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Please read the "preface" and "post-script" sections before proceeding!!

**DO'S AND DON'TS AROUND THE WORLD: A COUNTRY GUIDE TO
CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TABOOS AND ETIQUETTE
COUNTRY REPORT**

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*****A PREFACE TO THE COUNTRY REPORTS*****

Several countries are at the crossroads of economic, social and cultural change and are undergoing profound changes. The trend towards globalization and integration of world economies are all a part of the forces transforming and changing social and cultural practices through out the world. One obvious outcome of this evolving and dynamic process is the change in social and cultural norms and practices; changes that have in some countries resulted in relaxation and/or accommodation of, and in other countries led to re-affirmation and tightening of the status quo with respect to social and cultural practices and other rules of etiquette.

Every year people travel out of their countries to one or more foreign countries. For the majority of these travelers their utmost wish is for an exciting and incident-free stay in the host country. Unfortunately, many of these travelers do not have an incident-free stay abroad. Even among those for whom safety is not a major issue, there is almost always the one spoiler, an embarrassing moment or encounter. Seasoned travelers have not escaped this spoiler, nor have they come up with a permanent solution to this seemingly unimportant, but unconformable nuisance. One can only think of a partial cure that, at best, guarantees the chance of minimizing part of such episodes. That cure are the country do's and don'ts reports; reports that catalogue important and often forgotten **do's and don'ts** for countries around the world.

DO'S AND DON'TS AROUND THE WORLD: A COUNTRY GUIDE TO CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TABOOS AND ETIQUETTE

In the **country reports** specific country-by-country **DO'S and DON'TS** are provided. The aim of these reports is to highlight areas and topics that, as a traveler to a foreign country, you may want to watch out for and take appropriate precautions against. I suggest that before traveling or upon arrival at your destination, you re-verify those topics and practices you hold so dearly. An important source of such a verification process will be the embassies, consulates and tourism bureaus representing those countries or regions.

The reports are unique in many ways, not the least being the format. Some topics in the reports may even appear to be repeated. This was deliberate. It was also deliberate to leave the various topical items as presented instead of arranging and/or grouping them by topics. This arrangement underlies the importance and emphasis attached to every topical item and our conviction that all of the items warrant a glance or two by every foreign-bound traveler.

Other unique features of the reports include the broad headings used to address the various topical items such as "Is customary, Is allowed...Is disallowed, Is a crime etc". Again this was deliberate. But importantly, it was done so as to reflect the difficulty in addressing the issue of **DO'S and DON'TS** among countries. This arrangement is intended to also serve as a cautionary note to potential users of the country reports. This is more so, considering that even within countries a wide range of different and sometimes conflicting cultures and practices exist and in many cases there is only a fine line between what is acceptable or not acceptable. In essence, disagreements abound.

In effect, while the information conveyed in the country reports is useful and should help relieve some anxiety among foreign travelers, extreme caution should also be taken in interpreting any particular response for any given country. Ideally, the country reports should be taken only as a reference guide aimed at alerting you and increasing your awareness to issues, practices and behavior in other countries.

Notwithstanding readers who may disagree with our choice of headings or with the responses to the topical items despite earlier cautions, the reports also carry the benefit of drawing information from sources I considered reliable and official. Virtually all of the information contained in the country reports in response to the various topical issues or questions came via a questionnaire and was provided by the embassies and/or representatives of the respective countries, including travel bureaus.

Another unique feature of the country reports is its wide appeal. Most of the information should be useful to every international traveler, irrespective of the country of origin or country of destination. This goal was of particular interest to us and provided the driving force in the search for questions and issues to include in the questionnaire.

Every effort was made to include important questions, issues and areas of potential concern to international travelers and to seek answers and guidance for you, the traveler. As the questionnaire was being compiled and concluded, and as the final touches to the country reports were being made, it became very obvious that some issues of equal or greater importance are bound to be left out. It also became clear that certain items in the country reports may become contentious, controversial

and may even generate heated arguments and debate. This, of course is not the intended purpose of the country reports.

