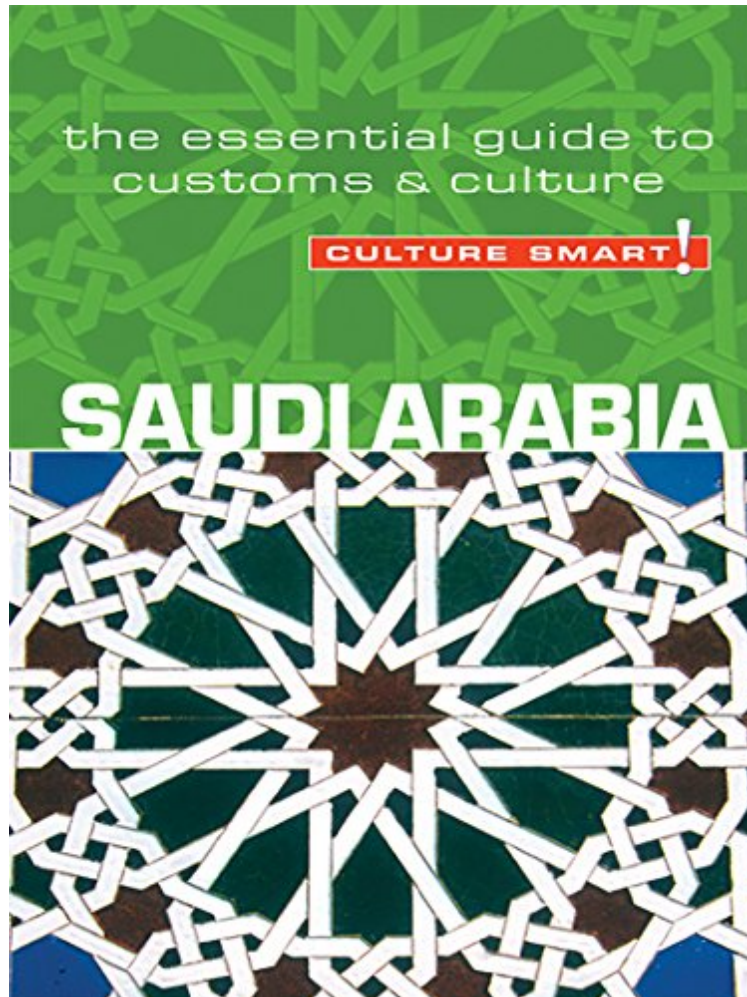


Saudi Arabia - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture

Nicolas Buchele

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1077569 in eBooks 2008-06-01 2008-06-01 File Name: B00462QDF4 | File size: 35.Mb

Nicolas Buchele : Saudi Arabia - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saudi Arabia - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture:

20 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Not Very Comprehensive Frequently Inaccurate By PseudoSolomon Much of the information the author shares is useful, but almost all of his observations seem to come from a culturally biased perspective (and doesn't that fly in the face of the "Culture Smart!" series?), a view that seems unable to see beyond the obvious. Although the author apparently lived in Saudi for a time, I was shocked, repeatedly, by how many things he gets wrong. Just two simple examples: he talks about camera phones being banned in KSA. Not true, and according to my inquiries, has never been true. He says that Saudis are generous tippers. What?!! Tipping is not customary here, anywhere I've traveled (and I've traveled extensively around the

country), and is viewed with bemused skepticism. Saudis rarely tip, and if they do, it is verrrrry grudgingly... even when they're in western countries where it's expected. These are minor things, but they are indicative of a pattern of statements that runs throughout the book. Because many readers may know nothing about KSA, they will accept the author's statements as facts. But he is frequently wrong. Giving him the benefit of the doubt, maybe these things were misunderstandings, or he heard them from unreliable sources; perhaps they were quirks of the neighborhoods where he lived (in Jeddah, a city on the western coast)... but that seems doubtful. Regardless, if you're presenting materials as accurate truths, especially about a place as distant, misunderstood, and politically sensitive as Saudi Arabia, shouldn't we expect better? This is my first review, but I feel compelled to set the record straight, or at least, straight-er, in response. I'm a westerner, currently living and working in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia; I've been here for 2 years. I can't in any way call myself an expert about this culture, but I have worked very hard to meet and befriend Saudis, venture far beyond the boundaries of western haunts, and open my mind to as untainted a view of the place as one can manage. I'm not always successful, and sometimes I hate it here -- but I try to see the world around me as clearly and honestly as I can. The creators of this book do not seem to be feel the same responsibility. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good for learning some cultural basics By Customer This was a quick read for me prior to my second trip to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It helped fill in some of the cultural basics that were not readily apparent from business interactions. I felt more confident this time around and thought that perhaps I understood a little more about my hosts. The book doesn't cover anything in depth, but I recommend it for anyone who has to go there on business. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By moivery happy

Culture Smart! provides essential information on attitudes, beliefs and behavior in different countries, ensuring that you arrive at your destination aware of basic manners, common courtesies, and sensitive issues. These concise guides tell you what to expect, how to behave, and how to establish a rapport with your hosts. This inside knowledge will enable you to steer clear of embarrassing gaffes and mistakes, feel confident in unfamiliar situations, and develop trust, friendships, and successful business relationships. Culture Smart! offers illuminating insights into the culture and society of a particular country. It will help you to turn your visit-whether on business or for pleasure-into a memorable and enriching experience. Contents include: * customs, values, and traditions * historical, religious, and political background * life at home * leisure, social, and cultural life * eating and drinking * do's, don'ts, and taboos * business practices * communication, spoken and unspoken