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Hong Kong - Culture Smart!: A Quick Guide To Customs & Etiquette



Synopsis

Culture Smart! provides essential information on attitudes, beliefs and behavior in different countries, ensuring that you arrive at your destination aware of basic manners, common courtesies, and sensitive issues. These concise guides tell you what to expect, how to behave, and how to establish a rapport with your hosts. This inside knowledge will enable you to steer clear of embarrassing gaffes and mistakes, feel confident in unfamiliar situations, and develop trust, friendships, and successful business relationships. Culture Smart! offers illuminating insights into the culture and society of a particular country. It will help you to turn your visit-whether on business or for pleasure-into a memorable and enriching experience. Contents include* customs, values, and traditions* historical, religious, and political background* life at home* leisure, social, and cultural life* eating and drinking* do's, don'ts, and taboos* business practices* communication, spoken and unspoken "Culture Smart has come to the rescue of hapless travellers." Sunday Times Travel "... the perfect introduction to the weird, wonderful and downright odd quirks and customs of various countries." Global Travel "...full of fascinating-as well as common-sense-tips to help you avoid embarrassing faux pas." Observer "...as useful as they are entertaining." Easyjet Magazine "...offer glimpses into the psyche of a faraway world." New York Times

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Culture Smart! has come to the rescue of hapless travellers." - Sunday Times Travel

CLARE VICKERS is an English writer who lived in Hong Kong for eighteen years, from 1979 to 1997. Her husband was a member of the Hong Kong Government, and collaborated with her on the history and government chapters of this book as well as other historical books and articles on Hong Kong. She has a degree in modern languages, and has written several dictionaries and textbooks for Hong Kong schools, had a column in the educational section of the South China Morning Post, and is the author of *Escape, a Story of Wartime Hong Kong*, written for Hong Kong teenagers. She last worked in the territory in 2004.

This book provides the basics but if you really follow it you will be ridiculed by both cultures. The writing lends itself to easy skimming because it is not great. Picked up 1-2 tips but laughed at many of the rest.

The culture smart! series has become a standard reading item for me for places I go to visit. I try to read it while on holiday during the slack times, such as travel time in planes/cabs/busses, it helps peel back a layer or two on social conditions.

As someone who is soon to be an expat in Hong Kong, I've really begun researching about the country and the culture. I was really disappointed in the book. It's very redundant and doesn't give any information that you can't find in Frommers, or any other guide book. It's small and fairly short, probably trying to be a pocket guidebook, but if you also need a guidebook for getting around the city itself, and then language help, it just adds one more book to lug around. It didn't delve into culture as much as I had hoped. It had a long section on Hong Kong history (long for how short the book is overall). History of a country is of course important, but again, I learned everything I read in here from my Frommer's guidebook, and that also gave me maps, places to see, restaurants, hotels and key phrases. The only unique section was on business banquets, which seems to be a bit dated. The only unique tidbit I learned was that showing the soles of your feet is considered rude. For a book supposed to be all about culture, I should have learned more than one new fact, especially as I've only begun educating myself on Hong Kong. If your planning a trip, either business or vacation, or considering a move to Hong Kong, skip this book. There are others out there that are much better.

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