

Costa Rica – Culture Smart!

The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Jane Koutnik and Russell Maddicks

Costa Rica is renowned for its tropical beauty and for the warmth of its inhabitants—the “Ticos.” With an infectious enthusiasm for life, the Ticos are a proud people who cherish their democracy in a region that has seen generations of political unrest.

Culture Smart! Costa Rica explores the complexities of modern life in this lush coastal country. It introduces you to the key historical events that have shaped who the Ticos are today, and describes the values, attitudes, customs, and traditions that you are likely to encounter. You will get an insider’s view of the Ticos’ home life, how they socialize, how they spend their down time, and how they do business. This insight will open the door to a far richer experience on the ground, while practical information on getting around and communication will smooth your path. Bienvenidos!

***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.**

Russell Maddicks is a travel journalist who has spent the last twenty years exploring the countries of Latin America. Originally from the UK and fluent in Spanish, Russell has authored a number of acclaimed travel guides to a host of Latin American countries including Cuba, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

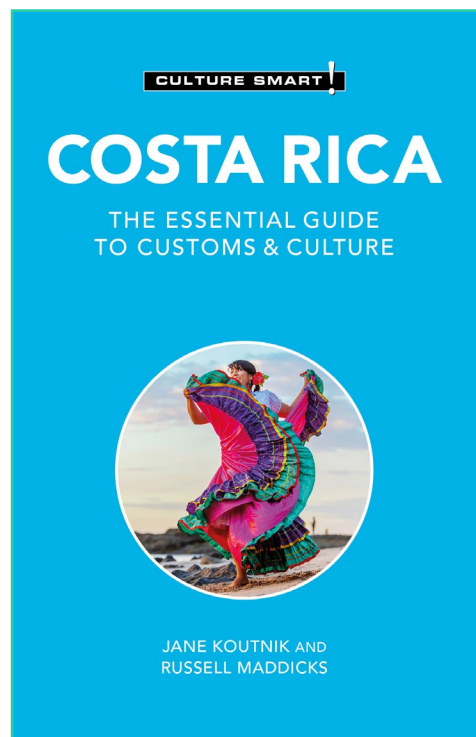
Jane Koutnik is a teacher, translator, writer, and craft jeweler who has lived in Costa Rica for more than thirty years. After graduating in Philosophy and English from the University of California at San Diego, she traveled to Costa Rica, fell in love with the country, and decided to make it home. She has worked for mutual English–Spanish understanding in her local rural community, and has contributed to several guidebooks and tourist magazines.

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59 Hutton Grove, London, N12 8DS, UK
Phone: +44 (0)20 8446 2440
Office@kuperard.co.uk
Distributed in the United Kingdom
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Orders@centralbooks.com
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