Neither the issues nor the questions raised, nor items and topics treated in the country reports was expected to be exhaustive. I appeal to those readers who may have other concerns and comments about the country reports to kindly send them to us. Similarly, I ask the same for those who may detect errors that may have slipped our attention. Such feedback will help us in improving future editions. It is virtually impossible to embark on a project, and a subject matter as this without anticipating concerns, particularly given the differences in customs, contents and social practices and norm even within the same national boundaries.

It is my expectation that the information contained in the country reports will make a big difference, particularly in ensuring a safe, enjoyable, rewarding and hitch-free trip for millions of overseas-bound travelers. It certainly should save you numerous embarrassing moments and hopefully provide you with more fun-filled times and happy memories. Suggestions and letters should be mailed to Public Relations Department, WTI, P.O. Box 32674-1A Baltimore, Maryland 21282-2674, USA.

***** POSTSCRIPT*****

Some Important Assumptions & Observations to keep in mind as you read this report, and as you travel abroad.

As I traveled through various foreign countries, I made some personal observations that should help you understand and better appreciate the contents, style and coverage of this report. They include:

The response to the various topical items in this report was intended to address the social and cultural norms and etiquette expected to prevail in largely urban centers of the countries profiled. While they should apply equally well in rural and suburban centers, I have observed that

(a) urban residents are generally more tolerant and understanding of foreigners than rural, particularly on issues dealing with social and cultural norms and decorum. This may be due to the degree and frequency of exposure and contact between foreigners and urban residents than with the rural residents. This, however, may not be the case with law enforcement issues. (see section c)

(b) you stand a greater chance of being stared, looked at with curiosity in rural areas or by rural residents than in urban areas or those exposed to urban living. In some areas, expect some rural residents, particularly children, to walk along with you or even want to touch you. It is all part of the curious feeling you should expect. This is likely the case when you have some "foreignness" in you, often due to your color or some other outstanding and distinguishing features. While this may seem awkward and discomfoting at times to the foreigner, similar feelings, are often shared by the other parties. My suggestion is to feel relaxed now that you've been alerted. Most of the times it usually doesn't signify danger as you may be apt to think or feel. A good friendly smile from you may just do the magic. You may also notice that rural residents tend to be reserved and often shy.

Having made these observations, I caution that because of the more culture-minded nature of rural residents and their less tolerant attitude towards any form of contravention or violation of strongly held cultural norms and decorum, you can expect in some cases, strong negative feelings and even hostility from some quarters. Interestingly, the signs of such contravention are often clear to an alert international traveler. Either a Good Samaritan citizen will quickly alert you or you will find both children and some adults making threatening signals or physically attempting to harass you. Under such a circumstance, you may be better off stopping and asking for anyone around who understands your language to seek some understanding or clarification. Alternatively, cease and desist from doing whatever you are doing or may have been doing. For the most part, misunderstandings often stem from doing something as opposed to saying something, unless you are attempting to communicate in the local dialect or language.

(c) I have also observed that law enforcement authorities in rural areas tend to be more sympathetic and tend to forgive easily. In other words, despite the higher tolerance level and higher degree of understanding of foreigners, you stand a greater chance of getting into trouble with the law and getting arrested when you contravene the law in urban areas than in the rural areas. This should not be a reason or an excuse to want to deliberately test or flaunt the system during your visit to rural areas.

(d) Expect to be stopped and questioned by law enforcement when you stray into areas that are either prohibited to foreigners or appear segregated e.g. by color, or class or other distinct characteristics of which you do not appear to fit. Stating your case or claiming your ignorance calmly, and politely may be your best move.

(e) If you need assistance (outside law enforcement), expect mixed reactions from both urban and rural sector residents. How much real help you get will depend on the country, as much as where in the country you may be located. Deliberate attempts to misdirect a foreigner is not unusual. It is not unusual to find acts of hospitality and effort to assist a foreigner either. I have experienced both. Generally, rural residents tend to do better. You should rely more on law enforcement officers.

