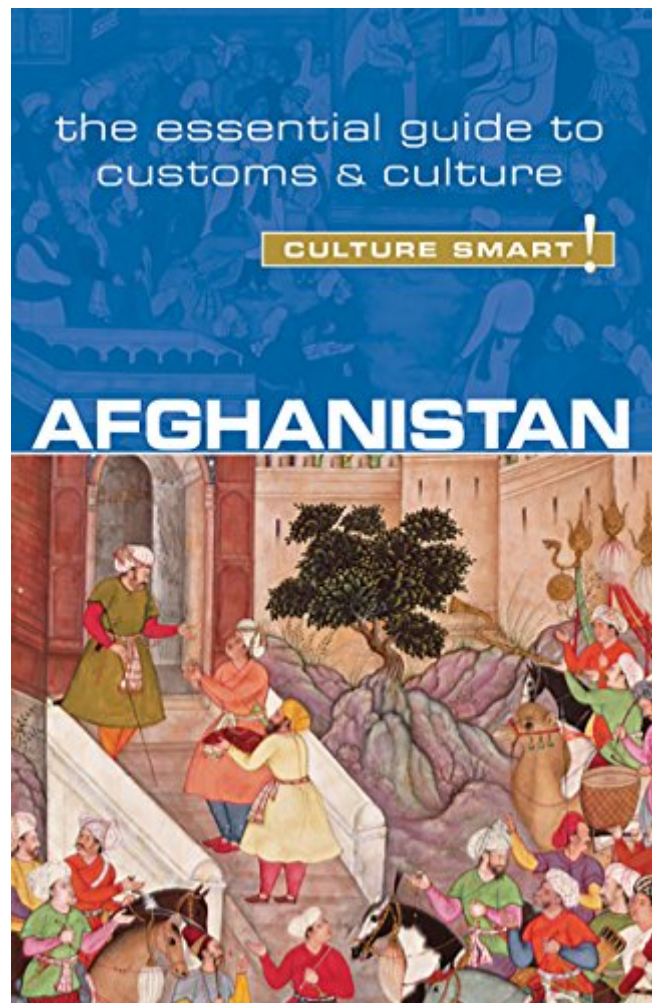




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Afghanistan - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide To Customs & Culture



Synopsis

Afghanistan is situated at the crossroads of Asia, a strategically important location that connects the Middle East with Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Down the ages it has been subjected to continuous foreign invasion and interventionâ ”from Alexander the Great to Genghis Khan, and as a pawn in the struggle between the British and Russian Empiresâ ”making its people wary of outsiders. That history is being repeated in the twenty-first century. Â Afghanistan has always been seen from the outside as a realm of much intrigue and many myths. The Afghans tried to keep their distance from the outside worldâ ”especially from the Europeans who, whether in pursuit of imperial goals or simply as explorerâ ”travelers, attempted to enter and traverse the land. Their very elusiveness attracted Westerners to this landlocked country of high mountains and breathtaking beauty, where age-old customs and traditions were zealously guarded, sometimes at the cost of many lives. Â The Afghan people are a tapestry of ethnicities woven over timeâ ”Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks, and many smaller ones. Society is organized mainly along ethnic and tribal lines, but ethnic identity becomes irrelevant when a common enemy threatens to take control of the country. There are also many shared values and unwritten codes of conduct that govern interpersonal relations, which are not taken lightly. Visitors are struck by the simplicity, hospitality, dignity, and generosity of the Afghan people, and often confounded by customs that they find hard to understand. Â Culture Smart! Afghanistan is a unique introduction to the background, habits, traditions, idiosyncrasies, suspicions about foreigners, and patterns of behavior of the Afghan people. It offers visitors invaluable information and insights that will help them to interact with Afghans, to interpret their behavior, and to behave appropriately in their company, whether in personal or business exchanges. Once the ice is broken, the rewards will be great.

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Customer Reviews

I placed my order on May 1 (before the book went into print) and I got it in December. To say the least, it was all worth it. A brilliant, informative, and fun booklet. Kind of wonder why now -- this should have been on pockets of all who traveled to Afghanistan in the last 12 years. It's not too late, you should have it. I wish there was a section devoted to Mullah Nasruddin. How can you go to Afghanistan and not know something about Mullah Nasruddin? One thing I was a little reluctant about (prior to receiving the booklet) was the question... is it going to be another stereotyping people? Thankfully, that is not the case. What I would expect from the next edition: Colour photos. A chapter devoted to Mullah Nasruddin. A few more proverbs. Go for it. It is totally worth your money and a little more.

LOVE IT

This is just a short history book

This is a very good book for all persons interested in Afghanistan. Some history. Some tribal info. Culture. Good reference for all interested in the Afghan peoples and their country. Reads easy. I should have picked it up in a printed copy to add to my collection.

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