

## 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.

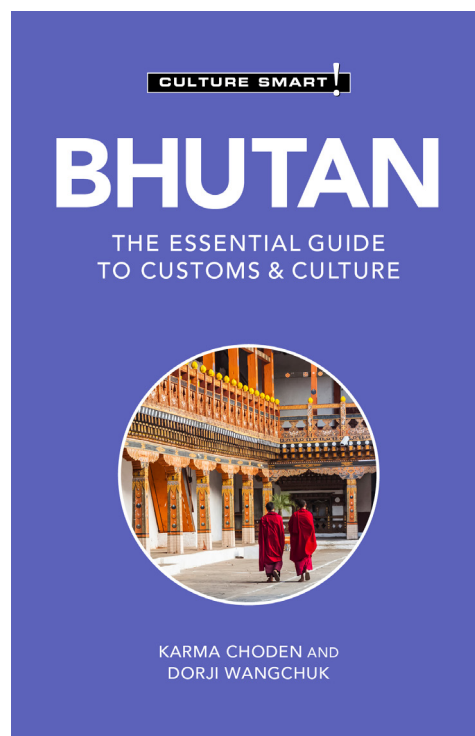
**Dorji Wangchuk** is a management consultant working in London. He has a degree in engineering from the National Institute of Technology in Calicut, India, and an MBA from the University of Cambridge. He was a civil servant in the Bhutanese government for many years, and gives regular talks on developments in Bhutan.

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## Botswana – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Mike Main

Botswana is a country of contrasts. More than 80 percent of its land is described as desert, yet it is far from barren. The red sand of the Kalahari conceals boundless wealth in the form of coal, methane, copper, and diamonds. Culturally, the people are overwhelmingly Bantu, but with more than twenty different ethnic groups and over thirty languages spoken, the society is by no means homogeneous. In the years since independence the country and its economy have made extraordinary strides, and Botswana is rightly seen as a model of democratic, planned development. But, for all that, traditional African values lie close to the surface.

*Culture Smart! Botswana* introduces you to the lives of the people. It looks at the history that has shaped the society and shows the importance of traditional customs and values for both travelers and businesspeople alike. It describes how the Batswana live, work, and play, and how to avoid the pitfalls of cultural misunderstanding.

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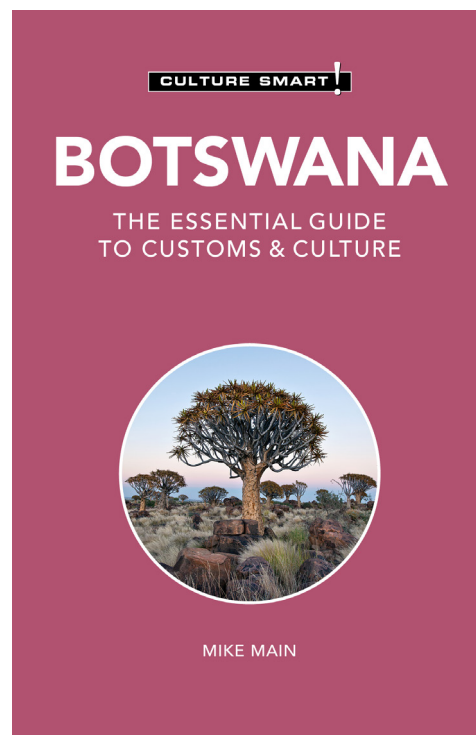
**Mike Main** Originally from England, has lived in West, East, Central, and Southern Africa for most of his life and is now, after twenty-five years there, a citizen of Botswana. In addition to a professional career specializing in leadership and team building, he is also a keen photographer and safari guide. He has written a number of books on southern Africa and is a committee member of Transparency International and The Botswana Society, and chairman of the Maru-a-Pula School Council and the Gaborone Music Society.

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## China – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Indre Balcikonyte-Huang and Kathy Flower

For thousands of years, the Chinese believed that they had created a perfect social system, based on Confucian values and tempered by the “Mandate of Heaven.” Dynasties came and went, but the essence of being Chinese remained essentially unchanged until the twentieth century. Since then, change has taken place in Chinese society at unprecedented speed, as the country first experienced the turmoil of civil war and revolution before emerging on to the world stage as a global superpower.

*Culture Smart! China* aims to put these changes into an historical context, explain deep-seated cultural attitudes, and guide you through the maze of unfamiliar social situations, in order to help you discover for yourself the pragmatism, genius, warmth, and humanity of this extraordinary people.

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**Indre Balcikonyte-Huang** was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. Fluent in Mandarin, Indre has lived in China for more than ten years and has completed an M.A. in Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature at Fudan University in Shanghai. She currently works for a cross-border consultancy helping companies find a footing in China, and lives in central Shanghai with her husband Ruiyu, and son Roy.

**Kathy Flower** has worked in the UK and China as a BBC radio producer, TV presenter, scriptwriter, teacher, and trainer. She became known to hundreds of millions of enthusiastic Chinese viewers as “Fay-lau-ah laoshi,” or “Teacher Flower,” after presenting China’s first major English-language teaching series, “Follow Me,” on Chinese TV.

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## Ethiopia – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Sarah Howard

Set in Africa, but not wholly African; an isolated nation, yet receptive to the outside world; hierarchical and conservative, yet innovative and desirous of modernity; conformist as a people, and fiercely independent as individuals—the Ethiopian identity defies definition. Ethiopia exists simultaneously in different time periods. Its people, when they see something new that might work to their advantage, will embrace it and find ways to improve on it. Modern democracy, however, has understandably been slower to bloom given the strong historical antecedents of its monarchy.

*Culture Smart! Ethiopia* unpacks the values, attitudes, and traditions of this culturally rich nation. Etiquette in daily life, socializing, and communicating are all helpfully described, and advice is given to on how make the most of a visit. Above all, it provides the tools to do so in a considerate and sensitive manner.

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**Sarah Howard** is a botanical artist and writer who grew up in Kenya. After graduating in African History and Social Anthropology from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, she became a journalist and researcher. She now commutes between Scotland and Ethiopia, running a coffee roasting business in the former, and traveling in the latter. Sarah trained in botanical illustration at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and won a Gold Medal in 2016 from the Royal Horticultural Society for a set of paintings of Horn of Africa Aloes, many of them endemic to Ethiopia. She has written articles about the country, including for *Selamta*, the in-flight magazine of Ethiopian Airways, and for the *Anglo-Ethiopian Society's* magazine.

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## Finland – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Elena Barrett and Terttu Leney

The people of this land of white summer nights and pristine lakes are famous for their *sisu*, a form of enterprising stoicism. They are survivors: if you were stranded on a desert island, your ideal companion would be a Finn. Before you knew it, the sauna would be ready, fishhooks positioned, a fire burning, and any edible berries picked and prepared for eating. Shaped by the harsh physical beauty around them, the Finns can be melancholy, yet have a great sense of humor. Their music is often in the minor key, but they love to dance, sing, and perform. They cherish their traditions, from name days to near-pagan rituals, yet they are great innovators.

*Culture Smart! Finland* describes the historical, geographical, and cultural influences that have shaped the Finnish psyche, and guides you through the working and social lives of the Finns today, offering you a deeper, more rewarding experience of this beautiful land.

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**Elena Barrett** is a teacher, writer, applied linguist, and long-time resident of Finland. Originally from Connecticut, USA, she has taught English to Finnish adults and upper-secondary students. She is presently finishing her studies and researching language use in legal contexts at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

**Terttu Leney** is a Finnish teacher, trainer, broadcaster, and writer who worked for the Foreign Office in London as a professional development coordinator preparing British diplomats and businessmen for overseas postings. She has written several publications, including *Teach Yourself Finnish*, *Finn Talk 1*, and *Finn Talk 2*.

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## France – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Barry Tomalin

The French are “different.” You’ll often hear this in conversations among the “Anglo-Saxons,” as the French like to call English-speakers. “Different” means charming, challenging, questioning, stylish, and doing things in their own way and to their own advantage. So what qualities make them so distinctive? And how do you get through to them? By looking at the attitudes and values of the French, and explaining how French life and business works,

*Culture Smart! France* shows you how to fit in as a foreigner. It gives practical advice on how to avoid faux pas and how to behave in different contexts. It takes you through French history, festivals, and traditions, and describes the French at home, on the road, in the restaurant, and at work. Above all, we show you how the French communicate, and how to get the best out of this idiosyncratic and brilliant people.

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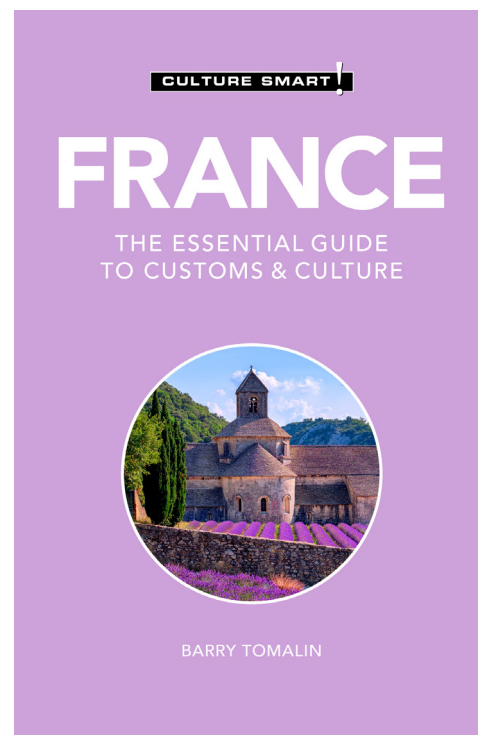
**Barry Tomalin** M.A. is an English writer, trainer, and public speaker specializing in cultural awareness and international communication. He was Director of Cultural Training at International House, London, and Visiting Lecturer at the London Academy of Diplomacy, University of East Anglia. A former producer and presenter with the BBC World Service, he has worked in more than sixty countries worldwide, including France, Algeria, and Francophone West Africa. He is also the author of *Culture Smart! Germany and Italy*.

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## Germany – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Barry Tomalin

Germany – powerhouse of Europe and pillar of the Eurozone – feels reassuringly familiar. However, despite superficial appearances, this is a country that operates very differently from the USA and Britain. German history is more than a thousand years old and the relatively new German nation-state encompasses an astonishing variety of cultural and regional differences. German society is also in a state of flux, as people respond to immigration and a tough economic climate, and traditional attitudes such as formality and rigid protocol are softening as German business globalizes.

*Culture Smart! Germany* sets out to show you how to be a good and sensitive guest. With chapters on core values and attitudes, and a practical business briefing, it is a valuable introduction to the German way of life. It tells you what treatment to expect, what pitfalls to avoid, and how to build rapport and credibility with this culturally rich and inventive people at the heart of Europe.