(f) Surprising as it may sound to many readers, life and activities in several countries of the world are still male-dominated and this permeates the prevailing culture. As a female international traveler, expect this state of affairs to manifest itself in the manner that may not only run contrary to your upbringing and expectations, but may be a source of unwarranted attention and embarrassment to your person. Although you may not be able to change things, at least you can learn to be aware of them and to place them to your own comfort level. The idea and trend towards equal rights of the sexes is hardly taken seriously in several developing countries, and you are better off not pushing it and not expecting much of it during your brief stay abroad. Similarly, keep in mind that once in a foreign country, you are subject to the, rules, regulations and laws of that country, including their constitution and not those of your country. To think or act otherwise is to expose yourself to potential risks of all types.

(g) If you love taking photographs as many international travelers do, particularly, first-timers, you

need to be cautious of where you go to photograph and who or what you photograph. One of the most common incidents encountered by international travelers stems from taking photographs. In almost every country, taking photographs of military installations, barracks, posts, hardware (in fact, anything military) is prohibited. If you are caught, you are most likely to be detained, questioned, jailed or tortured. You can also bet your camera or video camera that the film or tape will be confiscated or destroyed. Similarly, while the taking of personal photographs inside the airport is allowed in several countries, there is equally a large number of countries where it is prohibited. It is safer to inquire first at the airport information desk if it is ok to take photographs. I will also suggest the same precautions if you must take a photograph of a sacred site, object or of someone. While some people in some countries may not object, photographing a person without asking permission may be an invitation for trouble. When such permission is sought and granted, do not be surprised if the person demands money (before or after) in return as compensation.

(h) Finally, always remember that you are a foreigner and not a citizen of the country or local. This means taking extra precautions in what you say and do, how you say and do things, as well as when and where you say and do them. Things that a local may get away with, you may not be so fortunate as to get away with. Hence, avoid feeling like a resident and be alert to locals who try to con or trick you into committing a crime or an offense. Furthermore, remember that several countries are still ruled by the military who are usually less tolerant of so many things, including their perception of foreigners and their interpretation of rules of laws.

(More of these observations can be found addressed in the book **(Practical Tips for American Traveling Abroad: Ignore them at Your own Risk**. ISBN #: 1-890605-09-3; 263 pages, \$19.99; Also available on-line for purchase and downloading at www.worldtravelinstitute.com)

DISCLAIMER:

Neither the publisher nor the author can accept responsibility for errors or omissions that may occur, nor will they be held responsible for the experiences of readers while they are traveling. The information contained in this report is meant to serve only as a guide and to assist you in your travel plans. This information is neither all inclusive, exhaustive nor cast in bronze. You are advised to verify and reconfirm all information mentioned in this report with your travel agent, travel advisor, travel bureaus and with embassies and consulates of the country (ies) you plan to visit before embarking on your trip.

OTHER RESOURCES

As a web or internet-accessible international traveler, you may find the following web sites useful, particularly, their links to several other instructive travel and country-related sites: http://travel.state.gov/travel_pubs.html; http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html. I encourage you to explore other country, travel and culture-related sites.

A Few Words For travelers to foreign Countries.

International travel can be very safe, enriching and exciting with careful and adequate preparations. On the other hand, it can become wasteful, expensive, boring, embarrassing and a nightmare if the traveler is misinformed or not adequately informed.

The key to a successful trip overseas, however, will depend, to a large part, on how well you invest in preparing for such trips; particularly, familiarizing yourself with social and cultural do's and don'ts of the country you are visiting, as well as conditions, laws, rules, regulations and requirements, both at home and abroad that will affect your trip. Learning as much as you can about the host countries is very important and should be considered a vital aspect of your trip overseas. Such a learning exercise is invaluable and will cut down on the potential for costly and avoidable mistakes. Above all, it will add more fun to your trip, rather than hurt your trip.

The key to having a successful trip abroad is to start preparing for the trip not on the day you plan to take off, but weeks or months earlier. Your preparation should start from home and not when you are already in transit or when you are already overseas.

Admittedly, investment in pre-vacation planning aimed at ensuring a successful and enjoyable trip overseas can be time-consuming, expensive, and many times, confusing and frustrating to both seasoned and non-seasoned overseas travelers alike.

