

Fun and Games with the Finns 惊奇一夏，芬兰好好玩

When we think of **Finnish** contributions to the world, **communications** giant [Nokia](#) would certainly rank highly. However, on a trip to [Finland](#), you might be surprised to **stumble across** people not talking into their cellphones, but, rather, **hurling** them **javelin**-style as far as they can. Why? Because they are taking part in the Finnish summer games – Finland's **wacky** answer to the Olympics.

一想到芬兰对世界的贡献，通讯巨擘 Nokia 绝对名列前茅。但是，走一趟芬兰，你可能会觉得讶异，遇到的人们竟不是对着手机讲话，反而像掷标枪似地尽全力将手机扔往远处。为什么？因为他们正在参加芬兰的夏日竞赛——芬兰的搞怪版奥运。

Aside from [cellphone throwing](#), wife carrying has emerged as one of the most popular of fifty or so **championships** that make up the summer games. The rules are **straightforward**: competitors carry their wives on their backs and make it as fast as they can over an **obstacle course**. Then woman must weigh at least 49 kg and, for the winner, will be worth her weight in beer – the unusual but very welcome prize! Organizers **claim** this **absurd** event has historical roots. In the nineteenth century, the **robber** Ronkainan tested new gang members by making them carry a heavy **load** over a similar course. Then, there is an older tribal practice of wife stealing. Perhaps due to the latter, competitors needn't enter with their own wives!

夏日竞赛由 50 种左右的锦标赛组成，除了扔手机之外，背老婆活动也脱颖而出，成为最受欢迎的项目之一。规则很简单，参赛者要背着他们的老婆全速冲过障碍跑道。女方至少要有 49 公斤重，因为获胜者可以得到与太太体重等量的啤酒——这样的奖品虽然不寻常，但却极受欢迎呢！主办单位表示，这项愚蠢可笑的活动是有历史渊源的。19 世纪时，有个名叫 Ronkainan 的强盗，要帮派的新进成员身荷重物跑过类似的障碍路径，藉此测试他们。还有一个年代更久远的部落习俗则是抢老婆。或许是因为后面抢老婆这点，参赛者也不一定要背自己的老婆来参加比赛呢！

If you **aspire to rock stardom** rather than **following in the footsteps** of a robber, the [Air Guitar](#) Championships may be for you. As the name suggests, actual guitars play no role in the competition, with **entrants** merely pretending to play **legendary** electric guitar solos. **Contestants** are judged on how **realistic** their performance is as well as **stage presence**, and recent **champs** have come from as far away as the U.S. and Japan.

如果你向往当摇滚明星，而非追随强盗的脚步，那空气吉他锦标赛可能更吸引你。从名称可猜知，比赛中是没有真的吉他的，参赛者只是装出一副表演著名电吉他独奏的模样。评分标准是参赛者演出时的拟真度及台风。最近的优胜者有些甚至从美国及日本远道而来。

Perhaps it's because of their long, **harsh** winter that the **eccentric** Finns have found such a **unique** way of **cutting loose** when summer finally arrives. But, whatever the reason, the **novel** games have **boosted** tourism, attracting thousands of foreign visitors and participants annually, and **made their way** into the hearts of fun-lovers worldwide.

或许是因为他们的冬天严峻漫长，所以古怪的芬兰人会想到以这样独特的方式，在终于等到夏天时解

放一下。但是，无论原因为何，这些新奇的比赛都促进了观光业的发展，每年吸引大批外国旅客及参赛者前来，也令全世界爱找乐子的人深深着迷。

—by Claire Tyrrel

Vocabulary

stumble across: 无意中发现; 偶然发现 to find someone or something, usually by accident

straightforward [ˌstret `fɔrwəd] adj. 简单的; 易懂的

obstacle [`əbstək!] n. 障碍 (物)

claim [kleɪm] v. 自称, 声称

absurd[əb `sɜ:d] adj. 荒谬的; 可笑的

aspire [ə `spaɪr] v. 向往; 怀有大志[to/after][+to-v]

follow in someone's footsteps 效仿;步...后尘

legendary [`lədʒənd, ɛrɪ] adj. 传说的; 传奇的

realistic [rɪə `lɪstɪk] adj. 逼真的

harsh [hɑ:ʃ] adj. 严酷的, 恶劣的

eccentric [ɪk `sentrɪk] adj. (人、行为等) 古怪的

unique [ju `nik] adj. 独一无二的; 独特的

novel [`nɒv!] adj. 新的; 新颖的; 新奇的

boost [bust] v. 推动; 促进

More Information

Finnish [`fɪnɪʃ] adj. 芬兰 (人) 的

communication [kə,mjʊnə `keɪʃən] n. 通讯

hurl [hɜ:l] v. 猛力投掷

javelin [`dʒævlɪn] n. (运动所用的) 标枪

wacky [`wæki] adj. 【非正式】 疯疯癫癫的; 古怪的

championship [`tʃæmpiən,ʃɪp] n. 锦标赛

course [kɔ:s] n. (竞赛的) 跑道; 路线

robber [`rɒbə] n. 抢劫者, 强盗

stardom [`stɑ:dəm] n. 明星的地位

entrant [`entrənt] n. 参加比赛者

contestant [kən `testənt] n. 参加竞赛者, 角逐者

stage presence: 舞台表现 a performance skill, the ability to command the attention of the audience, through a quality performance

champ [tʃæmp] n. 【口】 冠军, 优胜者

cut loose: 【口】 (行动、说话等)自由, 无约束 to behave in a way that is free and relaxed, especially when you are enjoying yourself

make one's way into: 打进; 进入 go in a particular direction or to a particular destination

load [lod] n. (车辆、人等的) 负载物