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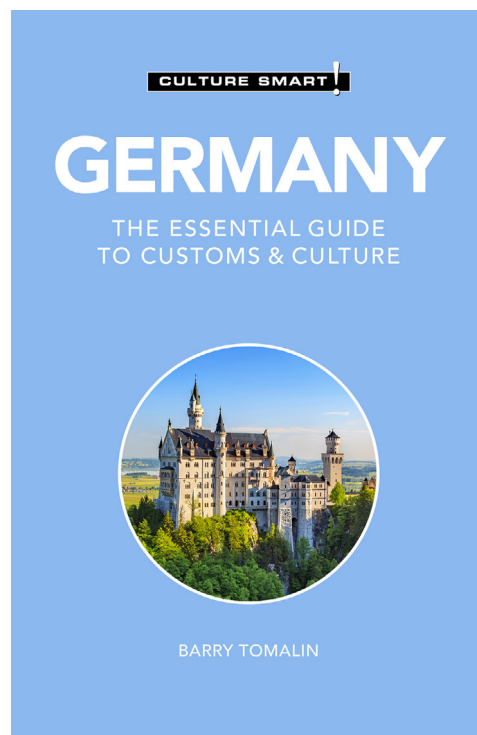
**Barry Tomalin** is an English writer and teacher specializing in international communication and culture who has worked as a consultant with German companies both in the UK and in Germany. He is also the author of many books on culture and cultural training. He currently teaches at Birkbeck College, University of London, and at Glasgow Caledonian University London.

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## Ghana – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Ian Utley

Home to the historic Ashanti empire, Ghana was the first African country to achieve independence. Known as the "Gateway to Africa," it is a stable democracy that welcomes around a million visitors a year, who invariably come away with glowing reports of a fertile land and tropical beauty. It is the Ghanaian people, however, who make the biggest impression. Their genuine hospitality and love of peace means Ghana is among the friendliest and safest countries in Africa. They are respectful toward each other, strong followers of tradition, and have deep familial and communal values. Visitors are warmly welcomed but are expected to be sympathetic to local customs and beliefs, and to follow certain codes of conduct.

*Culture Smart! Ghana* describes the complexities and nuances of Ghanaian society with clarity and humor, and offers the reader an opportunity to get to know Ghanaians on their own terms, and to enjoy all that this beautiful country has to offer! Akwaaba!

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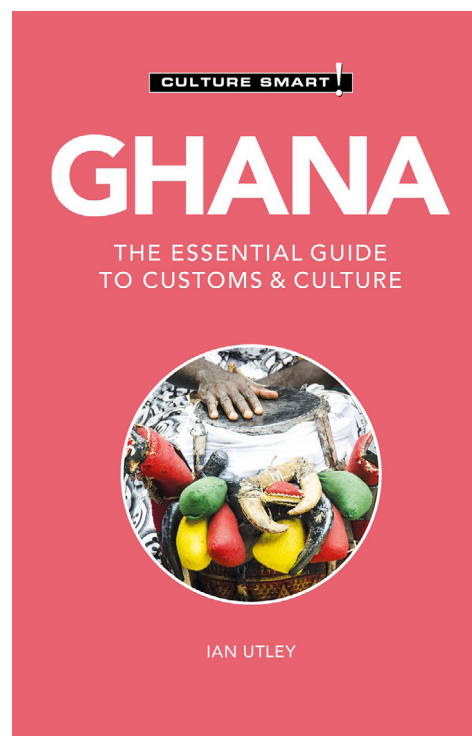
**Ian Utley** studied at the University of Wales and trained as a teacher at Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln. He worked in education in Ghana for many years, published a book for learners of the Twi language, was a columnist for the Ghanaian newspaper *Weekend World*, and was an advisor to the Ministry of Tourism and Diasporan Relations in Accra. He also organized cultural, ecotourism, and language-learning activities for foreigners. Now back in Britain, he works as a library manager in his native Lincolnshire.

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## India – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Becky Stephen

India's huge population of 1.2 billion is as varied and colorful as the spice markets of Old Delhi. Each region, caste, and community has its own culture, reflecting unique histories shaped by conquest, creativity, and religion. Steeped in ancient traditions, exceptionally fatalistic, and intensely passionate about their culture, the Indians are also ingenious, creative, and world leaders in cutting-edge science and technology. Show interest in their country and it will be reciprocated with genuine warmth and friendship.

*Culture Smart! India* will make you aware of the essential values and behavioral norms, show you how to navigate often profound cultural differences and build relationships, and offer invaluable insights into this great, endlessly fascinating land.

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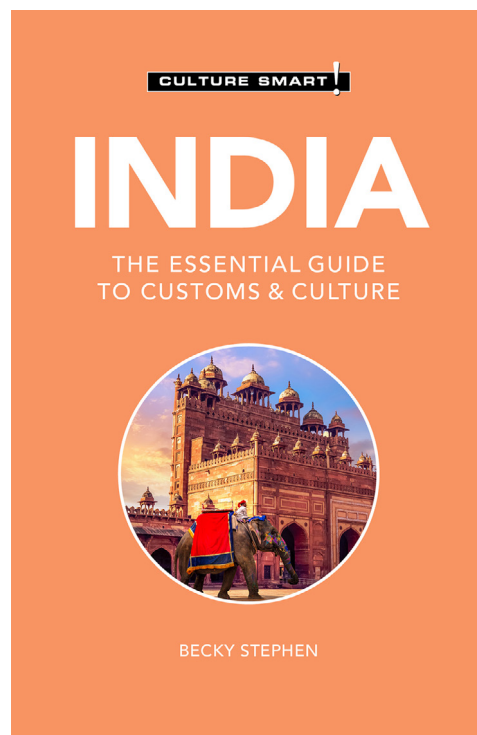
**Becky Stephen** was born in the US as an "airforce brat," growing up in several states, as well as in England. Long fascinated by Indian culture and philosophy, she moved to India in 1988 to study Hindi at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. There she met her South Indian husband and ended up living in Varanasi for five years. Becky has a Masters in Intercultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, and has developed and led cross-cultural and other training programmes and events in the US, India, Eurasia, Europe, and the Arabian Peninsula.

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### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Jessica Jemalem Ginting and Graham Saunders

Indonesia, stretching across three time zones and situated on one of the world's great maritime trade routes, has a rich and varied culture. *Culture Smart! Indonesia* describes the many different cultural backgrounds that make up this rainbow nation, helping you to better understand the values that underpin its diverse society. It reveals how modern Indonesians view themselves and go about their daily lives, and gives advice on how to navigate unfamiliar situations. Armed with essential cultural information and tips on effective communication, readers are better placed to have a more meaningful and successful experience in this fascinating 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.**

**Jessica Jemalem Ginting** is an Indonesian writer and translator from Jakarta. She has a B.A. in English from the University of Bristol in the UK, and an M.A. in Publishing at University College, London. Her debut poetry collection, *Moon Petals*, was published in 2017. More recently, she has created the sci-fi comic series *ROSANA!*, set in the culturally diverse world of the Indonesian archipelago.

**Graham Saunders** has a Ph.D. in East Asian studies from the University of Hull, England. An Australian by birth, he spent twenty-eight years teaching in East Malaysia and Brunei, and made numerous visits to the countries of the region, including Indonesia. The author of many books and articles on the history of Borneo and Southeast Asia, he also runs a business specializing in books relating to Southeast Asia.

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## Italy – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Barry Tomalin

Italy delights and stimulates with its magnificent cities and monuments, stunningly beautiful landscapes, the glory of its art and architecture, the richness and variety of its food, the elegance of its design and fashion, and the vitality and charm of its people. Italian style and culture have been exported all over the world. At home, however, Italian society and politics are facing challenges as the country struggles to maintain its standard of living, the stability of its currency, and its ability to provide jobs. The influx of refugees across the Mediterranean is putting pressure on both its social fabric and its economy.

*Culture Smart! Italy* is an insider's guide to their daily lives, passions, and preoccupations. It introduces you to their history and culture, and provides vital information and practical tips to help smooth your path in different social situations.

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**Barry Tomalin** is an English writer and teacher specializing in international communication and cultures who has worked with Italian companies in Italy and the UK. He has taught at Link University in Rome, and run training programs in Milan, Rome, Genoa, and Naples. The author of many books on culture and cultural training, he currently teaches at Birkbeck College, University of London, and at Glasgow Caledonian University London.

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## Japan – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Paul Norbury

The Japanese people have always seen themselves as a nation uniquely apart. Their exquisite art forms and elegant culture, military prowess and technological precision, have long been the envy of friend and foe alike. Today, even as Japan adapts to a rapidly changing world, its traditional culture and consensus-based philosophy have proved remarkably resilient.

*Culture Smart! Japan* will broaden your perception and understanding of this complex, rich, and dynamic society. It will guide you through modern Japan's shifting social and cultural maze, and equip you with the tools to avoid the pitfalls of cultural misunderstanding. It provides practical tips and invaluable insights into people's attitudes and behavior to help make your visit a more meaningful and successful experience.

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**Paul Norbury** has been closely associated with Japan and Asian Studies as publisher, editor, and author since the early 1970s, principally through his various imprints: Paul Norbury Publications, Japan Library, Global Oriental, and most recently Renaissance Books. He is a recipient of the Japan Society Award, and the Order of the Rising Sun (Japanese government). He is also the author of *Culture Smart! Britain*.

**CULTURE SMART!**



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## Korea – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By James Hoare

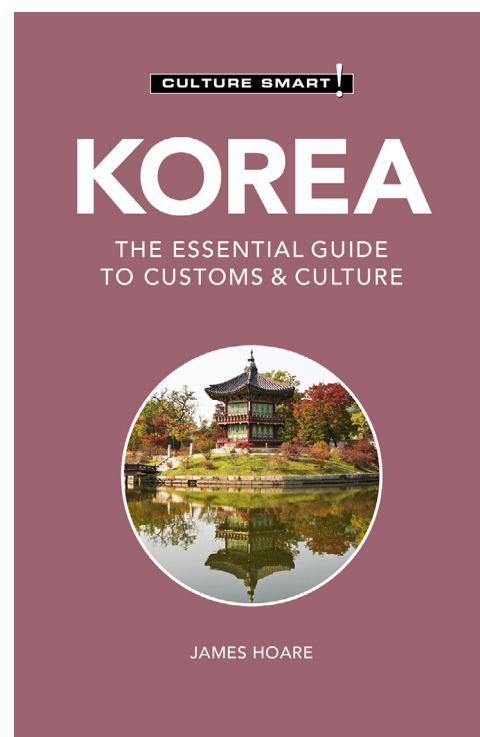
Divided along the 38th parallel, modern Korea is the subject of two very different political, social, and economic experiments. Today the military might of the Marxist-Leninist North confronts the soft power and prosperity of the uber-capitalist South. Yet family and cultural ties bind the peoples of both Koreas, and reunification remains a cherished goal.