For most overseas travelers and intending travelers, a major difficulty is having access to relevant and reliable information and resources in a timely, direct, comprehensive and simplified form to maximize time, energy and knowledge. It is these concerns that motivates us, and that keeps us researching for information and resources to ensure that your trip abroad is a truly successful one. I hope that you will find our country reports and other book selections very useful.

I wish you a wonderful, safe and happy overseas trip.

A Special Word for Business Travelers

Business executives who hope to profit from their travel should learn about the history, culture, and customs of the countries to be visited. Flexibility and cultural adaptation should be the guiding principles for traveling abroad on business. Business manners and methods, religious customs, dietary practices, humor, and acceptable dress vary widely from country to country. Understanding and heeding to cultural variables such as you'll find in our country reports is critical to success in international business travel and in international business itself. Lack of familiarity with the business practices, social customs, and etiquette of a country can have negative consequences.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Gladson I. Nwana (Ph.D) is a university professor, a former consultant to the World Bank, and a veteran traveler. He has over the past 17 years traveled to several countries of the world, logging thousands of miles in the process.

DO'S AND DON'TS BOOKS

Edition: ISBN#: Pages: Price

EUROPE 1-890605-00-X; 332pages; \$29.99

SOUTH AMERICA 1-890605-03-4; 245pages; \$19.99

AFRICA 1-890605-04-2; 440pages; \$34.99

THE CARIBBEAN 1-890605-02-6; 220pages; \$19.99

ASIA 1-890605-01-8; 250pages; \$24.99

RUSSIA & THE INDEPENDENT STATES 1-890605-06-9; 160pages; \$12.99

USA, CANADA & AUSTRALIA 1-890605-08-5; 75pages; \$12.99

OCEANIA & JAPAN 1-890605-07-7; 185pages; \$15.99

THE MIDDLE EAST 1-890605-05-0; 120pages; \$12.99

OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

AMERICANS TRAVELING ABROAD: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU GO, 2nd ed. (bestseller) ISBN: 0-9623820-7-8; \$39.99; 658 pages. [Available at major bookstores throughout the United States. It may also be ordered from Access Publishers Network at 1-800-345-0096 (Bookmasters at 1-800-5-7-2665, after 5pm) or directly from the publisher-World Travel Institute, P.O. Box 32674-1A, Baltimore, Maryland 21282-2674.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR AMERICANS TRAVELING ABROAD: IGNORE THEM AT YOUR OWN RISK, ISBN: 1-890605-09-3; \$19.99; 265 pages. Print version available May 1998. Electronic version is now available on-line. See the section on "How to Order."

*COUNTRY REPORTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE & BY MAIL!!!
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Remember: Individual country reports are now available ON-LINE (at www.worldtravelinstitute.com) for \$7 (U.S. dollars) per country, per report. If ordering reports by mail or by fax, remember, reports can only be ordered through the publisher (WTI)!!!

HOW THE COUNTRY REPORTS WERE COMPILED:

Information (responses) contained in the country reports for the vast majority of the countries were provided by either the country's embassy in the U.S., the country's appropriate ministry or department in the home country, or the country's representative tourism office or bureau in the U.S. As you'll clearly notice a few respondents chose not to provide answers to certain questions we asked. They were provided this option in our **questionnaire** and were left at their discretion. These items are market "n/a"

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Other Countries: add \$15 U.S. dollars for airmail delivery; \$7 for surface mail delivery.

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WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT *Do's and Don'ts Around The World.*

"...The Do's and Don'ts from around the world is a unique publication which will help the traveler have a better understanding as to the culture, the laws, and etiquettes of the countries they are visiting." *Robert Whitley, President, U.S. Tour Operators Association.*

"Do's and Don'ts promises to be a stress reducing tool." *G. Domenic Passarelli, Exec. Dir. International Association of Tour Managers.*

"...I believe the information contained in your country guide will be most beneficial to both the business and leisure traveler who has a sincere desire to not only travel through, but to learn about the countries they visit and the customs of their peoples." *Lauraday Kelley, President, Association of Retail Travel Agents.*

