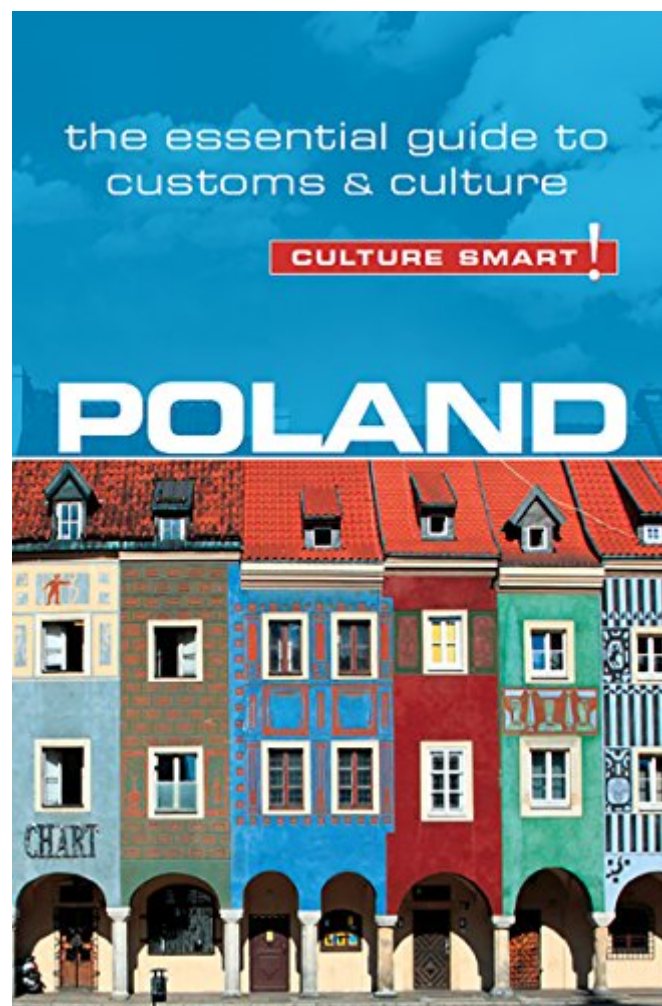




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Poland - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide To Customs & Culture



Synopsis

The changes in Polish life, culture, economics, and development have been remarkable. And the pace of change shows little sign of abating. Through twenty-five years of post-Communist transformation and ten years as a member of the European Union, some Polish cities, like Warsaw, Kraków, Poznań, and Wrocław, have experienced an economic renaissance thanks largely to direct foreign investment, EU funds, and an influx of tourists. Much of the countryside, and cities like Łódź and Lublin, however, are shadows of their former selves. The mass emigration of Polish workers following European integration has had as significant an effect on Poland as it has on the destination countries, such as the UK. Despite a crisis of confidence in the country's direction, a swing toward political populism, and the tragic death of the Polish president in the Smolensk disaster of 2010, Poland is the only EU member not to have suffered economic contraction in the years following the 2007–08 global financial crisis. That Poland continues to develop in growth and influence is a testament to the legendary Polish resolve in the face of adversity. This new, updated edition of Culture Smart! Poland provides visitors with an insight into everyday life in today's Poland. From the country's rich and tragic history to the growth of a modern economy, from the rustic rural countryside to the Warsaw hipster scene, the reader will gain an appreciation of Polish culture much deeper than that to be found in conventional travel guides.

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Customer Reviews

Terrific. One of those rare instances in which you get much more than you expect. The book contains so much factual and useful information about Poland and being / visiting in Poland. I highly recommend!

very happy

I've used the Culture Smart series to help prepare for extended business trips to new countries before and Poland was no exception. What I like about these books is they are quick reads that are precise and to the point. Obviously, this book didn't prepare me for every encounter with a Pole, but it helped put a culture's psyche and history into context to help me better understand various situations and reactions. This is not a travel book and it isn't an in-depth essay on the massive and complex Polish history. It is simply a valuable prep tool that summarizes and explains Polish culture today and includes some helpful tips on how to deal with potential cultural clashes that may be encountered both on the street and in the boardroom. It won't waste your time and I believe it to be a good value.

Interesting, useful information. Great insights into Polish history and culture

Excellent guide! Anyone contemplating travel should invest in one of these books first. There are many things we do out of habit and take for granted. Unfortunately, these efforts can often backfire in another country. For instance, while I was living in Poland, I typed a graduate thesis by a Polish university student on comparative Polish-American body language. Americans tend to stand about 3 feet apart while talking. The Poles are MUCH closer to each other. This can make the American feel very uncomfortable if they don't know why! If an American glances at you, it's typically a quick glance. In Poland, you'll feel like the Pole is scoping you out. He'll take in every detail about you before redirecting his attention elsewhere. Make your visit to another country more enjoyable. Buy one of these guides!

I found this book covered most of my questions on Polish customs. Would highly recommend reading before visiting Poland.

Great books for travel. I used this in Poland and it was a perfect prep for the trip, and made you understand what is behind some of the cultural experiences.

I wish there was a bit more detail in the development of the Polish character.

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