*Culture Smart! Korea* helps you to navigate your way through the complexities of life in these non-identical twin societies, where, even in the affluent westernized South, sensitive issues can cause misunderstanding. By introducing visitors to the Koreans at home and at work, their customs, attitudes and values, this book paves the way for an incomparably more engaging experience, whatever your reason for traveling.

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**James Hoare** spent over thirty years in the British Diplomatic Service, with postings to Seoul and Beijing. His last job was Chargé D’Affaires in Pyongyang, North Korea, where he established the British Embassy. He has a Ph.D. in East Asian history and has written extensively on China, Japan, and the two Koreas. Since retirement, he has become a regular radio and television commentator on Korea.

**CULTURE SMART!**



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## Malaysia – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Victor King

Malaysia presents visitors with an exciting and fascinating medley of cultures—Malay, Chinese, Indian, Arab, Eurasian, Dayak, and aboriginal. Though very much a modern nation state, its diverse communities retain a considerable amount of their unique heritage and, in its customs, religions, festivals, costume, cuisine, languages, and architecture, Malaysian society perfectly illustrates the virtues of a vibrant pluralism.

*Culture Smart! Malaysia* sets out to help you navigate this rich and complex cultural mix. It provides a succinct and straightforward introduction to Malaysian history and society, explains the deeper core values of the different ethnic groups, and guides you through the maze of Malaysian etiquette and behaviour for both social and business settings. Through greater understanding and insight, a more meaningful experience of this captivating country awaits.

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**Victor King** has been teaching and undertaking research in the sociology and anthropology of Southeast Asia since the early 1970s. He is Emeritus Professor in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, University of Leeds; Professorial Research Associate in the Centre of South East Asian Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; Adjunct Professor at the Research Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development, Chiang Mai University, Thailand; and Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. He has a wide interest in the anthropology and sociology of Southeast Asia, particularly in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei, and has conducted research there since the 1970s. His many books include *The Best of Borneo Travel*.

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## Nepal – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Tessa Feller and Alan Mercel-Sanca

Nestling in the foothills of the Himalayas, Nepal is a land of contrasts and incongruities – not least in the variety of its cultural, ethnic, and religious weave. The Nepalese attitude to life is essentially religious. Hindu and Buddhist values predominate and help to maintain social harmony despite the divisions between rich and poor, urban and rural, highlands and lowlands.

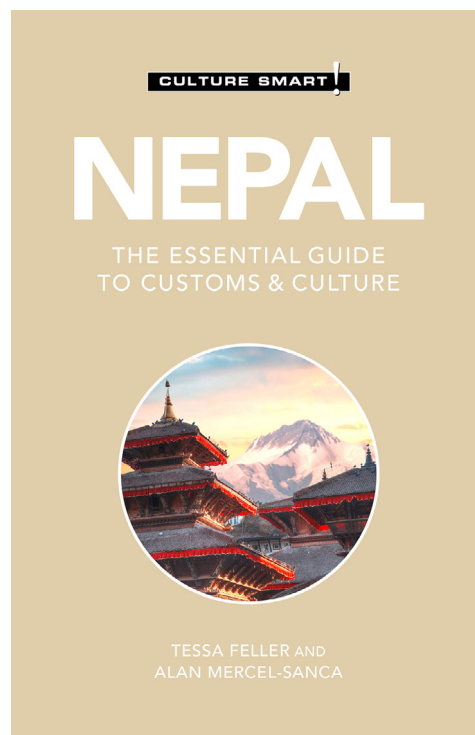
*Culture Smart! Nepal* sets out to explain the complexities of Nepalese life, from home to business, to the marketplace. It tells you what to expect, and provides insights that will help you to go beyond friendly smiles and turn your visit into an enlightening and rewarding experience.

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**Tessa Feller** has worked in several countries, including Austria, Russia, and Germany, where she is now based. She lived in Nepal for three years when her husband was posted there with the German Development Service. Her youngest son was born in Kathmandu.

**Alan Mercel-Sanca** is the CEO of the UK–Nepal Friendship Society, an organization that aims to protect and promote the various cultures that exist within Nepal through interrelated projects and activities in both countries.

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## Peru – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By John Forrest and Julia Porturas

In the popular imagination, Peru conjures up images of mysterious ancient civilisations, awe-inspiring Inca ruins, ruthless conquistadores, amazing biodiversity, and spectacular Andean scenery. All true, but visitors will discover much more to Peru than this. In Peru the distinctive Spanish and indigenous cultures that first encountered each other five hundred years ago have progressively integrated. However, the ongoing process of mixing raises questions about the nature of Peruvian identity, and Peruvian society remains economically and culturally divided.

*Culture Smart! Peru* introduces you to the changing realities of modern Peru. It describes contemporary values and attitudes, key customs and traditions, and reveals what people are like at home, in business, and in their social lives. Peruvians are outgoing, sociable, and laid-back; get to know them, and they will respond with warmth and generosity.

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**John Forrest** is a teacher and writer based in London. He first traveled to Peru in 1981, and returns regularly to lead study and trekking tours. He is currently a researcher and the logistics coordinator with a Cambridge University research project in Peru. He is chairman of the Peruvian rainforest charity, the Tambopata Reserve Society, and a former vice-chairman of the Anglo-Peruvian Society.

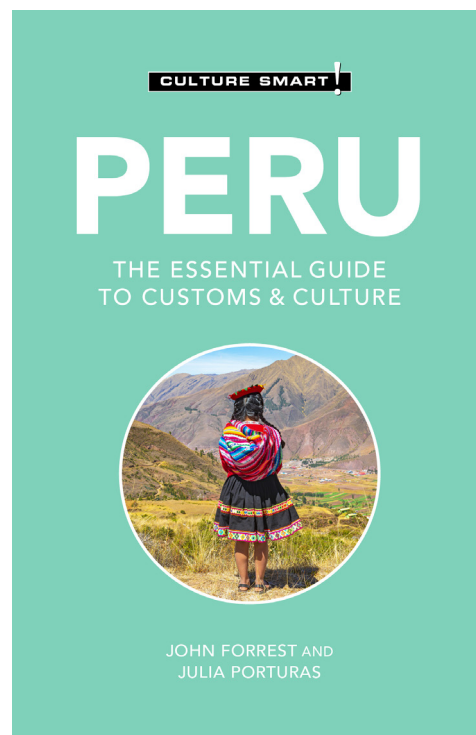
**Julia Porturas** was born in Peru and studied at La Católica University in Lima and Birkbeck College, London, where she graduated with a B.A. Hons in Hispanic and Latin American Studies. In Peru, she worked for several years for a major state enterprise. She is now the administrator of a professional society, in London.

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# Philippines – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By **Grahan Colin-Jones** and **Yvonne Colin-Jones**  
and **Jorge Mojarro**

The Philippines, a scattered archipelago of seven thousand islands, appears to be one of the most Westernized countries in Asia. However, the realities of Filipino life are complex, and not immediately evident to visitors; the façade of the English language does not run deep. The Filipino people have always shown amazing resilience, whether under foreign rule, or in the face of economic or environmental hardship. They are warm, charming, and welcoming, and beyond the chaotic traffic jams and heat of Manila there is much to enjoy and appreciate. *Culture Smart! Philippines* gives you the inside story of this unique and attractive country and unpacks the daily lives of its inhabitants. An explanation of the values, attitudes, and customs of the Filipinos today opens the way to a more meaningful experience, while an abundance of practical information on socializing, working, shopping, and communicating will help to make it a more enjoyable experience, too.

***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.**

**Grahan Colin-Jones** is a linguist by training, and an international civil servant by profession. He has lived and worked overseas for more than forty years, and has experienced the realities of living and working in Asian cultures, including fifteen years in the Philippines.

**Yvonne Colin-Jones** is Singaporean by birth, a sociologist by training, and a cross-cultural trainer, facilitator and coach with a human resource background. She has lived in three continents and works with multicultural, globally mobile populations.

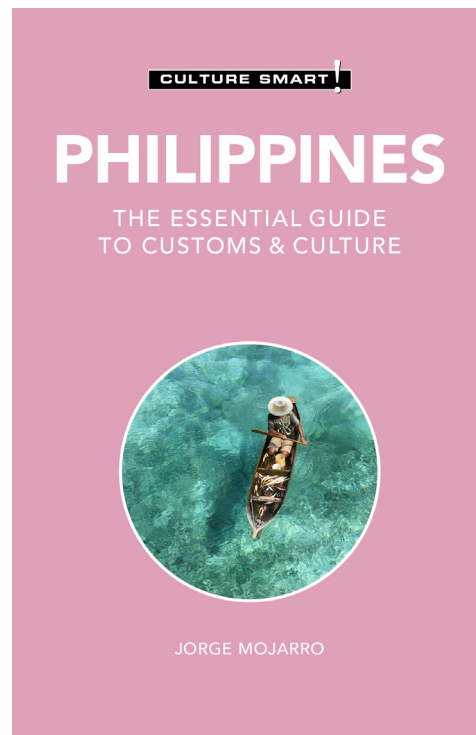
**Jorge Mojarro** is a Spanish academic with a Ph.D. from Salamanca University who is teaching and researching at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. He has traveled extensively through the Philippines and southeast Asia and has written for both scholarly and general publications.

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## Russia – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Grace Cuddihy and Anna King

Discovering the Russian soul is like opening a matryoshka, a Russian doll, revealing the many layers. The Russian orthodox religion is unique; Russian history is tragic; and the people are unpredictable. Russia's military and political power, as well as the rich contribution of its art and culture, is the result of an inner dynamic not always understood by outsiders.

*Culture Smart! Russia* sets out to help you to become a more perceptive traveller, and to make your trip more personally fulfilling. It explores the connections between Russia's turbulent past and its paradoxical present; it describes present-day values and attitudes, and offers practical advice on what to expect and how to behave in different social circumstances.

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**Grace Cuddihy** is a translator and editor who has lived in Moscow, and in Russia's Mari-El Republic. In Moscow she worked as a governess for Russian families, as an English teacher, and for three years as an editor at *The Moscow Times* newspaper. She continues to work as a freelance editor and translator.

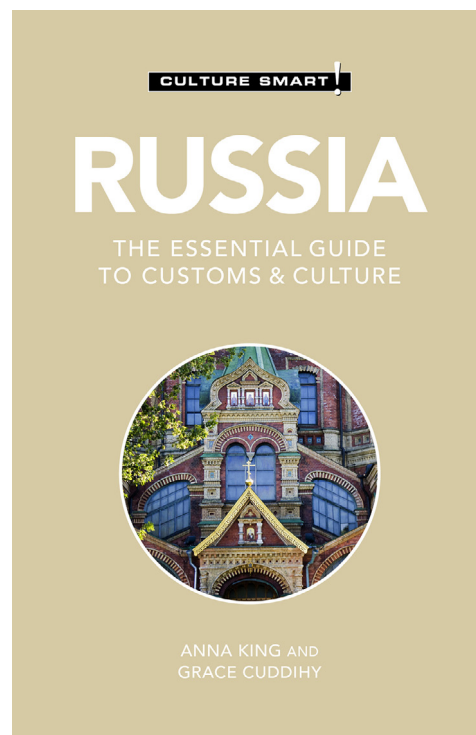
**Anna King** is a Russian-born business development consultant specializing in cross-cultural issues, negotiation practices, and conflict management. She speaks seven languages and has an M.Phil. degree from Cambridge University. Anna has worked with key government and decision makers in Britain and across the CIS. She is now managing director of the British-based consultancy 3C Negotiations, and is the author of numerous articles and books on cross-cultural communication.

