

## No Spaceship Required: Visit Earth's Pandora 人间潘多拉——张家界

[The Lord of the Rings](#) trilogy brought the breathtaking natural landscapes of New Zealand to the attention of the world, which increased tourism to the **oceanic** country. A more recent blockbuster, [Avatar](#), is having a similar effect on the stunning [Wulingyuan](#) region near [Zhangjiajie](#), China. **In the wake of** rumors that a Hollywood photographer visited the mountain paradise in 2008, Zhangjiajie authorities are claiming the shots he took **subsequently** became the **inspiration** for the “floating mountains” of mythical **Pandora**.

《魔戒》三部曲使纽西兰令人叹为观止的自然景观受到全球瞩目，大大振兴了这个海岛国家的旅游业。而另一部近期的巨作《阿凡达》也产生类似效应，让靠近中国张家界美不胜收的武陵源区迅速窜红。据谣传，有好莱坞摄影师在 2008 年造访这座山岳天堂，而在那之后，张家界地方政府宣称，该摄影师拍的风景照随后便成了神话般的潘多拉星球上一座座「悬浮山」的灵感来源。

Indeed, [James Cameron's Na'vi](#) homeland bears similarities to the Wulingyuan Scenic Area. However, putting that aside, this [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) is an area of outstanding beauty **in its own right**. Characterized by its fascinating rock **formations**, masses of **lush vegetation**, **abundance** of wildlife, hidden valleys, and secret waterfalls, a place like this makes you realize that you don't need **state-of-the-art** animation, 3-D glasses, and a movie theater to find beauty in the world. **At once** majestic and delicate, **dramatic** and **tranquil**, this national park is deservedly one of the best scenic spots in China.

詹姆斯·柯麦隆的纳美家园确实和武陵源风景区有相似之处，不过撇开这不谈，这联合国教科文组织的世界文化遗产本身就是个绝美的胜地。拥有迷人的岩石结构、大片的茂盛植被、丰富多样的野生动物种，还有隐蔽的山谷及瀑布，这样子的地方让你领会到，不需要先进技术的动画、3-D 眼镜和电影院，你一样能探索世界之美。这座国家公园既壮观雄伟又细致娇美，同时变化万千又宁静平和，理所当然地成为中国最佳景点之一。

The **tremendous** success of Avatar has understandably **prodded** Zhangjiajie tourism officials, who hope to **capitalize** on public interest in the region, into action. One mountain in particular, the towering column-shaped [Qiankunzhu](#), has drawn so many comparisons to Pandora's [Hallelujah Mountain](#) that it has taken its name. This, however, is to the **dismay** of some people who see this as an **unpatriotic** act which **caters** to Hollywood. Furthermore, tour guides have been told to **brush up on** their knowledge of *Avatar* so that they can take tourists on magical Pandora tours. The local government website **proclaims**, “Pandora is far, but Zhangjiajie is near.” Whether the **motive** for visiting, you'll never forget a trip to this real-life wonderland.

可以理解地，《阿凡达》的极大成功促使张家界的旅游局官员采取行动，希望好好利用大众对该区的兴趣推动观光。其中有一座柱形高耸的山名为乾坤柱，形状和潘多拉星球上的圣山格外相像，甚至被改名为「哈雷路亚山」（中国将圣山译为哈雷路亚山）。然而，此举令某些人感到灰心丧气，认为这是不爱国、迎合好莱坞的行为。此外，导游们还被要求温习《阿凡达》的知识，如此一来才能带旅客踏上奇幻的潘多拉之旅。当地政府的网站对外宣称：「潘多拉星球很遥远，但张家界近在咫尺。」不论拜访的动机为何，一趟到真实世界之仙境的旅程绝对令人难忘。

-by Alice Davis

## Vocabulary

**in the wake of** 继...之后

**subsequently** [ˌsʌbsɪˌkwɛntɪ] adv. 随后，接着

**in one's own right:** 凭借自身力量 by reason of one's own ability or ownership etc

**formation** [fɔːrˈmeɪʃən] n. 形成，构成

**lush** [lʌʃ] adj. 苍翠繁茂的

**abundance** [əˈbʌndəns] n. 充裕，丰富

**tranquil** [ˈtræŋkwɪl] adj. 平静的；安静的

**tremendous** [trɪˈmɛndəs] adj. 巨大的，极大的

**prod** [prɒd] v. 促使；刺激

**dismay** [dɪzˈmeɪ] n. 惊慌，沮丧

**motive** [ˈmɒtɪv] n. 动机；主旨；目的

## More Information

**trilogy** [ˈtrɪlədʒɪ] n. (戏剧、图书、电影等的) 三部曲

**oceanic** [ˌoʊɪˈænɪk] adj. 海洋的

**avatar** [ˌævəˈtɑːr] n. 【印神】下凡化作人形；【计算机】(术语)指在虚拟现实互动地呈现一个人

**inspiration** [ˌɪnspəˈreɪʃən] n. 灵感

**Pandora** [pænˈdɒrə] n. 【希神】潘多拉(第一个来到人间的女人)

**vegetation** [ˌvɛdʒəˈteɪʃən] n. (尤指某一地区的) 植物，草木(总称)

**state-of-the-art** [ˈstetəvɔːdiˈɑːrt] adj. (科技、机电等产品) 最先进的，最高级的

**at once:** 同时 all at one time; simultaneously

**dramatic** [drəˈmætɪk] adj. 给人深刻印象的；突然的；惊人的

**unpatriotic** [ˌʌnpətɪˈɔːtɪk] adj. 不爱国的，无爱国心的

**brush up on something:** 重温，重新练习(已荒疏的技巧) to improve one's knowledge of something or one's ability to do something

**cater** [ˈketə] v. 迎合，投合[ (+for/to) ]

**proclaim** [prəˈkleɪm] v. 宣称，声明

**capitalize** [ˈkæpətʃəˌaɪz] **on** 利用...