainfall during this time can make the heat unbearable, but that doesn't scare the youth who practice street soccer with passion. I sometimes saw young men kicking and chasing a football by the uneven roadside. The soil in Ghana is



路边没有漂亮的草坪，只有破烂的胶袋散落在烟尘滚滚的地面；这里没有摩天大楼，只有一排排小屋上的红黄绿色铁皮屋顶点缀着风景（为了抢生意，电话公司用它们的主色调——红、黄、绿在建筑物上做广告）；这里没有空荡荡的人行道，小路上只有潮水般交织的人流。很多人穿着凉鞋；女人们穿着裹裙，背上绑着小孩，头上顶着货物。繁茂的棕榈树和椰子摊档提醒游客这是一个热带国家——确切地说，加纳位于西非。

我并非独自一人到此旅行，与我同行的是一位美国退伍军人。五十年前，他随美国和平队到加纳工作，那是第一个前往加纳的志愿团体。这是我第一次踏足非洲的土地。怀着紧张而又好奇的心情，我跟同伴游览了首都阿克拉，以及位于阿克拉以西约160公里的海滨城市埃尔米纳。

我们很幸运，逗留期间的天气很不错。八月下旬，陪伴我们的是习习的和风和宜人的气温。当地人说最热的月份从十月开始。这段期间由于少雨，天气热得让人受不了，但那阻止不了年轻人玩街头足球的热情。我时常会看见年轻人在不平整的路边踢足球。加纳是典型的红土地，泥土中富



**starkly**<sup>[明显地]</sup> red, rich in iron and **aluminum**<sup>[铝]</sup>. People seemed to be used to walking on the red soil. The kids even ran **barefoot**<sup>[赤脚的]</sup>.

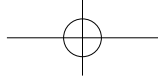
Accra's traffic is no different from that of many other national capitals. It's especially busy because so many poor, **rural**<sup>[乡下的]</sup> people come to Accra to make a living. As part of the everyday traffic jam, the impatient **jaywalkers**<sup>[乱穿马路的人]</sup> and Ghanaian drivers **vie**<sup>[竞争]</sup> for space on the muddy, unsurfaced roads. The **vendors**<sup>[小贩]</sup> who carry **goodies**<sup>[糖果]</sup> on their heads and cellphone cards, maps and **souvenirs**<sup>[纪念品]</sup> in their hands swim like little fish between narrow car spaces, trying to **convince**<sup>[说服]</sup> drivers and passengers to buy what they sell.

Seeing that I look like an Asian, some vendors said "Nihao" to me with a big smile. Nihao is probably the most **rewarding**<sup>[有益的]</sup> ice-breaker for African traders these days. In a **handicraft**<sup>[手工艺品]</sup> market in Accra, I **overheard**<sup>[无意中听到]</sup> Ghanaians speaking **fluent**<sup>[流利的]</sup> Chinese on the phone. Having been introduced to several **infrastructure**<sup>[基础设施]</sup> projects in Ghana that were funded and built by the Chinese (including the grand National Theatre in Accra), I couldn't believe how much money China has invested in this tiny African country. No wonder Chinese restaurants have **mushroomed**<sup>[迅速增加]</sup> in Accra as well. Can you

含铁和铝。人们似乎已经习惯了在红色的泥土上行走，小孩子甚至会赤脚跑步。

阿克拉的交通状况和许多其他国家的首都相差无几。由于有很多穷人从乡下来到阿克拉谋生，交通尤为繁忙。除了每天都会塞车，心急的路人还乱穿马路，和加纳司机在坑坑洼洼的泥路上争抢位置。小贩们头顶着糖果，手上拿着电话卡、地图和纪念品，像鱼儿般在车与车之间狭窄的空隙中游走，怂恿司机和乘客购买他们的东西。

一些小贩看我像是亚洲人，便笑着对我说“你好”。“你好”也许是现在非洲商人打开话题最有用的一招。在阿克拉的一个手工艺品市集，我听见加纳人用流利的中文讲电话。参观过几个由中国资助并建造的基础设施项目（包括宏伟的阿克拉国家剧院）后，我真的无法想象中国在这个非洲小国投了多少钱。怪不得中餐馆在阿克拉如雨后春笋般涌现。你能想象一家中餐馆里为你服务的全是黑皮

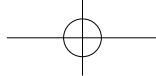


imagine being served by all dark-skinned African people in a Chinese restaurant? That was what I **encountered**<sup>[遇到]</sup> in Accra. Perhaps the chef was the only Chinese staff there.