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## Spain – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Bélen Aguado Viguer and Marian Meaney

In the popular imagination Spain conjures up a picture of rapacious conquistadores, fiery flamenco dancers, and brilliant artists. All true enough – but how closely does everyday life in modern Spain conform to these dramatic stereotypes?

*Culture Smart! Spain* explores the complex human realities of contemporary Spanish life. It describes how Spain's history and geography have created both strongly felt regional differences and shared values and attitudes. It reveals what the Spaniards are like at home, and in business, how they socialize, and how to build lasting relationships with them. The better you understand the Spanish people, the more you will be enriched by your experience of this vital, warm, and varied country – where the individual is important, and the enjoyment of life is paramount.

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**Bélen Aguado Viguer** is a protocol, diplomacy, and tourism expert. At present she works as a coordinator of international mobility and development at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya.

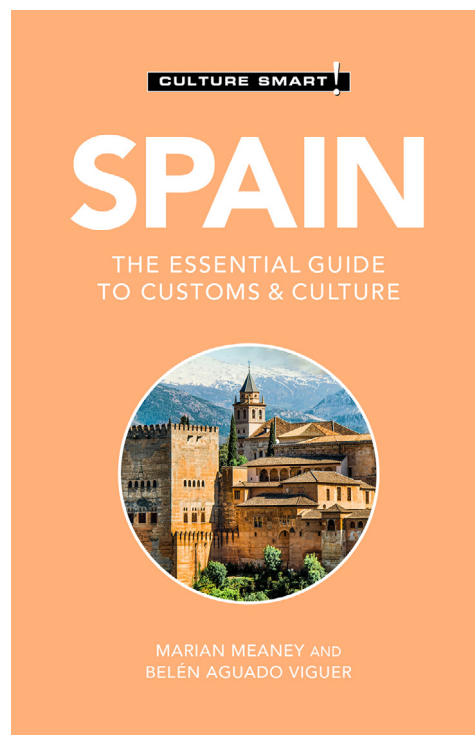
**Marian Meaney** is a teacher, translator, and interpreter who lived and worked in Spain for twenty years. A fluent-Spanish speaker, she ran English-language academies in Malaga and Barcelona, and has advised both Spanish businesses and government organizations on international exchange programs.

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# Switzerland – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Kendall Hunter

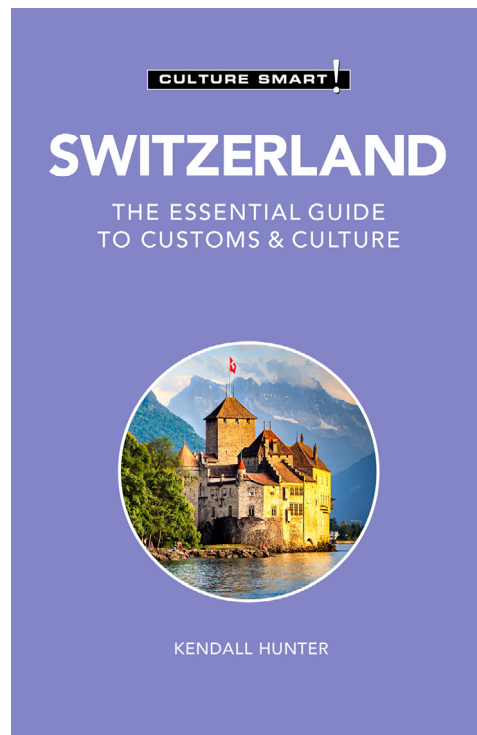
Set aside your preconceptions of postcard scenery, chocolate and cheese, faceless bankers, and spotless cities. The real Switzerland is anything but bland. This small, multilingual, and fiercely independent country at the heart of Europe is full of surprises.

*Culture Smart! Switzerland* reveals the human dimension of this enigmatic country. It provides an historical overview, explores Swiss values and attitudes, and looks at the cultural continuity of festivals and traditions. It will help you navigate your way through various aspects of Swiss life and society and reveal the warmth, decency, wit and intelligence that characterizes its inhabitants.

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**Kendall Hunter** is a Canadian freelance journalist, author, photographer, and entrepreneur. Married to a Swiss citizen, Kendall lived for ten years in Zurich, and with two daughters in the Swiss school system, she wrote a regular column for an expat parenting magazine about raising children in Switzerland. She now lives in Toronto and is the founder and CEO of Culture Dock, a crowd-sourced global travel app.

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## Uganda – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Ian Clarke

There are good reasons Uganda is called “the Pearl of Africa.” Beyond its ideal climate, abundant wildlife, and spectacular natural beauty, however, it is the friendly and good humored Ugandan people who make this country different. Drawn from more than twenty tribes, they represent a tapestry of traditions, ethnicities, and cultures. As a society they are devoutly religious and conservative; as individuals they are surprisingly laid back. English is widely spoken but there are many cultural pitfalls to be aware of – differences in expectations, customs, and ways of behaving.

*Culture Smart! Uganda* provides key insights into Ugandan life and offers practical tips on how best to meet the Ugandan people on their own terms – vital information for travellers and businesspeople alike.

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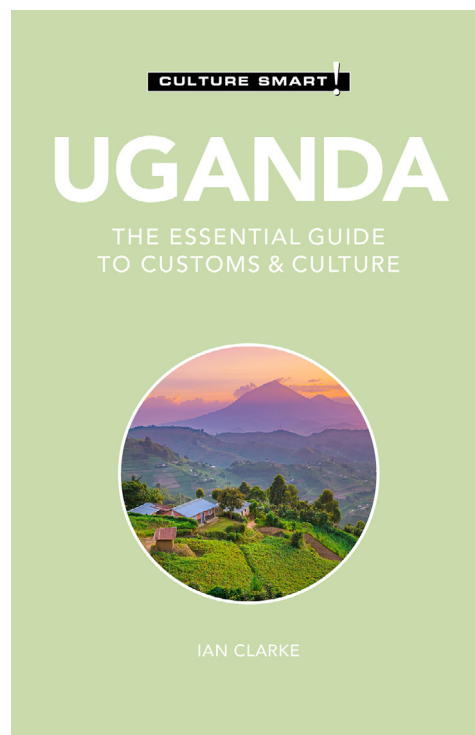
**Ian Clarke** has lived in Uganda for more than thirty years. Born in Northern Ireland, he is also a Ugandan citizen and, as the Mayor of Makindye Division of Kampala, he was the first white elected politician. He writes a weekly social commentary in the *Sunday Vision*, Uganda’s national newspaper, and has published two books, *The Man with the Key has Gone and How Deep is this Pothole?*. He lives in Kampala with his wife and family.

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## Vietnam – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By **Geoffrey Murray**

Vietnam is one of the most fascinating destinations in Southeast Asia. Having emerged from two decades of war, it is has undergone a period of rapid and far-reaching change, and its people have their eyes fixed firmly on the horizon.

*Culture Smart! Vietnam* is for those who want to learn about the traditional values, sensibility, and modern way of life of the Vietnamese. It explains deep-seated attitudes and describes some of the social, economic, and cultural changes now under way. Aimed at dispelling common misconceptions, it gives practical advice on what to expect and how to behave in unfamiliar situations in order to help you discover for yourself the warmth and humor of this tough, resilient people.

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**Geoffrey Murray** is an English-born journalist, author, and teacher who has lived and worked in the Asia-Pacific region for more than sixty years. He has published sixteen books on a wide range of business and socio-economic issues. Geoffrey has followed developments in Vietnam ever since he served as a news agency war correspondent with the Australian Army in the mid-1960s, winning the Australian government's "Vietnam Logistics and Support Medal."

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## Iceland – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Thorgeir Freyr Sveinsson

The volcanic island of Iceland has erupted onto the world travel scene in recent years. With otherworldly landscapes of steaming turquoise geysers set among rugged snowy peaks, miles of icy black sand beaches, and the breath-taking splendor of the northern lights, one can only wonder what took so long. But what of the people who call this island home? Behind a stoic veneer lies a proud, industrious, and egalitarian people, whose straightforwardness and ability to wing it have seen them thrive in this beautiful but unforgiving environment.

*Culture Smart! Iceland* will take you to the heart of this plucky Nordic nation. It will equip you with a deeper understanding of your hosts and with the tools to turn your visit into a more meaningful and enriching experience, whatever your reason for traveling.

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**Thorgeir Freyr Sveinsson** is a native Icelander hailing from the northwestern settlement of Skagafjörður. He holds a Cand.theol. in Theology from the University of Iceland, and a Master's in Management and Organizational Analysis from Birkbeck College, University of London. Like a true Norseman, Thorgeir has laid anchor in Norway, Finland, and the United Kingdom and is well practiced in the art of navigating new cultures. A keen angler and soccer fan, he runs a guesthouse with his wife in Selfoss, southern Iceland.

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# Sweden – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Neil Shipley

Sweden is a strikingly beautiful country with a reverence for the natural environment. Its extremes in geography, climate, and history have given rise to a population that values honesty, self-sufficiency, and harmony. Swedes are a rights-driven, modern, and tech-savvy people who also retain a deep respect for their own cultural legacy. A good background knowledge of the beliefs and values that make up the Swedish way of life will prove invaluable for anyone hoping to do more than just scratch the surface.

*Culture Smart! Sweden* offers insights into the lives and personalities of the Swedes today, along with tips on socializing, communication, and how to make the most of your time there.

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**Neil Shipley** is an intercultural trainer. Born in England, he has a B.A. in Literature from the University of Essex, Colchester, and an M.A. in intercultural Competence from Donau University in Austria. In 1994 he headed to Sweden, intending to live there for a year before moving on. Seduced by the beauty of the countryside, the coolness of the cities, and the values of the Swedish people, he stayed. Today Neil is firmly rooted in Swedish society and is a leading expert on Swedish culture. He has lectured in more than fifty countries and has worked with many Swedish international organizations as well as the Swedish government, lecturing and providing seminars on Swedish culture and society. Since 2013 he has been writing a popular blog called *Watching the Swedes*, where he shares his perspectives on Swedish life.

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## Thailand – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By J. Rotheray

To many outsiders Thailand represents “the East” at its most mysterious and enchanting. Never conquered by foreigners, this proud and ancient land has been shaped by Buddhism, the monarchy, and the military. Today it is a manufacturing powerhouse and a tourist paradise that welcomes more than 30 million visitors a year. Yet despite the veneer of Western modernity, the country and its people remain an enigma for many visitors.

