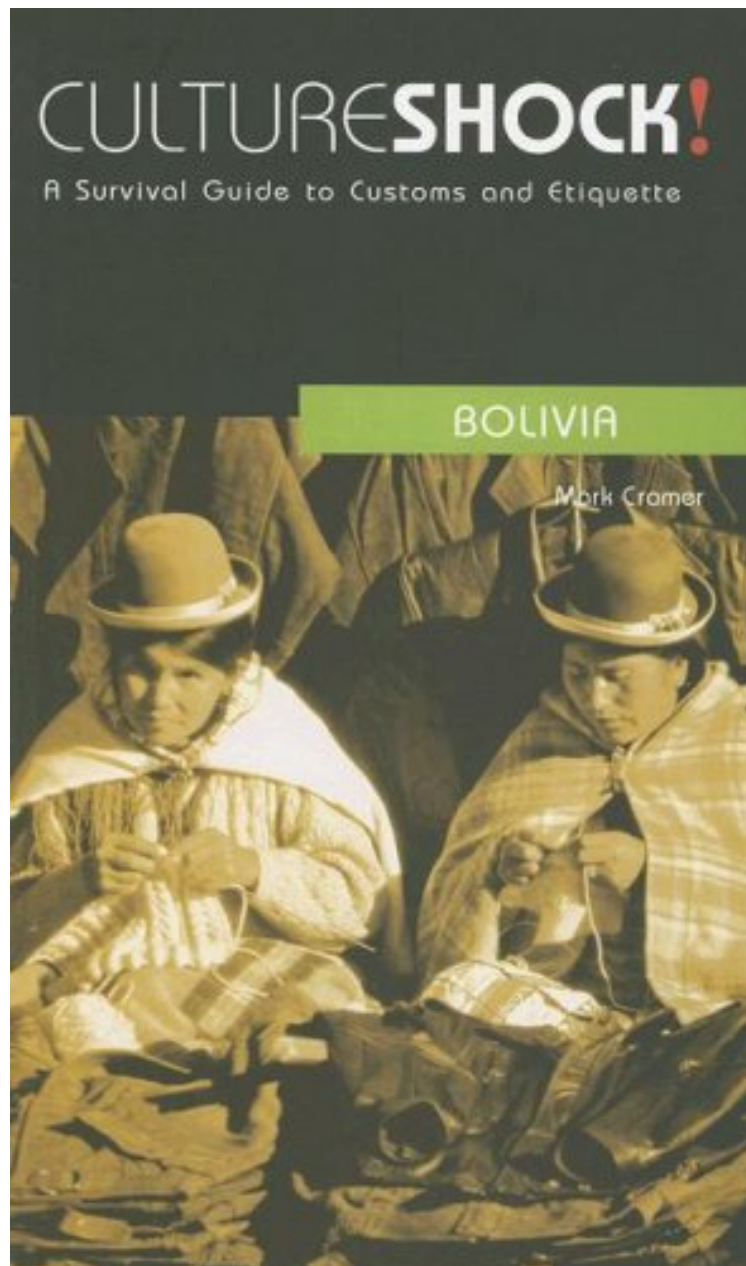


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## **Culture Shock! Bolivia: A Survival Guide to Customs and Etiquette (Culture Shock! Guides)**

*Mark Cramer*

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Culture Shock! Bolivia: A Survival Guide to Customs and Etiquette (Culture Shock! Guides):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Book was very usefulBy PR TruthNot much is known about this country and this book had the essential to understand it's culture and people. Buen Viaje!!0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Never arrivedBy Georgia GriffinThis book never arrived, so I wasn't very satisfied with the delivery. The book might be fine though. I didn't bother re-ordering it because I already have enough on my reading list before I depart for Bolivia!6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Grossly DisappointingBy fdoamericaThis work is abysmal. CultureShock! normally provides readers with a solid introduction to the culture and traditions of a country (Volker Poelzl's `CultureShock: Brazil is excellent), but this guide gives you nothing but trite sophomoric babel.Mark Cramer's writing totally fails to do justice to the complex ethos of Bolivia. Nothing of significance is said about religion, how Catholicism blended with the religion of the Incas at the time of the Conquistadores to create a rich syncretism of religious forms that now is expressed in most all Bolivian festivals and the in daily expressions of belief. He fails to expose the rich complexity of Bolivian folklore. You will find nothing significant about the culture, the bruised psyche of this divided nation, the pride and self-sufficiency of the country's poor, nor the exploitations of the wealthy. Cramer's writing throughout the books is superficial.To example only a few, in the section titled `Aymara Quechua Art', Cramer states, "Thanks to Aymara and Quechua art and music, international awareness of Bolivia is not limited to stereotypes about cocaine." Cocaine? The Aymara Quechua have rich histories, brilliant music and unique languages, but no they are best know for blow! Give me a break. He opens the section on food sections by saying "Bolivia offers attractive diet options, from indigenous health foods to Hispanic cholesterol." Hispanic cholesterol!Add to this insulting writing, the injury that the book's binding comes apart with one reading. Pages fall out almost as soon as you open the book.If you are looking for a general introduction to Bolivia you would be better served by Lonely Planet: Bolivia 2007. The best cultural expose is found in William Powers' excellent and powerful account of living in Bolivia, "Whispering in the Giant's Ear". As an ethonography on the Bolivian culture Mark Cramer's CultureShock! completely fails.

CultureShock! Bolivia provides readers with a thorough understanding of this South American country, a nation steeped in history, culture and tradition. Containing pages of useful information, advice, tips and resources, this book will guide you through the social and psychic adjustment necessary when moving to Bolivia. Learn, first and foremost, how to deal with soroche (altitude sickness), then understand the importance to the Bolivians of Pachamama (Mother Earth) and how she influences festivals and joyous occasions. Discover how to interact with the many diverse cultures, from Kallawayas to Cholas and Cholos to Aymara and Quechua, to name a few. Adapt to the Bolivian concept of time, understand the Bolivian love affair with football and adopt the light-hearted response needed with water balloons at fiestas. This guide will lead nature lovers through the paved trails used by Incas over 2,000 years ago and prompt the question: can an untrained climber reach the peak of Mount Illimani? Whatever your needs or interests, CultureShock! Bolivia has the answer and you ll soon learn not to take a single breath for granted in this diverse and spectacular country.

About the AuthorMarshall Cavendish is a Marshall Cavendish author.