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CultureShock! Jakarta: A Survival Guide To Customs And Etiquette



Synopsis

Book by Bacon, Derek, Collins, Terry

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Terry Collins is a Marshall Cavendish author.

The book is relatively up-to-date, and dead-on to my personal experiences. I've shared it with some of my colleagues who have lived in Jakarta for many more years than me, and they agree it is spot-on. Not only does it give you a very precise description of everything you could possibly encounter here (things I have not experienced personally, but know about through my acquaintances and friends), but it is filled with humor. I have had a hard time putting it down, and an equally hard time not laughing out loud at lots of what is written. I think the food section could be expanded, but the book is already very long, and considering the food here is so diverse, and the restaurants seem to change frequently, maybe the section is just right. This is a MUST READ for anybody serious about a trip here. For those of us who are expats living here, it is a fun book that will have you rolling in your seat at the local Kopi Luwak while you sip your kopi tubruk, guaranteed.

A truly great read which touches on the people and the exigencies of living in such an amazing city. I have lived there before and this was such a great 'catch up' of living in this fantastic country.

It helped me realize I wasn't going crazy, Jakarta is really a crazy place. haha thanks!

I used this book together with "Jakarta: 25 Excursions" to plan my time in Jakarta. The other is meant to give details about the places you visit and suggest itineraries, and both my hired local guide (search the internet - inexpensive and well worth it) and I both loved it as a resource. This book, CultureShock! Jakarta, will get you additional practical info for the city and tourist travel info in/out of the country and CGK airport (\$35 USD entry visa upon arrival since 7/2014; RPH 150,000 airport exit tax upon departure). The rest of the book is cultural info on interactions, transport, people and sights you will encounter, etc. I read a lot on wikitravel.com and virtualtourist.com, and also picked up the Lonely Planet and Instant Indonesian phrasebooks, which made life easier. Jakarta Inside Out may be a bit raw, and could be more sensitive / positive. The Indonesian people are very polite and helpful. You will need to get used to the heat and humidity if not used to working outside all day in the tropics, but thankfully there are plenty of iced tea drinks, coconut drinks, iced coffee drinks (J.Co is a great local brand; Starbucks & Duncan Donuts there too) and malls to cool off in, and to see the modern side of Jakarta too. I'd bring a washcloth/hand towel and wet wipes (and serviettes/napkins for other purposes in more rural areas), smaller change Rph bills (Rph 10,700 = \$1.00 USD) and a sense of relaxed humor so that you will learn to appreciate the city.

I lived and worked in Jakarta for 5 years and this book is right on. The book showed me what to expect and how to act even at weddings. If you have never been to Jakarta before this is a must read and it will help you when dealing with the locals.

perfect!

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