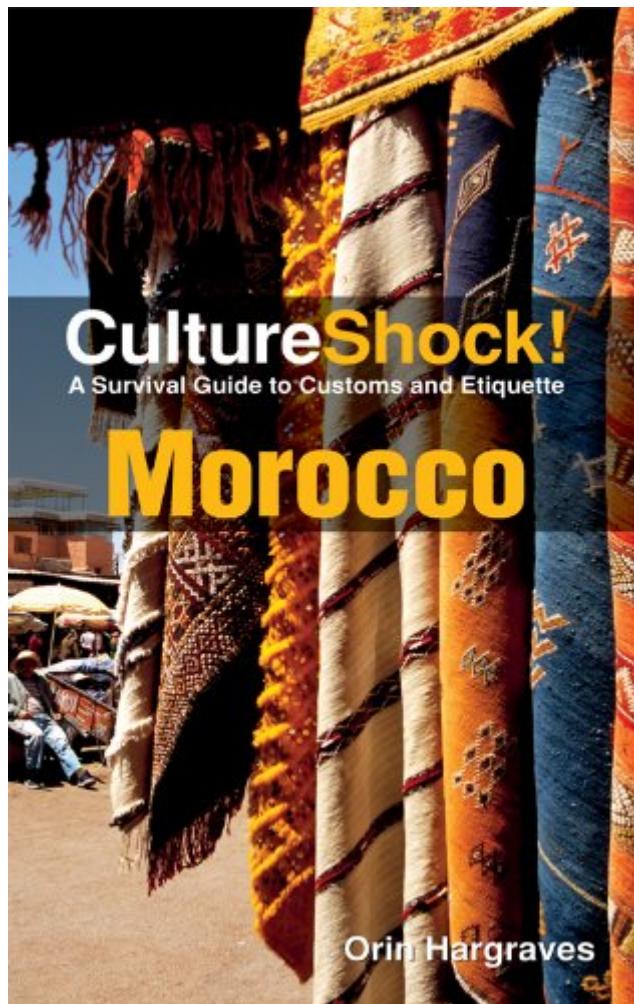


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# CultureShock! Morocco



## **Synopsis**

CultureShock! Morocco contains all the essential information to help you settle comfortably in this unique but often bewildering country. Offering a different perspective from the romanticised place portrayed in the film Casablanca, the book explores the realities of Morocco and gives important insights into the lives and customs of the Moroccans. Understand their world view and how religion and the concept of fatalism and hshuma (shame) affects everyday actions and activities. Find out how to communicate with the locals and how to conduct your work effectively and painlessly in this foreign land. The book also highlights several wonderful things about Morocco, such as the delicious cous-cous dish, and even guides you on what to do in a hemmam (public bath)! Filled with practical information and written in an easy-to-read style, CultureShock! Morocco will help you to navigate through the Moroccan maze and pave the way for a pleasant and meaningful stay.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 16025 KB

Print Length: 320 pages

Publisher: Marshall Cavendish Editions; 5 edition (August 5, 2009)

Publication Date: December 3, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00AIF2KMS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #212,516 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Africa > Morocco #29 in Books > Travel > Africa > Morocco #444 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Customs & Traditions

## **Customer Reviews**

I finished the last few chapters of this book during the first few days of a three week trip through Morocco. I found it to be very interesting as well as entertaining. Our tour guide, who was extremely

intelligent and well-informed, judged much of it to be inaccurate, however. When I realized that the book's original copyright was more than 20 years ago, I used the information more as a comparison of then and now than as a current representation of the Moroccan culture. Morocco has changed and is changing drastically in the last two decades.

We bought his book for our parents before we moved to Morocco. It taught me the lesson that you should always read a book like this before you give it as a gift. My dad was terrified that I was taking my family to Morocco. He was nervous that we would all be taking showers at the public bath and living without toilets. If someone were to ask you to describe America in one short book it would be quite the difficult undertaking. This review is written with that in mind. I, a Texan, would probably give a totally different picture of America than someone that lives in a city like New York. This book seems to make some pretty broad statements and attempt to cover the whole culture. Morocco is rich with diversity and has a lush village culture and thriving cities. The book has some great info, but keep in mind that it is coming from one perspective. It is impossible to describe a whole culture in such a short book. On any given day I see people in the streets of Morocco that are dirt poor and believe in magic and witch doctors. At the same time there are people in Morocco that are wealthier than any of the people I know in America and have very Western mind sets. So again, this is a great read and can get you some starting points, but know that it is not a full anthropological guide.

Useful guide for anyone contemplating a lengthy stay in Morocco. It seems to have been written a number of years ago, and things might have changed since, but I found it helpful for a 1-month trip I'm going to take even though it's really aimed at people who will be living there. Still, the sections on customs, hand gestures, mores, attitudes, etc. were very insightful, and will be of use even for a tourist.

I downloaded this book a couple of days prior to an 8-day trip to Morocco and found it exceptionally helpful. Although we had a tour guide plus a native Moroccan in our group, the information was spot on particularly because we had a lot of local contact during the trip. I bookmarked the Arabic phrases, numbers and words. Orin's explanations about Moroccan culture and nuances went a long way in not being targeted by overzealous shopkeepers or the male population as a whole. Yikes! Overall, an excellent book to have before and during your trip. Morocco is an extraordinary country with some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. The people are a bit quirky but they are open and eager to share their culture if you approach them with respect. I would go back again.

Thanks Orin!

Have just finished reading *Cultureshock Morocco* and found it to be just what we were looking for. Rich in detail about the country, its people and culture, it will be a valuable guide to anyone travelling to Morocco for work or pleasure. The book provides a nicely balanced perspective on cultural norms, without passing judgement from a western perspective. It provides pragmatic approaches to some of the challenges that westerners may face to enable them to enjoy their experience at more than a superficial level, and not feel guilty if they do not wish to adopt the romantic stereotype of a culturally immersed foreigner in what is, afterall, a very diverse country.

An excellent book! Many helpful and practical pieces of advice. I have been told, however, that real life in Morocco is actually somewhat easier than what is portrayed. I have not yet gotten there myself so I have yet to find out from personal experience.

A perfect guidebook! The book contains many useful facts of everyday life. The author describes different tricky situations and gives many sensible pieces of advice. It's an ideal guide for every foreigner who is going to live in Morocco. But at the same time this guide offers very general information about culture and religion. And I think, of course, it's not enough for tourist who needs much more specific information on culture and religion in order to understand more deeply a completely different worldview and get acquainted with its traditions in a shorter period of time.

My wife and I came to live in Morocco, in Rabat, two years ago after I retired from the practice of law in Chicago. I recently reread the book. I enjoyed it even more upon rereading it. The author approaches Morocco with sympathy and understanding. But at the same time, he does a terrific job of explaining the ways in which Moroccans behave differently from people who have come from an Anglo-Saxon culture. Those differences can be very frustrating for us "Anglo-Saxons." His insights into Moroccans' attitudes and customs are excellent. The analysis he gives is very much in accord with our experiences during the last two years.

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