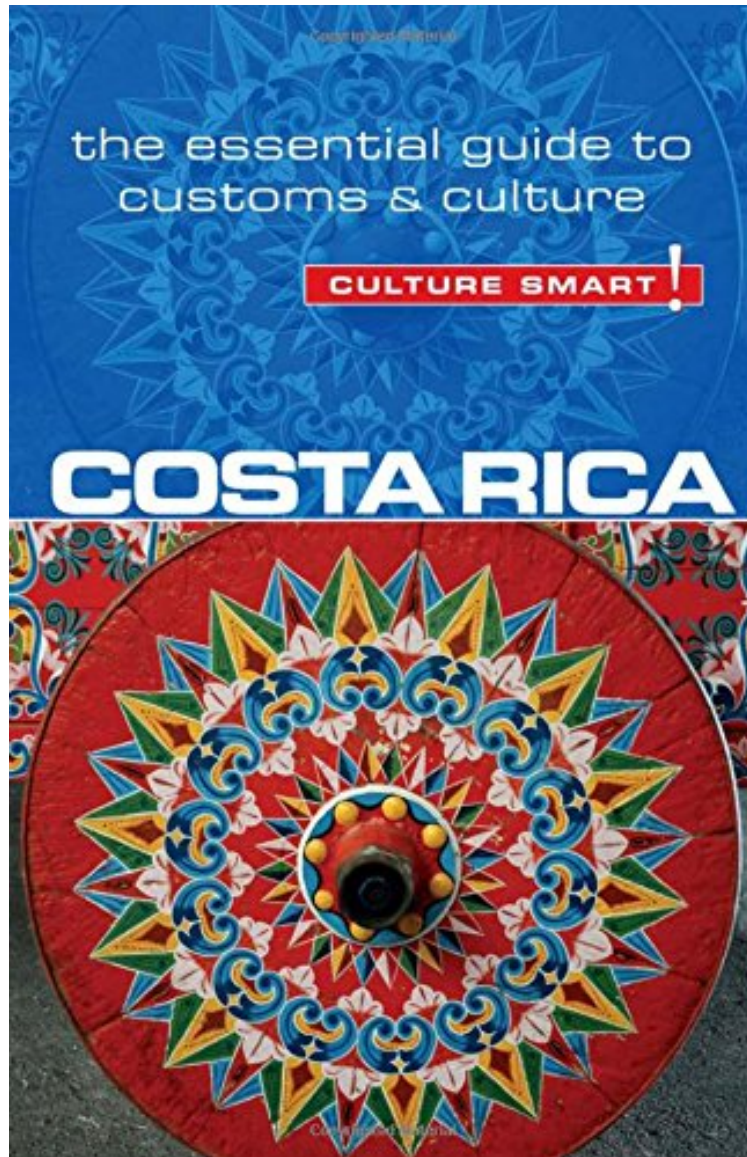


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Costa Rica - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture

Jane Koutnik

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is quite dated. You will get some information that you will find helpful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Rich BookBy greedy peteAs 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. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good Costa Rica book.By Larry TomawI 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.

Costa Rica is renowned for its tropical beauty, the warmth and charm of the Ticosits peoples own name for themselvesand 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 expandedbut 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.

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,About the AuthorJane 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 EnglishSpanish 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.