

Poland – Culture Smart!

The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Gregory Allen and Magdalena Lipska

Culture Smart! guides provide travelers with vital information about the values and attitudes of the people they will meet, and practical advice on how to make the most of their time abroad. Travelers to Poland in particular, a country in transition from its Communist past, need to be open-minded and well-informed.

Today's Poland is very much a mix of the old and the new, and the two are not always in harmony. Background knowledge of the land, people, and history is crucial to understanding who the Poles are today: the Polish sense of identity has been forged by history, and the reader is introduced to the main events of Poland's turbulent past. A chapter on values and attitudes provides essential insights into this relationship-based society, and will help visitors understand why things are done the way they are. Further chapters describe important festivals and rites of passage, as well as how Poles go about their daily social and work lives. Valuable advice is also offered on how to get along with them.

The Polish people are warm and generous and place great value on personal relationships. Show an interest in their history and an awareness of their culture, and your welcome will be warmer still.

***Culture Smart!* guides are created to help travelers have a more meaningful and successful time abroad through a better understanding of the local culture. Chapters on values, attitudes, customs, and daily life will help you make the most of your visit, while tips on etiquette and communication will help you navigate unfamiliar situations and avoid faux pas.**

Gregory Allen, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Bolton, specializing in cross-cultural management in Central and Eastern Europe and contemporary Philosophy. Having lived in Poland for over a decade, he has written for a number of academic publications on Poland and other countries in the region as well as magazine articles and book editorials.

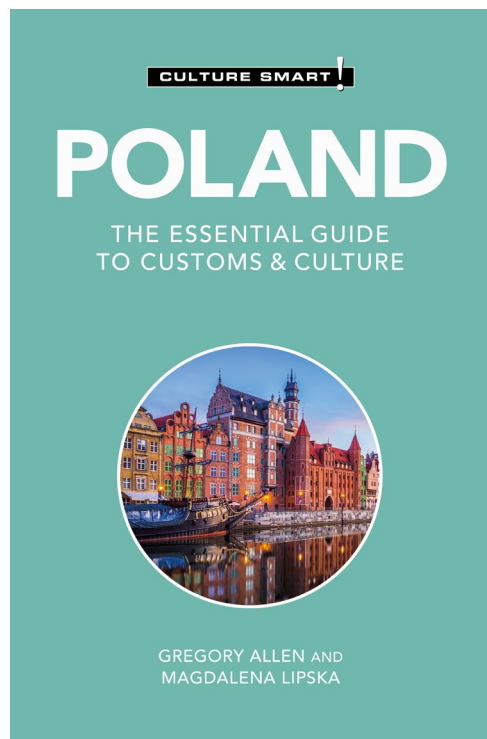
Magdalena Lipska is a Warsaw native with a great love for travel and foreign cultures. A graduate in Japanese Studies from Warsaw University, she is fluent in Japanese and spent a year in Osaka furthering her language and intercultural skills on a Japanese government-sponsored scholarship program. Today, she is an interpreter, translator, and private tutor specializing in Japanese and English.

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