

An old-fashioned game of chance

古老的运气游戏

您是否想要像18世纪的英国贵族那样在游戏桌上尽享时光？如今，在伦敦的某些最高级的私人俱乐部里，您也可以体会到那样的生活了。



From the first official account of gambling recorded in China nearly 4,000 years ago it's been a long and complicated evolutionary journey to the glitz of the modern casino. Along the way the British have played their part, notably in the 18th century with what was originally known as 'the gentleman's club' – discreet, high class gaming establishments for men of substance.

The original London gentlemen's clubs such as White's and Boodles were very aristocratic and provided a private environment for gambling, which at the time was illegal outside 'members only' establishments. These clubs prided themselves on being bastions of discretion; what went on within their walls stayed within their walls.

A small but exclusive group of the original gentlemen's clubs survives today, mostly in the St James's area, still known as clubland, which lies at the heart of that part of London that, with its shops, restaurants, hotels and other amenities, has become the natural meeting place (and increasingly the home) of the world's richest people. These clubs are, as they always have been, extravagant and exclusive, but while they still attract the European aristocracy, their tables are now shared by an international elite, drawn from widely varying cultures and backgrounds to the hushed air of service and discretion that typifies the London private members club. And as gambling has regained popularity, aided by more permissive changes in the law, several new private casinos have opened up, following the traditions of their 18th century pioneers in providing an environment of exclusivity and style for an international clientele seeking a taste of the inner sanctum of London's aristocratic past.

A visit to one of London's elite private members clubs is part of The Aristocrat experience provided by luxury travel company The Great British Experience, which specialises in providing Chinese visitors with an exclusive taste of London. Prices start from £6,000 per person
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历史上最早的关于赌博游戏的官方记录出现在近4000年前的中国，此后，这一游戏经过了漫长和复杂的演变，直到今天发展成为豪华的现代赌场。在这漫长的过程中，英国人扮演着他们的角色，尤其在18世纪，那时的英国赌场最初被称为“绅士俱乐部”——一个供有钱人消遣的私密、高端游戏场所。

最初的伦敦绅士俱乐部（目前比较流行的说法是“私人俱乐部”，因为美国人将绅士俱乐部用来指脱衣舞夜总会），比如White's和Boodles，都是非常贵族化的，提供私人赌博环境，这在当时除了施行“会员制”的场所以外都是违法的。令这些俱乐部引以为傲的是他们严密周全的壁垒；在场所内的事情永远不会被透露到外面去。

到了18世纪和19世纪，为了吸引商务人士或是有特殊爱好的顾客群体，此类俱乐部开始接受更多阶层的成员并增添了像住宿膳食这样的新型服务，即使是这样，对客户隐私的注重和保护仍然一如既往。但在多数情况下，人们对于赌博的兴趣退居第二，或已经不复存在了。

至今，仍有少数高级的原始绅士俱乐部存在，它们大多坐落在圣詹姆斯区，那里仍以俱乐部区而闻名遐迩，它位于伦敦该区的中心地段，那里的商铺、餐厅、酒店和其他场所已经成为世界富豪们经常光顾的聚会地点（也有越来越多的富人住到那里）。这些俱乐部沿袭了以往极其高级奢华的风格，不过，在他们吸引着欧洲贵族的同时，也开始有国际精英参与其中。这些国际精英来自各个不同的文化背景，汇聚在这里，享受伦敦私人俱乐部所提供的具有代表性的安静环境以及周到服务。

在法律许可更加宽容的条件下，赌博游戏又开始流行开来，一些新的私人赌场纷纷开业，他们遵循了18世纪的业界前辈的传统，为客人提供高档的环境，也可以满足国际客户想要体验伦敦旧日贵族风情的内心诉求。

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