*Culture Smart! Thailand* describes how the Thai people view the world and themselves. It examines the impact of religious beliefs and history on their lives, as well as recent social and political developments. With a wealth of tips on communicating, on socializing, and on navigating the unfamiliar situations that you are likely to encounter, this guide will help you to get the very best out of your time in the Land of Smiles.

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**J. Rotheray** is a Scottish-born writer and researcher specializing in Thai and Southeast Asian culture and religion. Having lived and traveled over much of Southeast Asia for the past two decades, he now lives in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, where he is currently completing his doctoral thesis.

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## Cyprus – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Constantine Buhayer

For much of its history Cyprus was regarded as the Cinderella of empires—beautiful, abused, isolated. Its soil is the custodian of evidence of great civilizations from down the millennia and from distant continents. Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty, was born from the froth of its sea. Today, the island is divided between the Greek-Cypriot south and the Turkish occupied north. The south is open to the world while the north is mostly isolated; crossing the Green Line that separates the two sides can feel like traveling back in time. However, make no mistake, both sides take pride in a shared “Cypriotness,” and are united in their common hopes, pain, and memories, music, an excellent cuisine, rich history, and majestic landscape.

*Culture Smart! Cyprus* equips you with essential information on the history, values, and attitudes of the people you will meet, their customs and traditions, and offers tips on etiquette and socializing. Through greater understanding and insight, a more meaningful experience of this beautiful island awaits.

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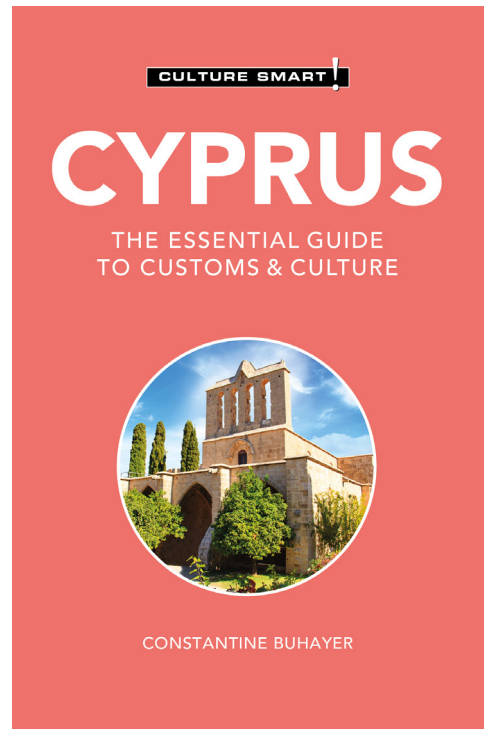
**Constantine Buhayer** is a London Greek who supervises for the International Liaison and Communication M.A. program at the University of Westminster, London, and lectures on bilingual translation. He is also a country analyst on Greece and Cyprus for Jane’s Sentinel, has reported on Greece and Europe for the BBC. He has been a regular Associate Producer on CBS news’ 60 Minutes. Constantine has been very engaged as an elected representative in the political, community, and interfaith affairs of his London borough, Camden, as well as in Greek and Turkish-Cypriot dialogue.

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# Czech Republic – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Kevan Vogler

*Culture Smart! Czech Republic* informs you about the traditions, values, and attitudes of a remarkable people. It describes Czech life at home and in the workplace and offers practical advice on what to expect and how to navigate different social situations. The real rewards will come to the visitor who goes beyond the reserve to explore the complex corners of the Czech soul. The Czechs value knowledge and cultivation, as well as formality, and so can often come across as a little stiff. However, beneath the layers of social reserve is a country of sincere and caring people. The Czechs are also deeply, darkly funny. They have made laughing through tears a national survival strategy. Many tourists visit the Czech Republic knowing no more about it than that the beer is cheap and the women beautiful. That lack of knowledge has led to frustration among Czechs, most of whom are well-informed about the world around them.

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**Kevan Vogler** is a Canadian who has been living in his adopted homeland of the Czech Republic for more than fifteen years. In addition to graphic designing and helping Czech professionals communicate with their English counterparts, Kevan maintains "Beyond Prague," an online Web site dedicated to his discovery and appreciation of all things Czech.

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## Ecuador – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Russell Maddicks

Ecuador's population reflects a unique blend of cultures; from mountain peoples whose ancestors inhabited their highland villages before the arrival of the Incas, to the Afro-Ecuadorians of Esmeraldas, and the tribal peoples of the Amazonian rainforest. The people who inhabit the diverse landscapes of this beautiful land are proud, friendly, hospitable, and hardworking, but to understand the culture in any depth you need to know the complex historical divisions between the highlands and the coast, and the rigid class and racial discrimination that has dominated the country's history.

This updated edition of the award-winning *Culture Smart!* guide to Ecuador takes you beyond the usual descriptions of what to see and digs into the heart of this multilayered nation to give you an insider's view of the people and their traditions, history, food, and culture, and the practical tools to make the most of your time there.

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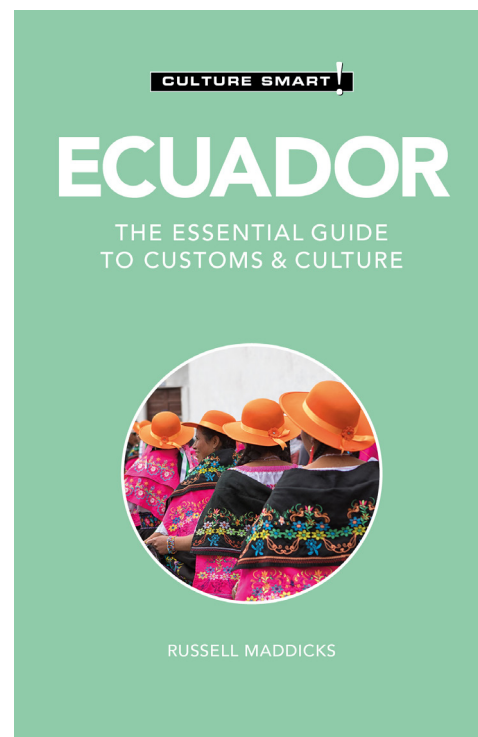
**Russell Maddicks** is a travel journalist who has spent the last 20 years exploring the countries of Latin America. Originally from the UK and fluent in Spanish, Russell has authored a number of acclaimed travel guides to a host of Latin American countries including Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

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## Morocco – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Jillian C. York

Morocco is a joy to the senses. Graced with spectacular scenery, the country's rich history is carved into its architecture and baked into its cuisine. Its marketplaces are filled with tantalizing scents and colorful sights, and the call of the muezzin seems to draw people from every corner of the globe. In 1956 Morocco gained independence from French colonial rule and was jolted into the 20th century. Today it is a country in transition—a unique blend of Arab, African, and European ways of life. The teeming cities have an air of sophistication and joie de vivre, but life in rural areas has stayed much the same. And while the cities are highly Westernized, tradition and religion still play a vital role in the everyday life of most people.

*Culture Smart! Morocco* describes the life of Moroccans today, as well as the key customs and traditions that punctuate daily life. It examines the impact of religious beliefs and history on their lives, and provides insight into the values that people hold dear, as well as recent social and political developments.

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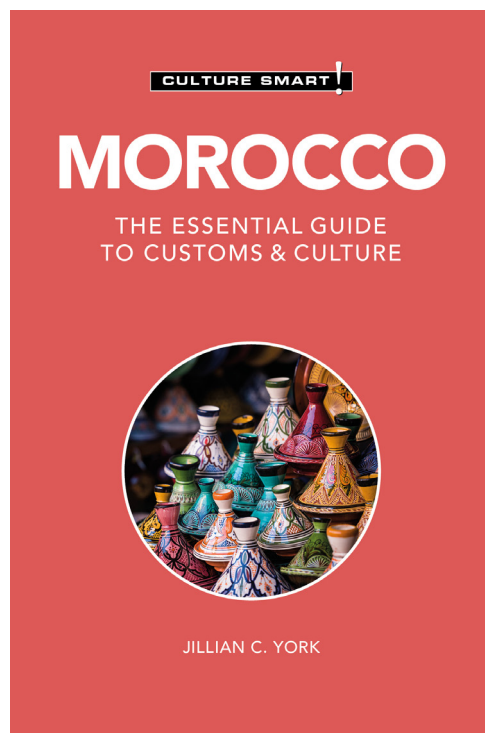
**Jillian C. York** is an American writer and journalist who focuses on the intersection of technology and politics. Author of *Silicon Values: The Future of Free Speech Under Surveillance Capitalism*, Jillian has a BA in Sociology from Binghamton University, where she specialized in North African and Middle Eastern Studies. As part of her degree course, Jillian studied Arabic at Al Akhawayn University in Ifran, Morocco, and taught English at the American Language Center of Meknes.

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# New Zealand – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Lyn McNamee



New Zealand, or Aotearoa (the "Land of the Long, White Cloud") as it is known by the Maori population, is a land of myth and reality, contrast and contradiction, rolling hills and glacial mountains, native bush and gentle farmland. Its people are friendly and welcoming and will often go the extra mile to help you without expecting anything in return. Maori heritage and culture are an integral part of Aotearoa today, and wherever you go, its influence is palpable. As a nation of immigrants, New Zealanders are used to newcomers, yet those who take the time to learn about the country's traditions and the values that people hold dear will be rewarded with a more meaningful and enriching experience of this beautiful land.

*Culture smart! New Zealand* helps you get to the heart of this diverse and multicultural nation. It examines the impact of history, religion, and politics, while tips and vital insights into Kiwi attitudes, customs, and social life will help deepen your experience of this country and its fair-minded people.

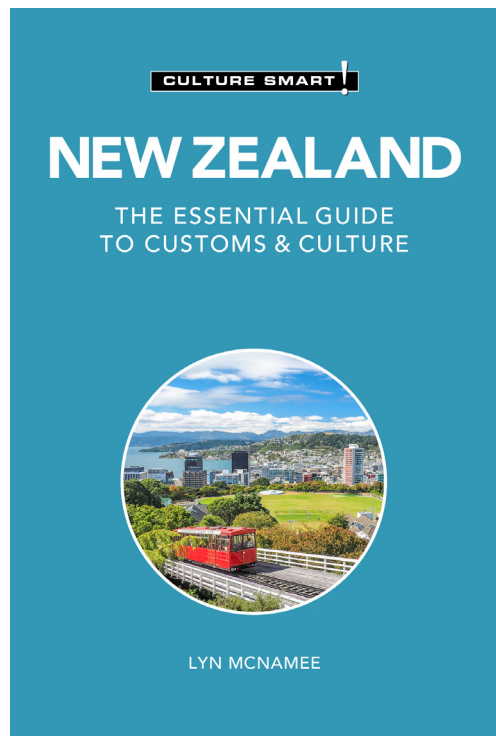
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**Lyn McNamee** is a New Zealand teacher and writer who has lived in and explored many of New Zealand's most beautiful locations. She currently lives on a sheep, grain, and hops farm in the mountains near Queenstown. After working with children for 30 years, Linda turned to her second passion and began a new career as a writer. Having written a children's novel, she began blogging and writing articles for magazines, businesses, and websites at home and abroad. Linda adores traveling, but after exploring in the US, Europe, Singapore, and the UK, she's discovered just how unique life is in the land that Kiwis call home.



