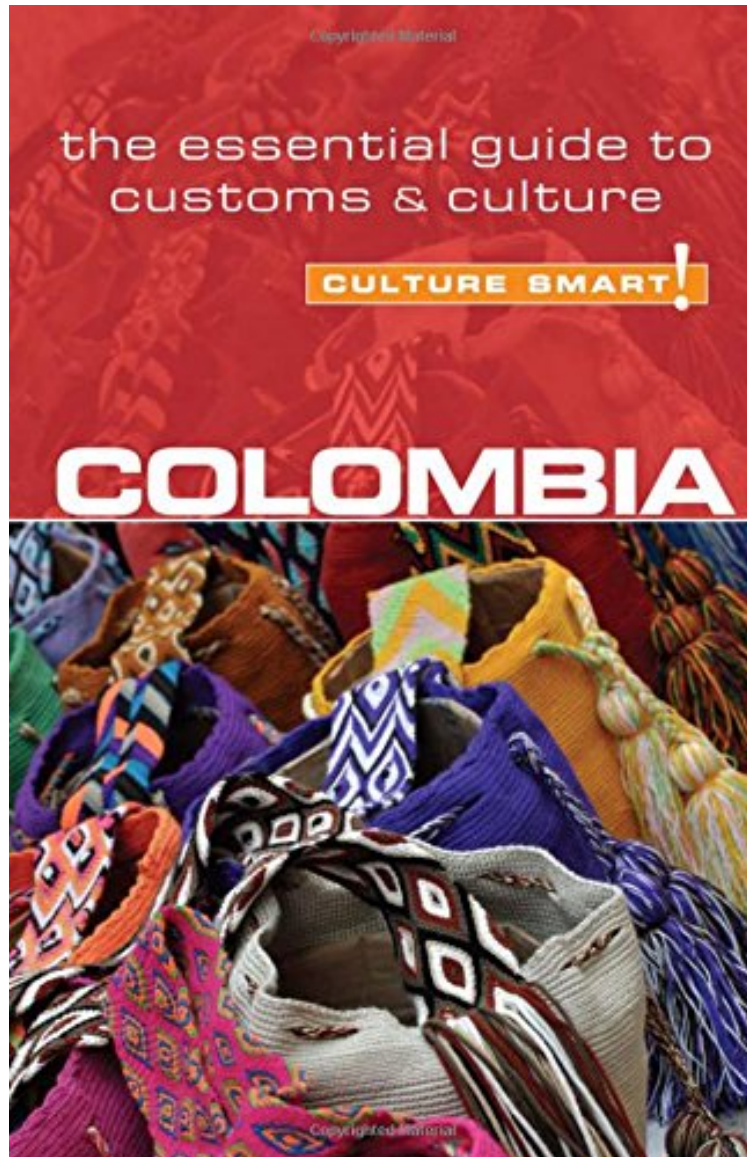


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# Colombia - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture

*Kate Cathey*

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**Kate Cathey : Colombia - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Colombia - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Make social mobility in Columbia a breeze!By Nurture Learners and

Able Observers Very helpful advice, even my kids who were anxious about traveling there, were happy to read the book and found it interesting. Great book to read before heading to Columbia. Really was valuable information. We were able to navigate smoothly, purchase our farm, and negotiate with staff, successfully. We were able to plant 90 coffee bean trees in three days with everyone we had to liaise with, remaining happy and content to be working with us and coordinating with us. The three weeks we have spent so far in Columbia have been smooth sailing with much happiness. Half day school schedules are so sane! Home by lunch! It is very important to know what will be wanted and needed from you, upon entering a foreign country where the culture, traditions and history differ from your own. P.S. They LOVE children there! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. but this one is so good that I had to say something By Federico\_pvr I usually don't write reviews on books, but this one is so good that I had to say something. First let me say that I am a US citizen living and traveling in Latin America. I speak Spanish and understand the nuances of several of the cultures. This book contains the information needed by every thinking tourist. Your standard travel guide has no depth -- it simply includes what to see; where to stay; and where to eat. This book is a quick way to get a pretty good idea of how Colombianos live and think (the culture). If you really want to understand the culture, learn Spanish. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good and easy read By Tony S This book gave insightful, helpful and useful information about Columbia and kept the reader's interest throughout. I would recommend to any traveler.

Colombia is a magical country, full of spectacular varied landscapes, rare ecosystems, succulent tropical fruits, salsa and cumbia music, and kind, fun-loving people. The modern culture is a synthesis of Spanish, indigenous, and African traditions, evident in the music, the food, and Barranquillas famous Carnival. The country's major cities are modern and cosmopolitan, with an international style and consumerism that makes them feel more like cities in the USA than Latin America. Yet, five minutes into the countryside, its distinct rural charms reveal a slower and more bucolic past. In the collective imagination, Colombia is exotic, lawless, and dangerous an illegal narcotics trade and the ongoing armed conflict have contributed to its bad-boy image. But things are changing, and there is so much more than that. Entrenched social inequality has led to strife, manifest in the long-lived left- and rightwing rebel movements and a cycle of appalling violence that has saturated four decades with an undeclared civil war. And still, the Colombians are animated, lighthearted and fun always ready to laugh and enjoy the moment. They have found strength in each other, in their families, and closest friends who are the cornerstones of their lives. Culture Smart! Colombia shows how the country's rough geography and tumultuous history have shaped modern values and attitudes. It looks at the public realm and at life at home with the family. It introduces you to Colombia's distinct and delicious cuisine, and reveals what people think about each other, their neighbors, and foreigners. There is advice on the safest ways to get around; on how business is done; and how Colombians communicate. Culture Smart! Colombia explains the intricacies of a culture that is both modern and steeped in tradition, international and regional, cosmopolitan and agrarian, very rich and very poor, and after more than four decades of undeclared civil war is happily emerging from tough times and getting ready for the future.

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 Kate Cathey is a writer and anthropologist currently based in Bogot, Colombia. Born in the USA, she attended Sarah Lawrence College in New York, where she studied Art History, and later graduated with a BA in World Arts and Cultures, concentration in Anthropology, from the University of California, Los Angeles. Since then, she has traveled extensively in Latin America, researching and writing about regional cultural and culinary traditions. She has lived in Mexico City, where she attended and wrote about small town fiestas, ferias, and festivals throughout the country, and studied indigenous gastronomy and ritual at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. In 2009 Kate moved to Colombia where she continues these pursuits. She also directs cultural travel programs and is a regular contributor to Bogots English-language newspaper, The City Paper.