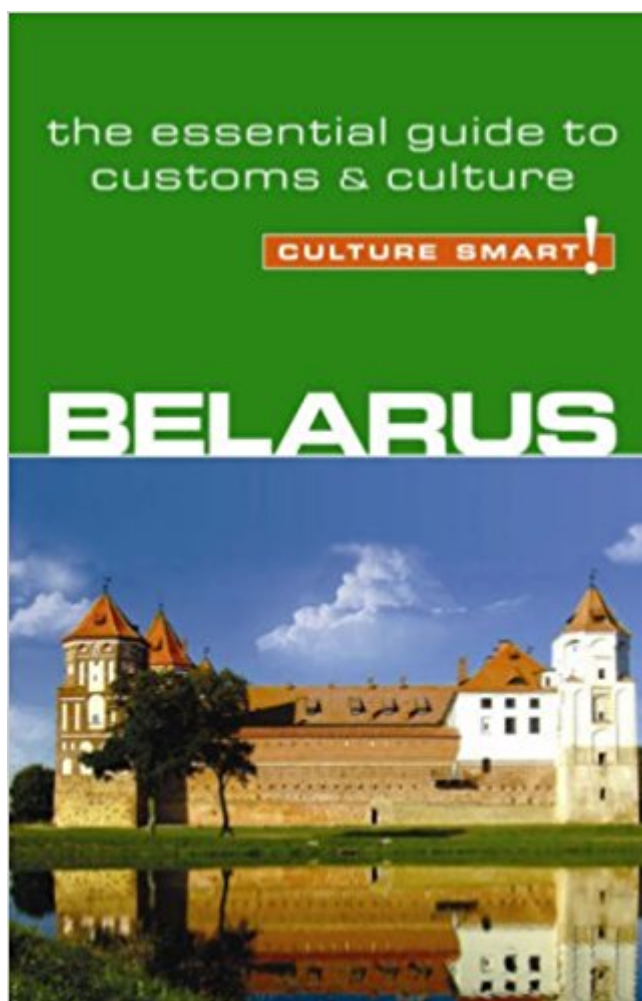




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Belarus - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide To Customs & Culture



Synopsis

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 * dos, don'ts, and taboos * business practices * communication, spoken and unspoken

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Customer Reviews

"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*

Anne Coombes edits the English-language editions of Belarusian state publications such as the Minsk Times, Belexport Magazine, and the Foreign Economic Review. She also works as a copy

editor for the International Finance Corporation and the United Nations Development Programme in Belarus (IFC is part of the World Bank) in addition to editing the English pages of the Where Minsk city guide. She spent three years in Minsk, where her husband was posted as a diplomat, and now lives in the USA, working as a copywriter and travel journalist.

Decent, worthwhile read about various aspects of Belarus society, and not a travel guide per se. When the book gets into things to do and see in Belarus though it generally doesn't offer much beyond what's in Minsk. I was just in Gomel for 10 days, not long enough and I didn't cover enough ground of the country to sense how accurate the authors views are, but generally I didn't find anything wrong here. Overall it was a helpful book.

I'm preparing to apply for travel to Belarus for 9 months. Because most post-Soviet literature focuses on Russia, I really appreciate that this little guide really highlights some of the major differences between Russia & Belarus, while still admitting that they are closely related. Excited to delve into the "further reading" list.

I buy these for every country I visit when they are available. If you are buy yourself and not with a group, it can keep you from making a faux faux and being embarrassed. Great guides with info you don't get anywhere else

I purchased this book before visiting Belarus. I found the history, legends, and superstitions to be spot on, however much of the cultural information suggests the author never visited Minsk. The city has a very different personality than the general descriptions in the book. I suggest you look elsewhere for insight.

I find the Culture Smart series refreshingly candid and Anne Coombes' edition is no exception. Her comments and anecdotes are insightful, thought provoking and, occasionally, amusing. The series is quite different from Lonely Planet, Rough Guides etc in that it has no pretension to offering a 'what to see and do' list (which quickly goes out of date anyway). Its guidance on national character is what makes the series unique, helping visitors to understand the local psyche. I don't know of any other series offering the same insight. I can only recommend these editions in the highest terms and the Belarus edition is essential reading in my book.

Having lived in Minsk myself for a while, I wish this guide had been available then, not only to enthruse me beforehand but to steer me in my interactions with Belarusans once I had arrived. I shall be looking for others in the series.

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