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# Belgium – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Bernadett Varga

CULTURE SMART!

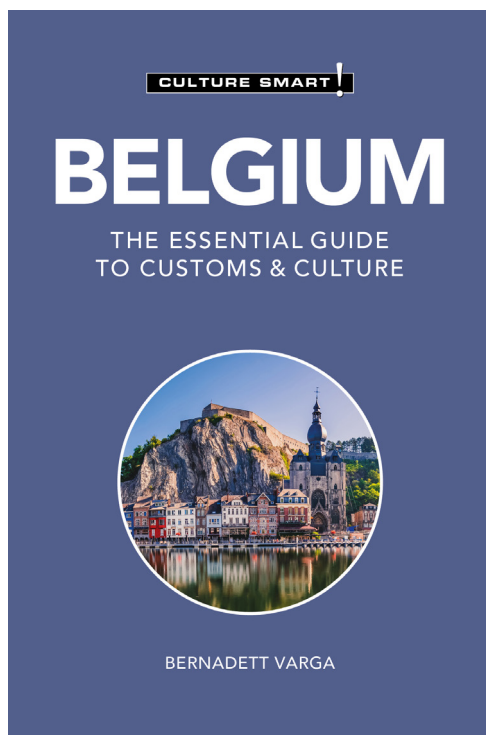
Belgium has somehow acquired the reputation of being Europe's most boring country—a reputation that is entirely undeserved. But perhaps this bland image is a smokescreen, the conventional exterior hiding a subversive sense of humor, a surreal imagination, and a deep-rooted disdain for authority. Or perhaps it is a camouflage, a way in which Belgium, still overrun—however peacefully—by foreigners, can keep a few of its secrets to itself.

Two main factors seem to determine the values Belgians hold and the ways they approach life: the effects of the linguistic divide, and the country's long history of exposure to other cultures through trade, war, and occupation—its experience of being simultaneously very small and very strategically placed.

*Culture Smart! Belgium* will help you navigate these swirling waters. It is for anyone who wants to understand Belgian society and encounter it with sensitivity and poise. We trace the land's turbulent history and look at how the past has shaped the collective and personal values of today's Belgians. We look at the Belgian people at work, at play, and at home, and offer tips to help you get along with the people you will meet, on both sides of the divide, and navigate the new situations that you are likely to encounter.

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**Bernadett Varga** is a Brussels-based public health and communications professional. Born in Hungary, she has a B.Sc. in Communications from the University of Szeged and an M.Sc. in Public Health from the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands. Having lived in the USA, the Netherlands, and Denmark before moving to Belgium in 2015, she is no stranger to culture shock and the process of acclimating to new environments. Today her work focuses on improving access to healthcare services for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations in Europe.



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# Cambodia – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Kate Reavill

Say "Cambodia," and two associations often come to mind: the lost glories of Angkor, and the horrors of the Khmer Rouge. Any understanding of Cambodia today, however, must embrace these opposites, as well as the changing attitudes within the country caused by something of a demographic revolution—today, close to seventy percent of Cambodians are under thirty.

In the past, Cambodia was the center of the Khmer empire. For six hundred years it ruled much of what is now Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand from its capital at Angkor. The ruins of the Khmer palaces, temples, and cities testify to its power, wealth, high culture, and engineering prowess, while their subsequent abandonment and long obscurity provide a sobering example of civilization's fragility. Today, Cambodia is negotiating its rich and complex past with the challenges of modernity in a globalized world.

*Culture Smart! Cambodia* is for all those who want to do more than just scratch the surface of this fascinating country. Thoroughly updated, this new edition will enrich your understanding of the land and its people. It explains the key values, attitudes, customs, and traditions that you need to be aware of and provides practical tips and vital information on how to make the most of your time in Cambodia.

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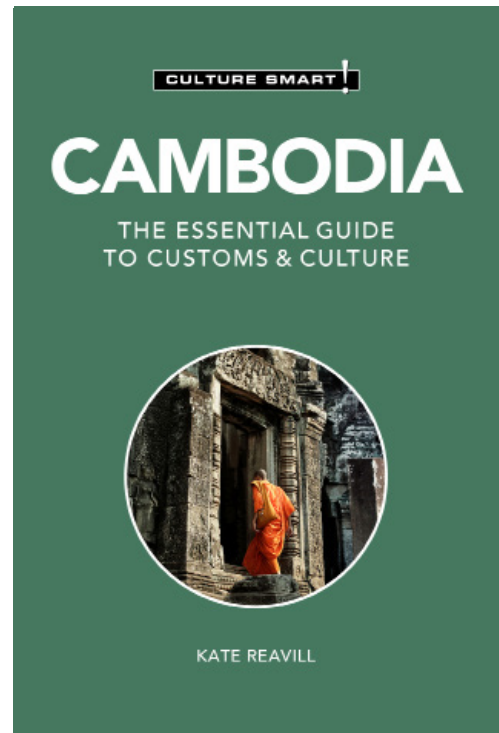
**Kate Reavill** is a Cambodia-based writer, teacher, and travel photographer. Originally from Leicester, England, she is a graduate of the University of Warwick with a bachelor's degree in English Literature and trained as an English teacher at Oxford University. Kate has lived in Cambodia since 2018 today she is resident in the southern city of Kampot, where she teaches English and is an occasional presenter on Radio Oun, one of Cambodia's national radio networks.

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## Turkey – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Charlotte McPherson

At first glance, Turkey may seem Westernized and entirely "modern"—but appearances can be misleading. It is above all a land of contrasts, a heady mixture of Oriental etiquette and ultramodern city life, deep-rooted religious faith and determined secularism, a fierce sense of national pride and openness to foreign ideas. The Turkish people are very much their own center of gravity, and for the unwary visitor there are pitfalls to avoid as well as great riches to be found.

*Culture Smart! Turkey* is an invaluable guide to the intricate ins and outs of this culturally rich and complex society. This updated edition outlines the complex history of Anatolia, provides key insights into contemporary Turkish values and attitudes, describes important customs and traditions, and reveals what life is like for the Turks at home, at work, and at play. It also offers practical tips and information about what to expect and how to navigate different social situations.

In this unique mix of Islamic and European cultures, the Turks are extremely hospitable. If you show an interest in their culture and respect for their point of view, they will repay your effort many times over.

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**Charlotte McPherson** is an American who has lived in Turkey since 1979. For her graduate studies at Indiana University she specialized in Uralic Altaic languages and history. She has an M.A. in Anthropology, and during the 1980s conducted extensive research in Turkey and Central Asia among Turkic-speaking peoples. She has lectured in Social Anthropology at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, and has served as Vice President of the Turkish-American University Cultural Association. Today Charlotte lives in Istanbul, where she owned and managed a major English-language bookstore for two decades.

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# Bulgaria – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Juliana Tzvetkova

Bulgaria, situated in southeastern Europe on the Black Sea, is one of Europe's best-hidden secrets. A haven for nature and history buffs, this youngest member of the European Union has been riding a rollercoaster of radical transformation since emerging from the Eastern Bloc three decades ago, changing dramatically in many ways and yet preserving its own particular charm and slow-paced way of life.

Invasions and waves of migration, dating back to neolithic and classical times, have contributed to a unique cultural mosaic. The seventh-century Bulgarian empire dominated the Balkans and was a powerhouse of Slavonic culture. Later, Ottoman conquest and Soviet influence left their mark on the national psyche.

*Culture Smart! Bulgaria* provides a key to understanding the Bulgarian people. It outlines their long and complex history, shows you what everyday life is like there today, and offers advice on what to expect and how to navigate unfamiliar cultural terrain. This is a small country of proud and persevering people. Familiarize yourself with their traditions and way of life, and the warmth and hospitality you are shown in return will conquer your heart and bring you back time and again.

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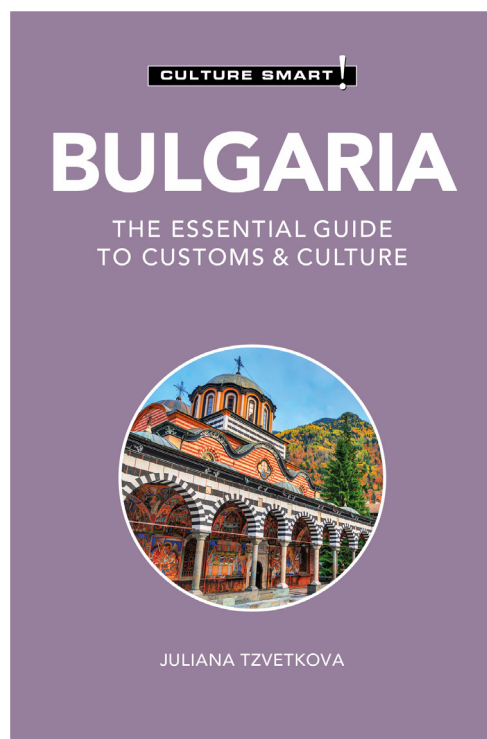
**Juliana Tzvetkova** is an academic and intercultural intelligence trainer with a passion for education. She was born and educated in Bulgaria, where she gained a Ph.D. in Social Philosophy. In the late nineties she moved to Canada with her family and taught at **community colleges in Toronto**. She has since worked on educational projects around the globe—from Bulgaria to Angola, Canada to China, the UAE to Kazakhstan. Today she works in student recruitment and continues to provide intercultural intelligence training as well as developing her personal cultural project, Kanadiana.

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## Canada – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Diane Lemieux and Juliana Tzvetkova

Unsuspecting outsiders often assume that Canadians are just like their American neighbors, if perhaps a little more modest. However, there is much more to it than that. Canadian society is a complex mosaic of distinct cultural identities that vary from province to province, and with high levels of immigration, it is one of the most multicultural societies in the world. The country's unique development through devolution, rather than revolution, affects the way Canadians view the world and their place in it, and numerous events of the last decade have challenged their self-image and tested its substance.

*Culture Smart! Canada* takes you to the heart of this diverse nation. It unpacks the key chapters in their history, describes the values that Canadians hold dear, and the attitudes that you are likely to encounter. It introduces you to the people and describes their way of life, at home, work, and play.

The people you will meet in Canada will more than likely be friendly and welcoming, but demonstrate an understanding of their culture and an awareness of their traditions and your time spent with them will be greatly enriched.

