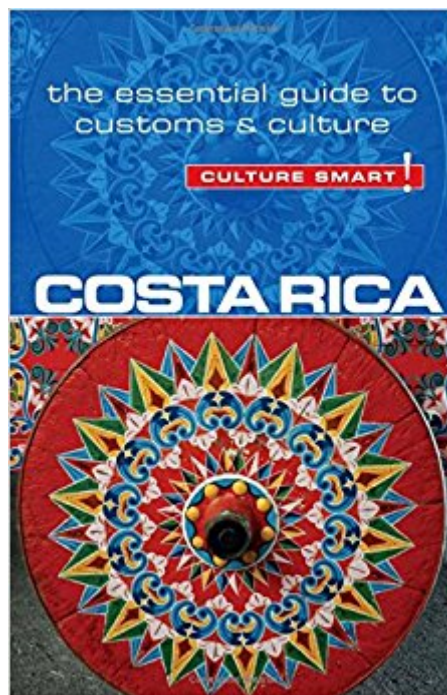




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# Costa Rica - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide To Customs & Culture



## Synopsis

Costa Rica is renowned for its tropical beauty, the warmth and charm of the *Ticos*—its people—its own name for themselves—and its political stability. This “Switzerland of the Americas” is widely regarded as an oasis of democracy in turbulent Central America. Since the first edition of *Culture Smart! Costa Rica* was published in 2005, however, there have been some important changes and, with rapid economic development, some growing pains. Over the past few years there has been a movement of population to the towns of the Central Valley. Higher education is now the norm for young *Ticos*, and the middle class has expanded—but so has the gap between rich and poor. Tourism took a dive after the 2009 recession, and the national debt has grown, while the arrival of multinationals and significant Chinese investment has been welcomed. Unemployment has risen, people are prepared to go on strike more readily, and there is a general disillusionment with politicians. In the face of mounting difficulties the *Ticos* remain remarkably peaceable, relaxed, and fun-loving. Their enthusiasm for life is seen as much in their passion for soccer as in their demonstrations in support of human and political rights. *Culture Smart! Costa Rica* explores and explains the complex human realities of modern Costa Rican life. Armed with this information, you will be better equipped to understand your hosts and to enjoy your visit to this beguiling and beautiful country to the full.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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,

Jane Koutnik is a teacher, translator, writer, and craft jeweler who has lived in Costa Rica for more than thirty years. After graduating in Philosophy and English from the University of California at San Diego, she traveled to Costa Rica, fell in love with the country, and decided to make it home. Over the years she has worked for mutual English- Spanish understanding in her local rural community, and has contributed to several guidebooks and tourist magazines. Her passion for the environment has also led her to devote time and energy to conservation, working with the government, the local community, and environmental groups.

Has some good information and some that is quite dated. You will get some information that you will find helpful.

As a Costa Rican, this book is simple but very useful. I got it to study how other Cultures (Mostly the US) see Costa Rica, and there is a lot of rich information in this book even for the non-tourist.

I travel internationally frequently and always attempt to learn as much information as possible about the country I am visiting prior to the trip. I found this book to be very, very helpful. The book covers just about every aspect of the culture from visiting different parts of the country to conducting business.

Well organized, concise and interesting reading. Looking forward to my trip.

Nicely written guide that I found to be quite helpful

Excellent!

This is a very interesting collection of general information about Costa Rica. I have not been there yet, so I can't vouch for the accuracy. A lot of the information is probably available at various websites, but this has it all in on little book.

informative

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