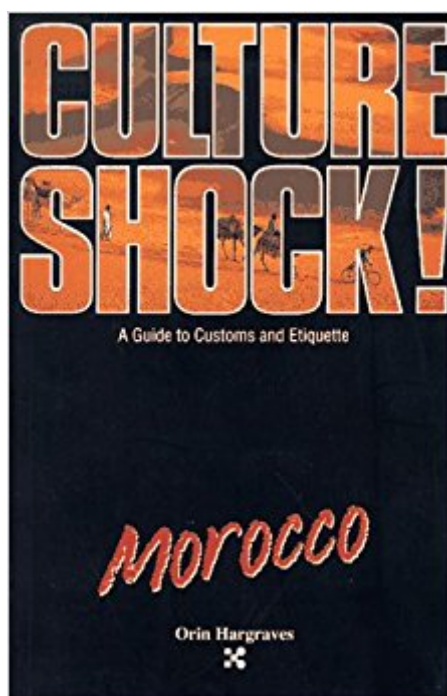


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Culture Shock! Morocco (Culture Shock! A Survival Guide To Customs & Etiquette)



Synopsis

Whether you travel for business, pleasure, or a combination of the two, the ever-popular "Culture Shock!" series belongs in your backpack or briefcase. Get the nuts-and-bolts information you need to survive and thrive wherever you go. "Culture Shock!" country guides are easy-to-read, accurate, and entertaining crash courses in local customs and etiquette. "Culture Shock!" practical guides offer the inside information you need whether you're a student, a parent, a globetrotter, or a working traveler. Each "Culture Shock!" title is written by someone who's lived and worked in the country, and each is packed with practical, accurate, and enjoyable information to help you find your way and feel at home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Orin Hargraves, author of Culture Shock! Morocco knows whereof he speaks. As a Peace Corps volunteer to that North African country in the early 1980s, he learned firsthand about the customs and culture in the Maghreb. Hargraves covers the bases with a basic but thorough overview of Moroccan history, geography, and politics. He delves into the psychological and cultural mores of the Moroccan people, from their attitudes about men, women, and family to their views on homosexuality, hospitality, and religion. The areas for potential misunderstanding between western visitors and Moroccans soon become clear, and Hargraves does his best to offer clear explanations of Moroccan thought and behavior. Chapters on intangibles, such as friendship, world view, and relations between the sexes are followed by practical dos and don'ts for living in the country. In

"Communicating in Morocco," Hargraves gives readers a mini-Arabic lesson. In "Where the Guest Is King," he suggests pacing for the many courses likely to be set before a guest at a Moroccan dinner party and other important tips for how to eat from a communal bowl. He gives advice on finding housing, conducting business, and even how to spend leisure time. Though Culture Shock! Morocco is primarily intended for people making a lengthy stay in Morocco, it also makes a terrific introduction to the country for anyone planning to visit there.

Orin Hargraves is a long-time freelance lexicographer with much experience in both the U.S. and U.K. editing.

I bought this book because it was the available edition on .com the day I was ordering books about Morocco in preparation for an upcoming trip. I am disappointed. The socio-cultural-political landscape has changed dramatically in the last 10 and even 5 years. It really felt like the perspective of an old white guy writing about a culture he isn't part of and isn't fully up on.

Some useful information, but no longer current enough--in 1996 e-mail and the Internet were invented but the author (reasonably enough) seems not to have heard of them. Not 100% accurate and a bit padded. Still, an uptick on what you can learn about Morocco via a search engine. Consider buying it in used paperback if you have a couple of bucks to spare; if not, skip it.

I wish that I had a copy of this book five years ago! My wife is from Morocco, I've traveled there several times and stayed with her traditional Moroccan family - and lived elsewhere in the Middle East a total of four years. This book really could have made me worry less about committing cultural blunders had I had it sooner. Unlike many "insider" guides, this book's author really knows what he's talking about. His insights, observations and advice are keen and accurate - unlike so many other books that deal with the often misunderstood cultures of the Arab/Muslim World and are so often plagued with ignorance and stereotypes. I would highly recommend this book to anyone traveling to Morocco who is going to be dealing with Moroccans on a personal or business basis. The book covers everything from the religious views and mentality of the people to their sexual attitudes and about everything else in between - including just general good manners. I especially like the "test" section where the author describes a difficult situation that one may be caught in (such as your host continually demanding that you eat more) and then gives three or four multiple-choice options. The situations were so well chosen and the answers so accurate and well thought-out that my wife and I

actually got a good laugh out of most of them. I could almost say that a typical tourist could probably do without this book, since much of it deals with situations that most tourists who stay at a hotel, and just go shopping and sight-seeing, will never encounter. However, after witnessing first-hand all too often the cultural insensitivity of my fellow American countrymen and women, I think that reading this book could certainly promote more open-minded thinking and understanding. At the least, it will certainly enhance one's understanding of Morocco and its people. I was so impressed with this book that I plan on getting copies for my sister and any other relatives who plan to visit Morocco with me. It'll certainly help them out.

In anticipation of accompanying my close Moroccan friend to his homeland on a business trip with another American, I read this book in one sitting and read it twice more before leaving for Morocco. It proved to be an invaluable tool to better understanding my Moroccan friend here in the states and it provided knowledge, information and tips that proved priceless during my recent stay in Morocco. I have no doubt that had I not read this book, I would have had a very different experience. This book enabled me to have the most incredible travel experience of my life despite the fact that I don't speak arabic or french. At the very least I had an understanding of this wonderfully rich culture steeped in tradition. I recommend this book to anyone interested in Morocco whether for travelling or simply interested in the country, their people and customs. While this book is ideal for someone relocating, I found it to be more useful than any of the other travel companions I purchased for my trip. Any future travel plans of mine will start with a purchase of "Culture Shock..." for that country.

Having lived in Morocco for two and a half years without the benefit of Hargraves' knowledge, I can attest to its usefulness. I read the book upon my return to the States, and our author is right on the mark with every sentence. Additionally, Hargraves doesn't simply tell us how things are over there in that magical land, but he goes as far as to tell us why they are so. Read this book before leaving for Morocco. You will be all the richer and better-equipped for it. I suppose it just goes to show that one can never doubt the worth of a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer's experience

I have spent 3 summers in Morocco and 5 years with my husband who is Moroccan and this book clarified a lot aspects of Moroccan life for me. No matter how objective one may be about cultural differences, it helps to have a neutral party explain what is happening in a given interaction. I didn't even realize how much I suffered from culture shock until I read "Culture Shock!" Particually helpful were the author's comments on the difference in Western and Eastern concepts of personal space,

public space and privacy.

My husband is from Morocco, and we both love this book. It has helped me understand my family and friends from Morocco with less conflict. Invaluable for travelers or friends of Moroccans or even other Middle Eastern cultures. I have given it to several friends who were planning to travel or live in Northern Africa.

I went to Morocco, as a 1 month high school exchange student, I found it invaluable used for practically every thing!!!!!! I highly recommend it!

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