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**Diane Lemieux** was born in Quebec, and has lived and worked in eleven countries. After completing studies in Communication and International Relations, Diane embarked on a career in international development before deciding to pursue her passion: writing. She is the author of four books, including *The Mobile Life: A New Approach to Moving Anywhere* and *Culture Smart! Nigeria*.

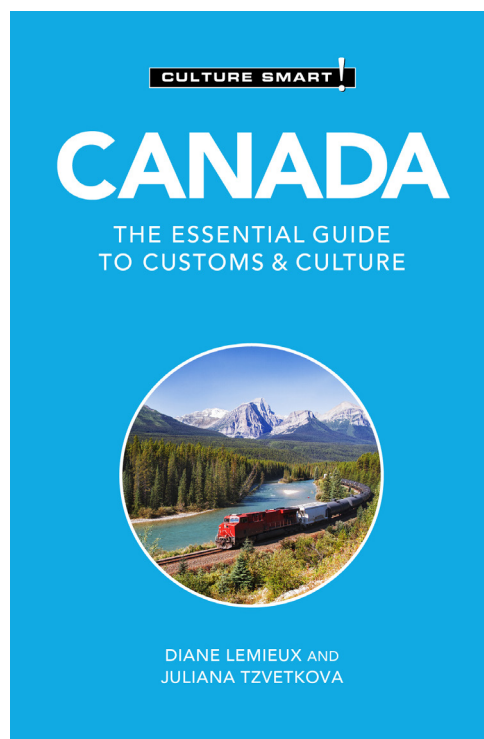
**Juliana Tzvetkova** is an academic and intercultural intelligence trainer with a passion for education. In the late nineties she moved to Canada and taught at community colleges in Toronto. Today she works in student recruitment and continues to provide intercultural intelligence training as well as developing her personal cultural project, *Kanadiana*.

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## Portugal – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Sandy Pinto Basto

Legend has it that when Caesar's general arrived on Portuguese soil in the first century CE, he claimed to have discovered a country blessed with a mild climate and a beautiful coastline, but whose inhabitants were ungoverned and ungovernable. Today, the Portuguese are still impulsive, set in their ways, and resistant to change, yet they are ever charming, romantic, and nostalgic, with an unshakable loyalty toward family and friends.

*Culture Smart! Portugal* takes you beneath the surface of this fascinating country and shows you how to blend in and make the most of your visit. In these pages, you will gain insight into Portuguese priorities and learn how to tap into a helpful and resourceful nature that is often overlooked by the casual visitor. Beneath a sometimes vociferous manner, the Portuguese are laid-back and gentle, so slacken your pace, put away your watch, and enjoy the rich meals, lively festivals, and ancient traditions of this great land.

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**Sandy Pinto Basto** is a translator, writer, editor, and relocation consultant. Educated in London (UK) and Toronto, she graduated in Film and Communications from McGill University in Montreal, and gained a postgraduate degree in Marketing from Universidade Católica in Lisbon. A Portuguese native who spent most of her childhood abroad and has lived in several cities in North America and Portugal, Sandy has first-hand knowledge of the joys and pitfalls of encountering a new place and culture.

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# USA – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Alan Beechey and Gina Teague



Who can afford not to understand the USA? Underneath the gleaming smile of American popular culture lies a rich and complex society that brims with contrasts and contradictions. It is a culture of rugged individualism, of go-getters, of high-tech high achievers. At the same time it is a deeply religious country with a quiet devotion to church and charitable works.

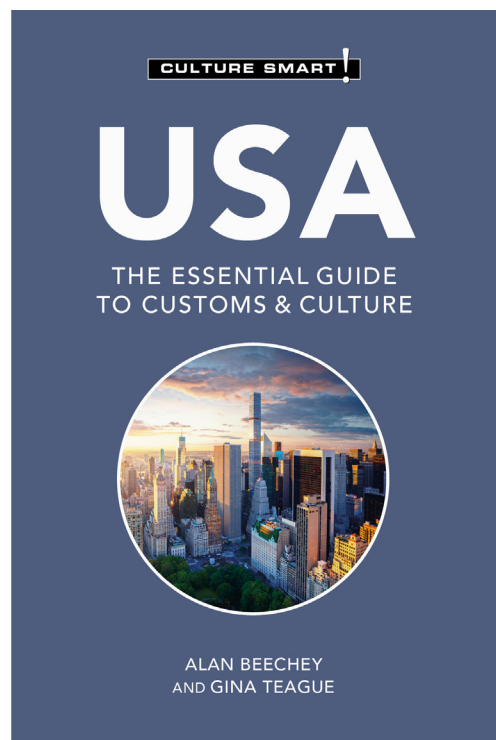
This new edition of *Culture Smart! USA* reveals a society in transition. In an increasingly polarized political and cultural climate, and with an ever-widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, the rise of social media has given more Americans a voice. As Americans wake up to a changing world where their global economic dominance is no longer assured, attitudes and behaviors are being challenged and reassessed across the land.

*Culture Smart! USA* takes you on a tour of the core influences and ideals that have shaped this great country and have driven the behavior and attitudes found on Main Street and in the workplace. It looks at Americans at work, at home, and at play, and provides the visitor with an up-to-date cultural road map of this dynamic, multifaceted society.

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**Alan Beechey** gained an M.A. in Psychology at Oxford University before embarking on a career in business communications, which took him from his hometown of London to New York City. Since moving to America, he has worked for one of the world's largest banks, for two leading human resources consulting firms, and as an independent consultant. Today he is a dual citizen of the UK and USA, where his three sons were born, and is the author of the popular "*Oliver Swithin*" series of murder mysteries.

**Gina Teague** is a training facilitator, coach, and writer on individual, group, and organizational behavior with a particular focus on cross-cultural management and global career development. A native of the United Kingdom, she has lived and worked in France, Spain, Brazil, the US, and Australia. During her sixteen years living in New York, Gina gained an M.A. in Organizational Psychology and an EdM in Counseling Psychology from Columbia University, developed a successful intercultural consultancy, and produced two native New Yorker children. She now lives in Sydney, Australia.



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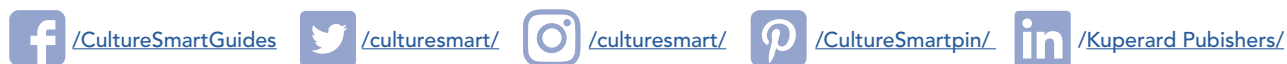
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# Argentina – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Mary Godward and Robert Hamwee

The second-largest country in South America, Argentina has been through great changes in recent years. Its journey from dictatorship to democracy has left many scars, but these are largely eclipsed by the pride and resilience of the Argentinian people, who have developed a style, a language, and a *joie de vivre* that are all their own. Embracing much more than gaucho, tango, and soccer, Argentina is very unlike its neighbors. And, due to the unique way in which it evolved, is quite different from the expectations many visitors have of a stereotypical Latin American destination.

This new, updated edition of *Culture Smart! Argentina* looks at the attitudes and values of the people and how they've adapted to the challenges and events of the last decade. It introduces you to their customs, traditions, fiestas, lifestyle, and cuisine, and provides you with the essential tools to make the most of your time here.

***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.**

**Mary Godward** is an Argentina-based cultural relations specialist. Having served as Country Director for the British Council in Argentina, she has designed, directed, and delivered a range of projects and partnerships in the field of education, science, arts, and language.

**Robert Hamwee** is a training and management consultant who was born and brought up in Argentina before moving to the UK at the age of twenty-three. He has a degree in music and business management and speaks six languages. He is the founder and director of Aliquot Consulting Group, which specializes in international and cross-cultural training and business issues.

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# Brazil – Culture Smart!

## The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Sandra Branco



For many people Brazil conjures up images of football, Carnival, and fine coffee, but it's much more than beaches and bossa nova. If we could choose only one word to describe Brazil, it would be diversity. The variety of lifestyles, ethnic groups, landscapes, and climate is simply enormous.

Jeitinho is how Brazilians deal creatively with life's everyday complications. Literally translated as a "little way," in practice it means that regardless of the rules or systems in place, where there is a will there is also usually a way. The jeitinho is so ingrained in daily life that you can see examples everywhere; managing to get a seat when all the places are booked up, traveling with more luggage than is allowed, or successfully ordering something that isn't even on the menu.

*Culture Smart! Brazil* is your guide to understanding the Brazilian people, their values, and the complexities of their national identity. Familiarize yourself with their traditions, culture, and way of life and your experience of this beautiful life-affirming country will be greatly enriched.

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**Sandra Branco** is a Brazilian-born writer now living in the UK. After graduating in Communications from Sao Paulo University she worked as a video and television producer and scriptwriter in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Bahia, and Ceara, before going on to gain an MA in Screenwriting at the Northern School of Film and Television in Leeds. She now lives and works in London.



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## Mexico – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Russell Maddicks

The third-largest country in Latin America, Mexico is hugely diverse, having both rural backwaters where time seems to have stood still and manic urban centers like Mexico City, one of the most densely populated and exciting cities in the world.

This complex and fascinating country is where European and American civilizations first clashed. The repercussions of the meeting in 1519 between the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés and the Aztec Emperor Montezuma II, and the subsequent devastation wrought by the Spanish conquest, is still felt today.

*Culture Smart! Mexico* takes you to the heart of Mexican society and introduces you to the proud, spiritual, dynamic, fatalistic, and fun-loving people who call this country home. It describes how people socialize, the dynamics of daily life, the importance of family, and the annual cycle of feasts and fiestas. There's advice on how to negotiate a Mexican menu, as well as information on traveling safely, communicating, and provides you with the tools to make the most of your time in Mexico.

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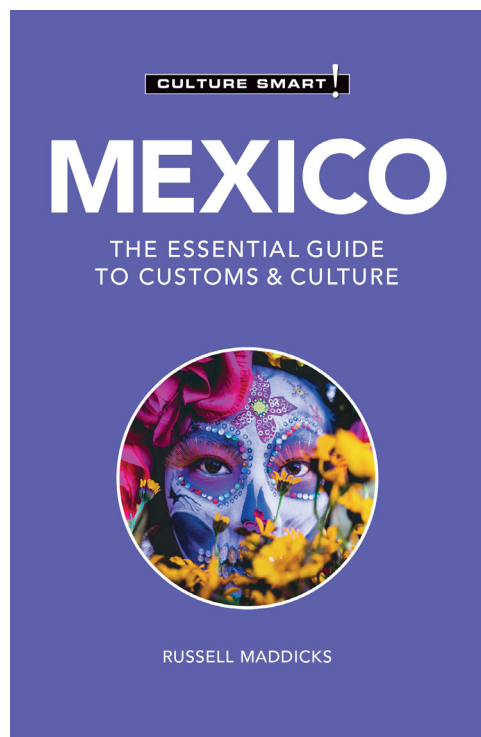
**Russell Maddicks** is a travel journalist who has spent the last twenty years exploring the countries of Latin America. Originally from the UK and fluent in Spanish, Russell has authored a number of acclaimed travel guides to a host of Latin American countries including Cuba, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

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## Poland – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Gregory Allen and Magdalena Lipska

*Culture Smart!* guides provide travelers with vital information about the values and attitudes of the people they will meet, and practical advice on how to make the most of their time abroad. Travelers to Poland in particular, a country in transition from its Communist past, need to be open-minded and well-informed.

