

Bhutan – Culture Smart!

The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Karma Choden and Dorji Wangchuk

The tiny Kingdom of Bhutan, at the eastern end of the Himalayas, nestles between the giant nation states of China and India. Often called the “Land of the Thunder Dragon,” it remained secluded until recent times, its towering mountains and lush green valleys virtually unvisited by the outside world, evoking a sense of mystery and wonder. A sovereign country throughout the ages, Bhutan is now establishing its place on the world stage. It is determined to maintain its Buddhist culture and unique way of life as it evolves and adapts to political change and economic challenges. *Culture Smart! Bhutan* will give you a deeper insight into the country’s history, values, customs, and age-old traditions. It highlights changes in people’s attitudes and behavior as the country modernizes, and provides practical guidance on how to get to know the Bhutanese on their own terms, paving the way for a more meaningful experience of this fascinating and beautiful country.

***Culture Smart!* guides are created to help travelers have a more meaningful and successful time abroad through a better understanding of the local culture. Chapters on values, attitudes, customs, and daily life will help you make the most of your visit, while tips on etiquette and communication will help you navigate unfamiliar situations and avoid faux pas.**

Karma Choden is the founder of *Simply Bhutan Travels* and a freelance writer. She has a degree in English Literature from the University of North Bengal, India, worked as a journalist for many years with *Kuensel*, Bhutan’s national newspaper, and served as a commissioner and focal person for the National Commission for Women and Children in Bhutan.

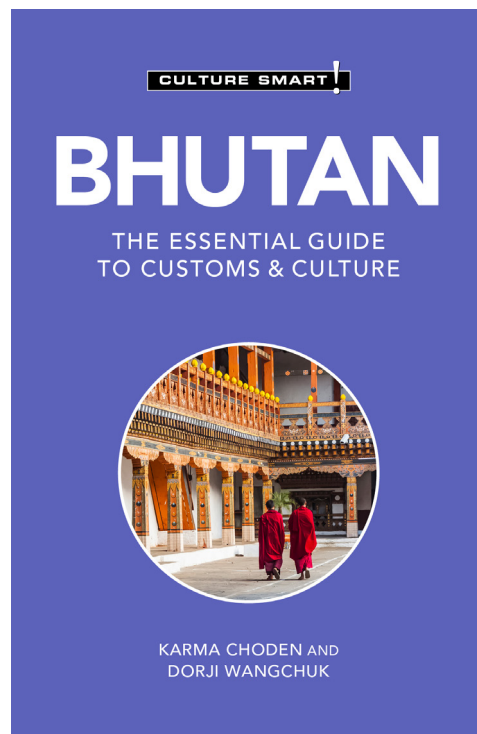
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