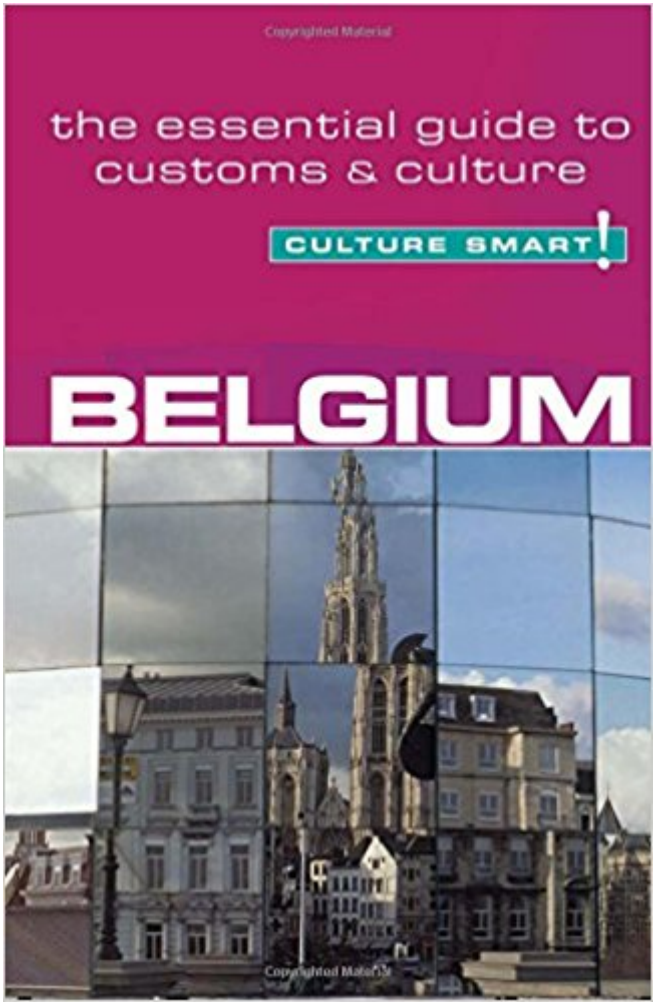
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Belgium - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide To Customs & Culture



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Synopsis

Culture Smart! provides essential information on attitudes, beliefs and behavior in different countries, ensuring that you arrive at your destination aware of basic manners, common courtesies, and sensitive issues. These concise guides tell you what to expect, how to behave, and how to establish a rapport with your hosts. This inside knowledge will enable you to steer clear of embarrassing gaffes and mistakes, feel confident in unfamiliar situations, and develop trust, friendships, and successful business relationships. Culture Smart! offers illuminating insights into the culture and society of a particular country. It will help you to turn your visit-whether on business or for pleasure-into a memorable and enriching experience. Contents include * customs, values, and traditions * historical, religious, and political background * life at home * leisure, social, and cultural life * eating and drinking * dos, don'ts, and taboos * business practices * communication, spoken and unspoken

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Culture SmartÃ Â has come to the rescue of hapless travellers." Ã¢â ¬â •Sunday Times Travel"The perfect introduction to the weird, wonderful and downright odd quirks and customs of various countries." Ã¢â ¬â •Global Travel

Mandy Macdonald is an Australian writer, researcher, and editor living in Scotland. A graduate of Sydney and Cambridge universities, she specializes in E.U. cooperation with developing countries

and gender equality and works for international and European governmental and nongovernmental organizations. She came to love Belgium by living in Brussels in the 1990s and continues to pay regular visits, not only in a professional capacity but also as an amateur musician and performer of Flemish Renaissance music.

I was grateful to learn that the Belgians expect you to shake their hands firmly and look them in the eye. But I want to make one minor point. It’s wise, as the guide says, not to bring up the tormented question of languages in Belgium, given its history. However, do not let that scare you off from speaking French in Flanders, if you know it and find Vlaams too hard. I constantly heard customers and patrons asking questions in French and waiters sometimes even asking them if they understood French. Obviously, English is used with Japanese tourists and others not likely to speak French, but French is not taboo. And I often fell back on it when my Vlaams ran out.

This guide focuses on Belgian customs and attitudes more than where the attractions are. Belgium, having such a split personality, makes this guide uniquely useful. For me, interacting with the people and the culture is a major part of the experience of travel so this is a nice primer. This is an accessory guide and should not be your main one.

Has info I need That will help me for my move. Do wish it was available on Audio

This book has good content, but it is a bit boring. Sometimes the culture smart series are fun to read. While all the information in this text was true and relevant and useful, it was not as engaging as books in the series on other countries.

Good info on Belgium

This small book is just filled with important information to help understand the history, customs, and culture of Belgium. I am very satisfied, and glad that I bought it!

My daughter is going to Belgium and said that after reading, that it was very helpful knowledge before she travels. She feels more confident.

Very interesting.

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