Today's Poland is very much a mix of the old and the new, and the two are not always in harmony. Background knowledge of the land, people, and history is crucial to understanding who the Poles are today: the Polish sense of identity has been forged by history, and the reader is introduced to the main events of Poland's turbulent past. A chapter on values and attitudes provides essential insights into this relationship-based society, and will help visitors understand why things are done the way they are. Further chapters describe important festivals and rites of passage, as well as how Poles go about their daily social and work lives. Valuable advice is also offered on how to get along with them.

The Polish people are warm and generous and place great value on personal relationships. Show an interest in their history and an awareness of their culture, and your welcome will be warmer still.

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**Gregory Allen, Ph.D.**, is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Bolton, specializing in cross-cultural management in Central and Eastern Europe and contemporary Philosophy. Having lived in Poland for over a decade, he has written for a number of academic publications on Poland and other countries in the region as well as magazine articles and book editorials.

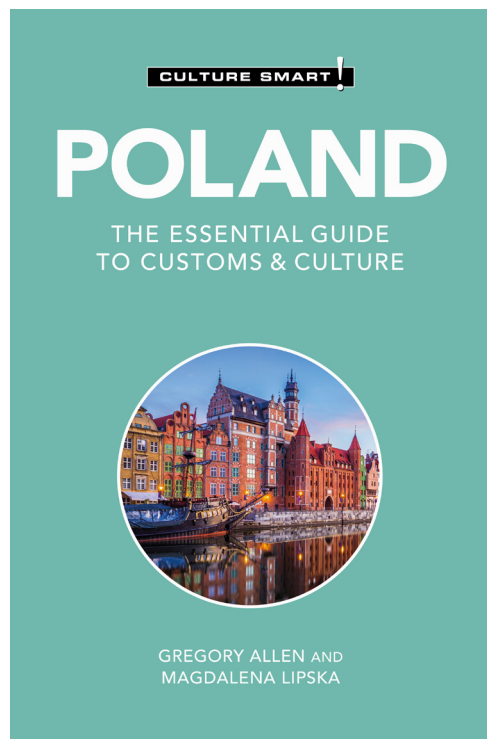
**Magdalena Lipska** is a Warsaw native with a great love for travel and foreign cultures. A graduate in Japanese Studies from Warsaw University, she is fluent in Japanese and spent a year in Osaka furthering her language and intercultural skills on a Japanese government-sponsored scholarship program. Today, she is an interpreter, translator, and private tutor specializing in Japanese and English.

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## Britain – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Sarah Riches

Britain is emerging from a decade of historic change. A Scottish bid for independence saw the relationship of the four nations evolve, and the passing of the world's longest serving monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, marked the end of an era. Today, as the post-Brexit, post-Covid dust settles, the country is having to redefine itself in a multipolar world.

The challenges are many, yet so are the attributes that have enabled the peoples of these islands to find success over adversity time and again: an even-tempered reserve, tolerance, a love of fair play, a certain bloody-mindedness, and a sense of humour that turns misfortune to mirth. British pragmatism and ingenuity have ensured that, despite the setbacks, the country's economy remains the sixth largest in the world.

This new and updated edition of *Culture Smart! Britain* unpacks all this and more. Penetrate the polite veneer of the people, learn about their customs and traditions, become acquainted with their values and attitudes, and your experience of this green and pleasant land will be greatly enriched.

***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.**

Born and raised in the north of England, **Sarah Riches** spent five years living in Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan before moving to London to study magazine journalism. Sarah has since specialized in travel writing. She is the author of *London Almanac* and writes for *National Geographic Traveller*, *Conde Nast Traveller*, *Wanderlust*, and *Travel Almanac*. She also lived in the United Arab Emirates while she was the deputy editor of *Time Out Abu Dhabi*. When she's not working, Sarah enjoys exploring Britain and beyond, learning about indigenous cultures, and visiting friends around the world

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## Egypt – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Isabella Morris

At first sight, modern-day Egypt is an unruly and chaotic place: a cacophony of sounds, an overload of smells, and a swirling visual feast. Ancient church domes and medieval minarets share the same space with fast-food chains and chic air-conditioned cafes.

Egyptian society has undergone dramatic changes in recent years, yet tradition and deeply conservative views prevail. *Culture Smart! Egypt* explores the codes and paradoxes of Egyptian life, outlines the country's history, and shows the forces that have shaped its sensibility. It explains the key values and attitudes, guides you through local customs and traditions, and opens a window into the private lives of Egyptians and offers advice on how to get a long with them and how to be a good guest.

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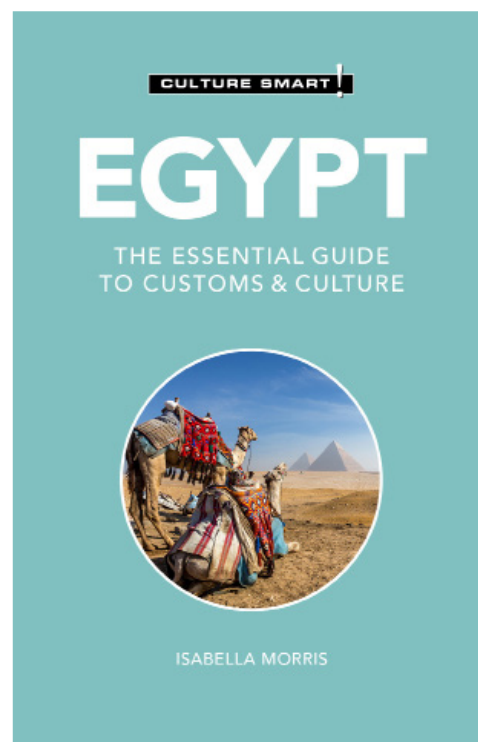
**Isabella Morris** is a full-time writer and editor based in Alexandria, Egypt. She is the author of six books, including *Culture Smart! South Africa*, and dozens of short stories that have been published in international anthologies and translated into Arabic. She has an MA in writing from Wits University, and teaches fiction and travel writing.

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## Oman – Culture Smart!

### The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Nicole Brewer

The Sultanate of Oman, long regarded as one of the more mysterious countries of the Arabian Peninsula, is finally getting more of the attention it so deserves. An ancient land with a rich history and dramatic landscapes, Oman was largely cut off from the modern world until the accession to the throne of Sultan Qaboos in 1970. Since then this peaceful country has developed slowly but deliberately, placing a strong emphasis on retaining its cultural heritage while moving into the hi-tech era.

*Culture Smart! Oman* opens the door to this fascinating and complex country, where traditional values coexist cheerfully with all the trappings of modern life. Here, the gentle pace of life contrasts greatly with life in the West and those that take the time to get to know the people of this land, their values, and their way of life, will find that they are greatly enriched.

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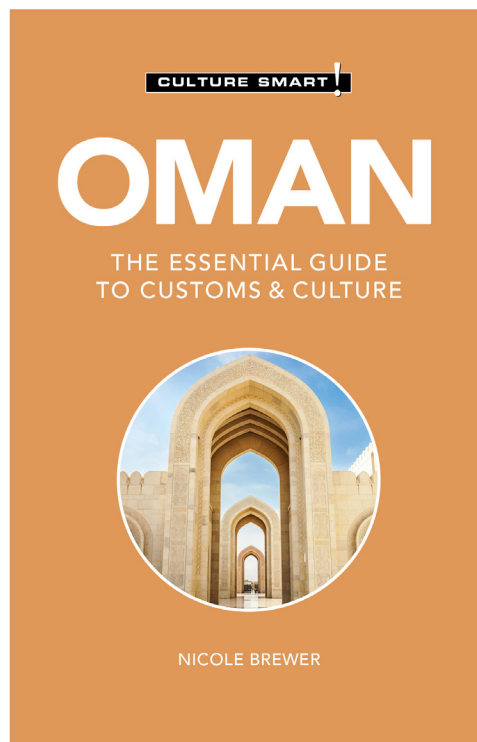
**Nicole Brewer** is an English language teacher, travel blogger, author, and freelance writer from Detroit. An avid explorer, she has visited over fifty countries to date and is no stranger to the realities of “culture shock,” having lived abroad in South Africa, Germany, and South Korea before settling down in Oman, which has been her home for more than ten years.

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## Saudi Arabia – Culture Smart!

The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Cheryl Obal

From a distance, Saudi Arabia may seem a subdued, or even dull place; but for those who take a closer look it emerges as a fascinating country, not necessarily because of its political and economic importance, but because of its people. Reticent perhaps but, on closer acquaintance, charming and warm, the Saudis form a far less monolithic society than one might expect.

Divided by region, creed, and background but united in Islam, insular yet forever traveling abroad, and living with a foreign contingent that makes up nearly one-third of the population: the list goes on. So what do Saudis have in common beyond their national dress?

*Culture Smart! Saudi Arabia* will help you navigate the swirling waters of this important and fast-changing country. Social, cultural, and business life is demystified in concise chapters, while sections on the values, traditions, and attitudes that prevail will help you find your way through the new and unexpected situations that you are likely to encounter.

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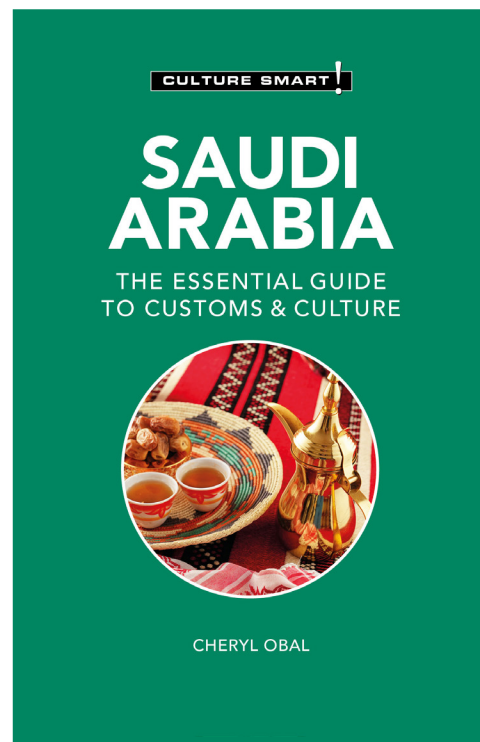
**Cheryl Obal** has 20 years of experience as a culture and communication skills trainer, executive coach and consultant at multinational companies and institutions across the world. Cheryl holds an M.A. in International Relations from The University of Trieste, Italy.

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