Ghanaians are known for being **laid back**<sup>[悠闲的]</sup>. That's probably why the tourist attractions in the country aren't advertised very much. We visited Elmina Castle, which is one of the oldest castles in West Africa, with a history of about five hundred years. Constructed by Portuguese **colonists**<sup>[殖民者]</sup> and later **occupied**<sup>[占领]</sup> by the Dutch and the British, the Castle was used as a slave prison during colonial times. Slave trading was a big business in Ghana. The slaves that were about to be sent to the New World were all kept in the dark cells inside the Castle. From the only window of one cell, I saw the **roaring**<sup>[咆哮的]</sup> waves in the Gulf of Guinea and the **hustling and bustling**<sup>[熙熙攘攘]</sup> fishing villages by the seashore. The sky was as gray as my mood. My heart **wrenched**<sup>[绞痛]</sup>. What have the colonists left for their former settlements? Life in Ghana is still tough in many ways, despite the fact the country is developing rapidly.

肤的非洲人吗？我在阿克拉就遇到这种情况，也许那家店里只有厨师是中国人呢。

加纳人是出了名的闲散。也许正因为如此，国内的旅游热点没有多少广告。我们参观了埃尔米纳堡。那是西非最古老的城堡之一，约有五百年历史。城堡由葡萄牙殖民者建造，后来相继被荷兰人和英国人占领，在殖民时代被用来囚禁奴隶。贩卖奴隶在当时的加纳是一桩大生意。将要被送往新大陆的奴隶都被关在城堡黑暗的牢房里。透过一间牢房唯一的窗户，我看到了波涛汹涌的几内亚湾，以及岸边熙熙攘攘的渔村。天色和我的心情一样灰暗。我心如刀绞。殖民者给过去的殖民地留下了什么？虽然这个国家在迅速发展，但在很多方面，加纳人的生活依旧艰苦。



Likewise, the difference between the rich and the poor is huge. On one hand, there's the Accra Mall, where you'll find international brands like Puma, Apple Inc., and Sony; where **expats**<sup>[移居国外者]</sup> find their necessary goods, from British tea to Australian cheese to South African wine; where young Ghanaians hang out at the Wi-Fi hotspot, a game room or a movie theatre. On the other hand, a majority of Ghanaians live in **suburban**<sup>[偏远的]</sup> or rural areas where **concrete**<sup>[水泥的]</sup> roads don't exist. The **residences**<sup>[住处]</sup> look poorly-built. Some houses are made of clay or **thatch**<sup>[茅草]</sup>. Some are even roofless. Open **sewers**<sup>[排水沟]</sup> run through narrow alleys between houses. Since Ghanaians usually have many **siblings**<sup>[兄弟姐妹]</sup>, an only child like me is a rare animal.

Ghana doesn't have the wild animals that a visitor on a **safari**<sup>[狩猎远征]</sup> can see in East African countries, but it has many of the same problems that other African countries face. Centuries ago, colonists **trampled**<sup>[蹂躏]</sup> the **territory**<sup>[领土]</sup> that became Ghana, bringing Western **influences**<sup>[影响]</sup> to Ghanaian life. Today's globalization has brought a new round of economic competition. This time, however, it's not only the West that takes part in the game; it's joined by that economic **powerhouse**<sup>[发电站]</sup>, China.

同样，加纳的贫富悬殊相当严重。一方面，当地有阿克拉广场——你可以在那里找到彪马、苹果和索尼等国际品牌；外国人可以找到他们的必需品，从英国茶到澳洲奶酪再到南非红酒，应有尽有；加纳的年轻人会到无线网络热点、游戏室或电影院玩乐。另一方面，很多加纳人还住在郊区或农村。那些地方甚至没有水泥路。住所看起来相当简陋，一些房子是用粘土或茅草盖成的，有些甚至没有屋顶。没有遮盖的污水管贯穿房屋之间狭窄的小径。加纳人一般有很多兄弟姐妹，像我这样的独生子简直是稀有动物。

你无法在加纳看到在东非国家进行狩猎旅行时看到的野生动物，但它同样面临着其他非洲国家遇到的很多问题。几个世纪前，殖民者蹂躏了后来成为加纳的这片土地，将西方的影响带入加纳人的生活。今天的全球化又给当地带来了新一轮的经济竞赛——不过这次参加游戏的不止西方，中国这个经济龙头也投身其中。📺



## 加纳简史

古加纳王国建于公元3至4世纪，10至11世纪时达到鼎盛时期。从1471年起，葡萄牙、荷兰、法国和英国的殖民者相继入侵加纳，他们不仅劫掠加纳的黄金、象牙，还把加纳作为贩卖黑奴的据点。1897年，英国取代其他国家，成为加纳的主宰，称加纳为“黄金海岸”。1957年3月6日，黄金海岸宣布独立，改国名为加纳。1960年7月1日，加纳共和国成立，仍留在英联邦内。