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CultureShock! Germany (Culture Shock!)



Synopsis

CultureShock! Germany dispels the stereotypes and explores the realities of unified Germany, giving readers an insight into its varied people and customs. Find out how a makler can help you locate the right accommodation, be aware of the importance of health insurance and prepare yourself for the short German work week that comes complete with an annual 30 days of holiday. Understand what it is to be an Ausländer and take advantage of the practical information on how to fit in and settle into a country that is still recovering from the scars of World War II and the separation of east and west. Learn to appreciate the various versions of wurst and the different types of beer. CultureShock! Germany is the definitive guide for anyone who wants to settle well into German society. About the Series CultureShock! is a comprehensive, dynamic and indispensable guide for travellers looking to truly understand the countries they are visiting, as well as expatriates settling into a new assignment in a foreign land. Each title explains the customs, traditions, social and business etiquette in a lively and informative style. CultureShock! Authors, all of whom have experienced the joys and pitfalls of cultural adaptation, provide warm and informative advice to those who seek to integrate seamlessly into diverse cultures. The books have a friendly and honest writing style and are full of personal experiences, practical advice and useful information

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Customer Reviews

What a great book. I have lived in Germany and it has a lot of the daily habits that you need to learn and experience as well as information on traditions, etc.

It was good book to read before going to germany, it is easier to live there with knowledge from these book.

Very well written. Appreciated what I learned.

Read All About it ! You'll Not only get a Laugh out of it, You'll Learn About Germany !Good Fun Read !

Excellent info and easy to read. It will be very helpful for my trip there this summer. It was very insightful what the author said about the people, their national guilt and regret about WWII.

The book was in great condition, wrapped in plastic and arrived promptly. It's a great book and will be helpful to my daughter on her trip to Germany this year.

I was recommended this book by my coworkers to help with my international business trips and with dealing with foreign workers

The now nearly seventy volumes in this series aren't really travel books (though they have some of that flavor) but beginners' manuals on how to live and work in a foreign country. The list now includes not only obvious locations, like this one and France and Canada and China, but also the less obvious, like Bolivia, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius. I've gradually been working my way through them over the past few years, especially for countries and cities I'm personally familiar with. Some, like the one on Tokyo, are very good indeed, while others (like London) are pretty bad. I spent some years in Europe as an army brat in the 1950s, back when Germany was still under Allied occupation and was just beginning to generate its economic "miracle." I knew nothing about any of that at the time, of course, but I got along fine with the local kids I hung out with, as well as with military

dependents and "dippies" from other countries. Germany has undergone several complete top-to-bottom changes since then, however, the most recent beginning with Reunification, and I suspect it now would feel like a very different place indeed, even to someone of my father's generation. The author is an American who went to Europe to work, met and married a girl in Frankfurt, and pretty much settled in for two decades, which means that everything he has to say about finding a job, interfacing with the people, dealing with official agencies (and the Germans do bureaucracy more thoroughly than almost anyone), and simply attempting to understand German-ness is the result of his own sometimes exasperating experiences. It all comes down, he says, to a German's fundamental insecurity, the result of 150 years of war, imperial expansion, economic collapse, and well-founded lack of trust on the part of other countries. The result of that is a craving for control -- of social environment, change (as little as possible, please), and one's possessions and immediate surroundings. There's also a fair bit of xenophobia mixed in there, and it all produces an attitude non-Germans often regard as arrogance. If someone bumps into you in the street, they're very unlikely to apologize; they're more likely to pretend it never happened. Many people can't admit they've accidentally dialed a wrong number. They're far less interested in being liked than in being considered credible, which also affects attitudes in the service economy (which is generally terrible). At the same time, a German worker, whether a welder or an executive in an insurance firm, is almost guaranteed to be well educated and trained, completely certified, and incapable of doing a bad job. (He describes the windows-installers doing a job in his apartment whose supervisor came back twice to double-check and approve their work.) There's also a strong streak of formality in the German personality, . . . but once you begin to make some real friends, you'll begin to see quite another, and much warmer and more open, side of their national character. And in the decade and a half since the book actually was written, I know there have been increasing changes in the ways Germans think about and do things, especially among the younger couple of generations. In addition to this extensive and very perceptive psychological analysis, Lord lays out in considerable depth all the practical information you will need to function as an *auslander* in Germany: Housing, work permits, banking, eating rituals, media and the arts, and even how to set up your own business -- though he advises you think long and hard about that last notion. All in all, this is one of the better volumes I've read in this series. By the way, while the publisher and the cover are different, the text in the 2008 edition is identical to the original 1996 publication.

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