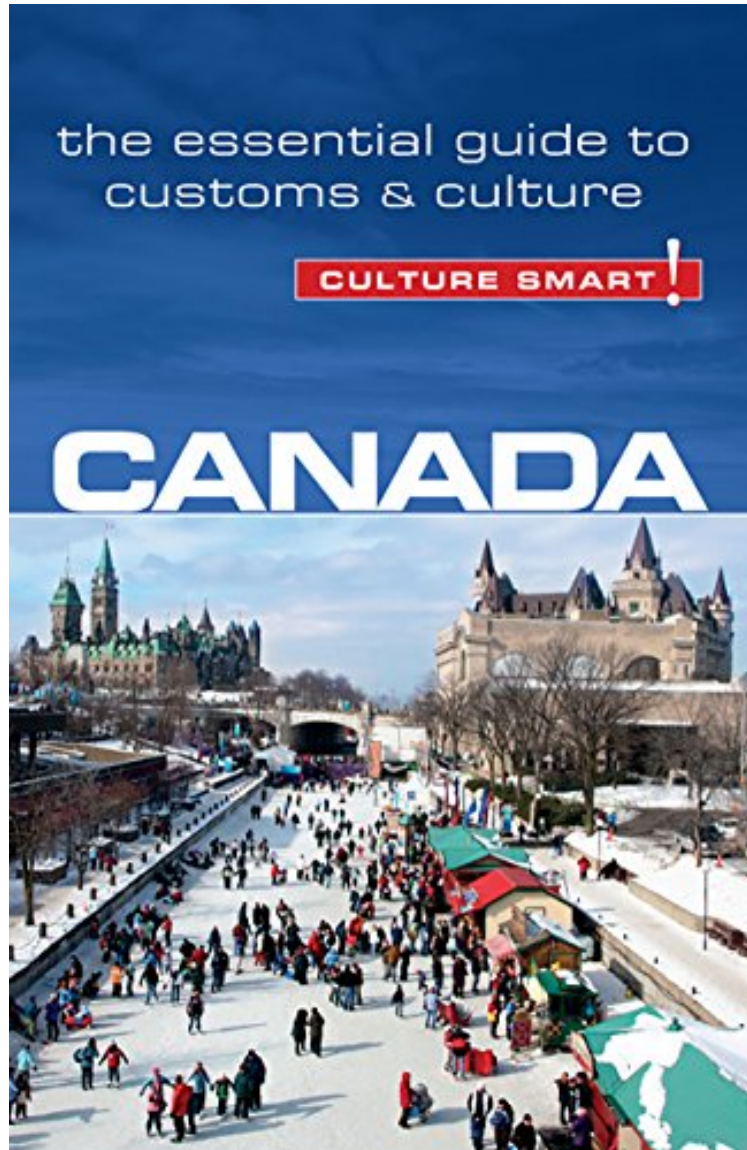


Canada - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture

Diane Lemieux

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Diane Lemieux : Canada - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Canada - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good basic guide, eh?By Larry FlowersA good basic guide, due to Canada's diversity, it is hard to capture in just one book! Still, a handy guide for travellers and business people alike.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Succinct and comprehensiveBy EmilyymbThis is a good introduction to Canada. It is "just enough" for the casual visitor or a good starting point for someone who wishes to do more in-depth

study. I found the section on government particularly interesting. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Errors and Stereotypical By R. Young I bought this book for a friend who is moving to Canada soon. My main reason for buying it was that the language level looked low enough for a non-native English speaker. At first glance, the book seems to be a good basic guide. It covers a wide variety of topics which make it a good general book. However; the book is poorly written and has quite a few grammatical and factual errors. It also seems to be written from a Canadian rather than an "outsider" because much of her claims are common Canadian misunderstandings. For example, she claims that Canada has a "strict separation between Church and state." While the US has the separation, Canada does not. In fact, several provinces fund religious schooling and many of the legislatures in the country, including the Federal Government, start their sessions with a prayer. This is hardly a strict separation. Elsewhere in the book, she also claims that BC tolerates "weed smoking" - another common misconception. The book does a good job describing life in Central Canada (Ontario and Quebec). Much of the book provides examples of life, slang and issues that arise from this region. However; the author appears to have little experience with other regions in the country. Her description of the North and the Western regions are either stereotypical or in error. One simple example is her list of provincial capitals: two of the three "prairie provinces" are wrong. If you are looking for a book on Canadian culture, this one will provide you with a very basic understanding. I am sure that better ones exist.

Canada is the second-largest country in the world, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific and spanning six time zones. From coast to coast lie vast forests, breathtaking mountains, flat, open plains, and thousands of lakes and rivers. It is also the world's second-most sparsely populated country. The Canadian psyche is deeply influenced by the size of the territory and the extremes of its climate. Canada's short history, and its relatively peaceful development, affects the way the Canadians view the world and their place in it. They are one of the world's wealthiest nations, with a quality of life to match, and are proud of their positive international reputation.
; Outsiders assume that Canadians are culturally similar to, if more modest than, their American neighbors. But Canadian society is more complex than that. This is one of the most multicultural societies in the world, due to its high level of immigration. In addition, its small population, spread thinly across a huge landmass, affects how Canadians communicate with each other. For instance, they identify more readily with their province or local community than they do with their nation. Politically and economically, the country is very decentralized. Culture Smart! Canada gives a broad overview of the geography, history, and politics of the land. It describes Canadian values and attitudes, how people relax in their spare time, and how you can make friends with them. There is a chapter on business for those who need to know what to expect in the corporate world. By preparing you for the reactions, emotions, and events that you will experience during your visit, it will deepen your understanding of the country. Canadians are open, friendly, and relaxed hosts. They will welcome you even more warmly if you demonstrate some depth of knowledge of their culture.

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, Easy Jet Magazine - ...offer glimpses into the psyche of a faraway world, New York Times. About the Author DIANE LEMIEUX is a Canadian writer and journalist based in the Netherlands. Born in Quebec into a diplomatic family, she traveled widely in her childhood. She has a BA in Communication from the University of Ottawa, an MA in Development Studies from Leeds University, and a post-graduate diploma in International Relations from Amsterdam University. She has lived and worked in seven countries around the world. Diane specializes in intercultural communication, national diversity, and expatriate issues, and has written extensively on these subjects for professional journals, newspapers, and the Dutch Government.