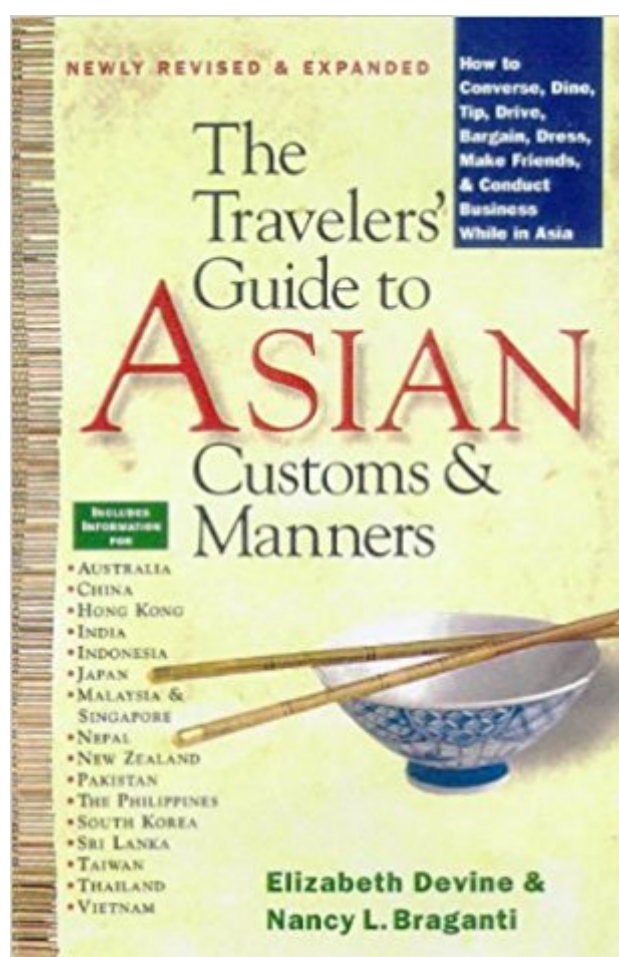


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The Traveler's Guide To Asian Customs And Manners: How To Converse, Dine, Tip, Drive, Bargain, Dress, Make Friends, And Conduct Business While Asia



Synopsis

The clash of new and old has created a constantly shifting terrain of customs and cultures in Asia, making it difficult to determine what to expect or what is expected of you. For instance:-The hitchhiker's gesture of raising one thumb means "Get lost" in Australia, and the V sign with the palm held toward you is obscene.-Even if you're not in India for business, bring business cards. People often exchange them even at social functions, since it helps the Indians pronounce Western names, and vice versa.-There is almost no concept of privacy in China. Someone may grab a book or letter from you to get a better look at it. Floor attendants in hotels often come into rooms without knocking.-At a formal even in Nepal, people may adorn the guest of honor with a garland of flowers called a mala.-Be careful about complimenting people on a lovely piece of jewelry or an attractive object in the home in Pakistan. The host will feel obliged to give it to you.-In the Philippines, don't be surprised if people give you food to take home after a dinner party.-In Vietnam, slurp as much as possible when eating noodles or soup, as it is polite to do so. Business and pleasure travelers alike will find all the information they need in The Travelers' Guide to Asian Customs and Manners, including guidelines on greetings, conversation, telephones, dress, meals, tipping, holidays, transportation, legal matters, safety, health, and key phrases. The authors' concise, accurate tips will put every traveler at ease among the changing traditions of Asian culture.

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Elizabeth Devine and Nancy L. Braganti are the authors of European Customs and Manners, The Travelers' Guide to African Customs and Manners, The Travelers' Guide to Latin American Customs and Manners, and The Travelers' Guide to Middle Eastern and North African Customs and Manners. Both authors live in Marblehead, Massachusetts.

This is a good book for learning Asian customs in general. There are fairly detailed sections for some countries but if you are looking for a lot of detail on a specific country this is not the book for you. this book tries to cover every Asian country including Indonesia so they could not get into great detail or the book would have been 1000 pages. I bought it for a trip to China and I was hoping for a lot more detail. The chapter on China oddly enough was one of the least detailed in the book. Good for general knowledge but look for something more specific to the country you are planning to visit.

I purchased an earlier edition of this book back in the late eighties, and since then have referred to it time and time again prior to traveling to an Asian country for the first time. The book covers almost all Asian countries from Japan to India, and for the most part has been right on the money in its descriptions of the countries where I have worked or visited (Korea, Thailand, Philippines, China, Australia). A chapter is devoted to each country with sections covering public/private behavior, meals, table manners, general business practices, etc. There are lists of dos and don'ts for the reader to follow, and advice on hotels, restaurants, tipping, transportation, and dress as well. It makes for interesting reading on different cultures even if one does not intend to travel to Asia anytime in the near future. Although whole books could easily be written on this topic for each country, this one covers the most important items in a well-organized manner.

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