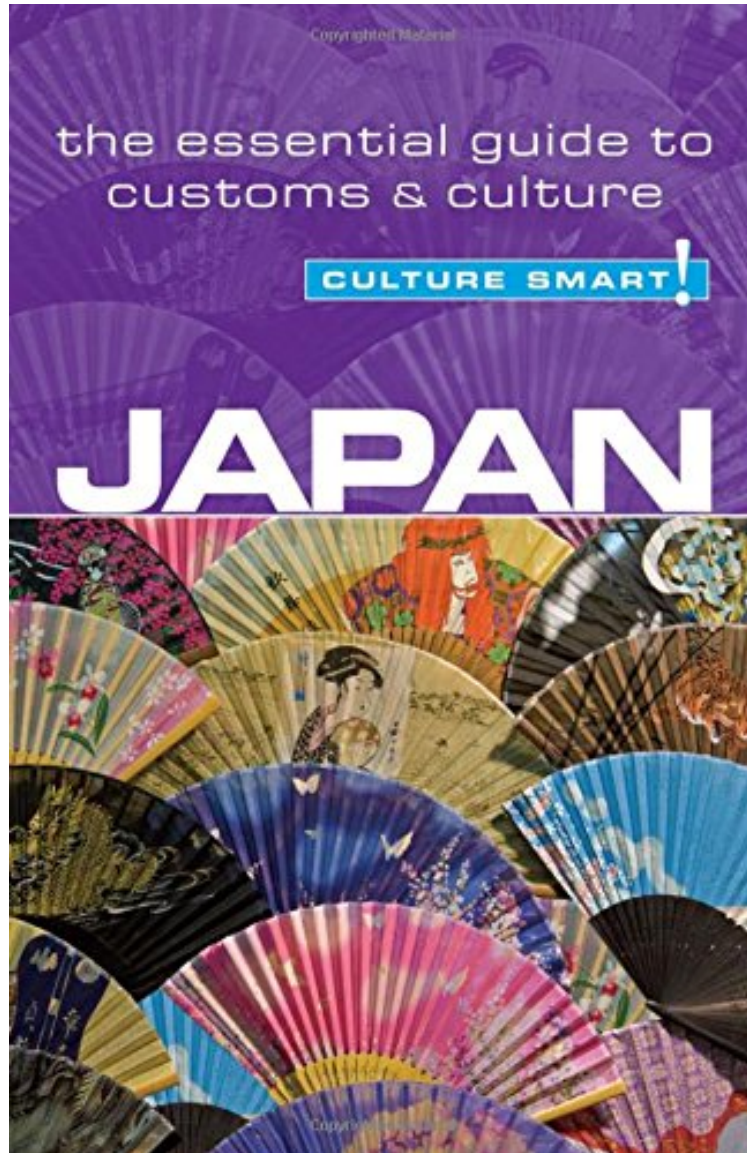


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## Japan - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture

*Paul Norbury*

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**Paul Norbury : Japan - 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 Japan - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture:

47 of 49 people found the following review helpful. A different approach to Japanese culture By Sunshine S. This book seemed a little more balanced than most in its approach to discussing and explaining the ins and outs of Japanese culture. At first, I thought it seemed negative and even possibly sarcastic at times. I was annoyed and almost offended.

I wasn't sure I wanted to keep reading. But I was finding things in it that I hadn't learned from discussions, animes, online information, or the other books I had read such as "The Japanese Way" and "Japanese Cultural Encounters." It didn't include personal stories nor was it academic-style. It is easy to read and easy to find what you're looking for. It's worth reading, re-reading, and keeping as a reference. It contains some useful information, including dos and don'ts and some of the not so glamorous realities of Japanese life, culture, economy. I did find some typos, which was surprising, but not anything big. The writing style was less personal and has a "unique" style compared to other Japanese culture books. I liked it a lot and found it a good addition to my collection of books to understand the Japanese mind and way of life. I recommend adding it even if you have other culture books. I will note that it seems aimed at probably Americans or Europeans who have not lived in Japan, who do not speak Japanese, and who have not traveled to Japan. It's not extremely in-depth, but more a small, compact guidebook to get out when you need it and a quick, handy read overall. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Guide By themightysteveo While admittedly there are some areas where the author could have gone into a little more detail; I personally think that this is a great general purpose/use guide for the customs and culture of Japan and the Japanese. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and gained a lot of useful insight into a new people. I also was able to use what I found in the reading to jumpstart new tangents of exploratory reading and research... i.e. The cultural snip-it was a touch on a subject but it peaked my curiosity and I found a deeper and more explanatory source using this book as the spark or spring board. At any rate, I found the book easy and fun to read. The information contained within the pages were not substantial but also were not supposed to be. I am extremely satisfied with my purchase and ownership of this book and used it as a cornerstone piece for my travels to Japan with great success. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Sandy Very helpful in understanding the Japanese customs and helped us navigate our 3 weeks of touring Japan.

Japan is at a crossroads. The postwar economic miracle that brought it unprecedented development and prosperity is over. Since the publication of the first Culture Smart! guide, it has been overtaken by China as the world's second-largest economy. The balance of power in Asia has shifted and new players are entering the field. Loss of influence abroad, economic pressure at home, and the problems posed by a rapidly aging population present a real challenge to Japan's orderly and harmonious way of life, and to the very sense the Japanese have of themselves as a nation apart. Traditional Japanese culture based on a consensus-driven philosophy and underpinned by many protocols is threatened by job insecurity, a growing class divide, and disillusionment with political leaders. But all is not lost. Japan is still a major economic power and cultural trendsetter, and the Japanese have a genius for innovation. The younger generation is open to change, women have a new confidence, and the country's technical and scientific research capability is as good as it gets. There is a growing ecological awareness that may well translate into new forms of eco-friendly industries. No one can predict how Japan will rise to the challenge, or what effect the changes will have on how people live, think, and behave. Paul Norbury's revised and updated edition of Culture Smart! Japan will guide you through a shifting cultural maze, and help you make your visit to this important, dynamic, and creative society a rich and mutually rewarding experience.

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 Author PAUL NORBURY has been closely associated with Japan as publisher, editor, and author since the early 1970s, when he launched the award-winning Tsuru magazine for Japan Airlines, the best of which was published in book form as Introducing Japan. He also co-edited with Geoffrey Bownas Business in Japan: A Guide to Japanese Business Practice and Procedure. In the 1980s he published Euro-Asia Business for the Euro-Asia Centre, INSEAD, Fontainebleau, and established the Japan Library. In 1990 he founded the quarterly Japan Digest, and in 1996 a new imprint, Global Oriental.