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT: *AMERICANS TRAVELING ABROAD*

"The Americans Traveling Abroad Resource Guide is without a doubt the most complete compilation of information I believe I have ever seen in one publication. There isn't anything that I am aware of that has been left out. An excellent resource guide." *Robert W. Whitley, President United States Tour Operators Association.*

"...a very thorough compilation of travel information which should be helpful to Americans traveling abroad." *H. Wayne Berens, Chairman, Institute of Certified Travel Agents.*

"Every American traveling abroad should buy a copy of this ultimate guide. It's a definitive international traveler's resource covering everything from abduction to vaccinations. This remarkable tome sets a new standard for world travel and tourism. No inexperienced traveler should leave home without it." *Andrew S. Linick, Ph.D, Chairman/CEO, Travel, Tourism, Transportation and Hospitality Adviceline. Bestselling Author of Guide to Trouble-Free Travel.*

"Terrific! It's great to have all the necessary international travel information at your finger tips rather than trying to find the one single publication. A great asset for Human Resource departments that are responsible for relocating employees and their families overseas." *John H. Hintz, President National Business Travel Association.*

"This is an extremely useful compilation of information, much of which would not be available in small libraries, and useful in large libraries with U.S. Documents because it compiles the wealth of information in one easy source." *Harriet C. Jenkins, Librarian, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD.*

"Americans Traveling Abroad is very detailed, it contains everything from what to do if you are held hostage to how to obtain visas. This book would be an excellent addition as a reference work for libraries, travel agents and companies doing business abroad." *Christopher J.J. Thiry, Map Librarian, New York Public Library.*

"A very unique complete book. Contains much useful information including warnings and cautions not found in regular tourist literature. Includes travel tips for the disabled, dealing with foreign officials, drug laws etc. The nitty gritty of traveling that looks deeper than the usual tourist attractions. A must for the frequent traveler or public library collection." *Jean Alexander, Regional Administrator, County of Los Angeles, Public Library.*

"The book is very instructive." *Mark T.V. Shaw-Lawrence, Executive Director, Society for the Advancement of Travel for the Handicapped.*

"This is a wonderful resource book. It is full of valuable information. It provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions." *Rose Jaskulsky, Owner, Travel Advisors, Baltimore, MD.*

"...what a mammoth research job it must have been. It should be of interest to libraries, universities, major organizations and companies whose staff travel abroad" *Lucille M. Hoshabjan, Manager Marketing Communications and Industry Affairs, LUFTANSA GERMAN AIRLINES"*

"Anything that promotes the goal of traveler safety and security must be applauded. Your effort to compile and organize a comprehensive anthology of information on the subject is a positive and useful step toward this goal." *Edward R. Book, President, Travel Industry Association of America.*

"This is the ultimate gift item for every travel agency....a more meaningful gift...a gift with a 'heart'. Without a doubt, the book 'Americans Traveling

DO'S AND DON'TS AROUND THE WORLD: A COUNTRY GUIDE TO CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TABOOS AND ETIQUETTE

Abroad' will make an excellent gift for all seasons and for every category of international traveler. Finally, my clients will have a ready source for answers to most of their frequently asked questions. Excellent work!" *Dr. M. Karangu, President, NJIRA International Travel Agency.*

This is one publication that truly lives up to its description. It should be read at least in part, if not in its entirety, by anyone embarking on foreign travel for the first time. Even seasoned travelers would benefit from it...this book will be a most welcome addition to any travel reference collection. *American Library Association (BOOKLIST)*

"Nwanna provides an extremely comprehensive and well-researched resource guide for the American traveler abroad...A traveler would be hard pressed to find information not included in this volume. Its excellent table of contents and index make it easy to use. Well recommended." *Library Journal.*

"Americans Traveling Abroad: What You Should Know Before You Go' is a nice big book filled with helpful information. It is excellent for the first timer or the experienced business traveler or tourist. Travel agents should invest in a copy of this and keep it handy." *The press Tribune.*

"This all-in-one guide packs in details on everything from health and safety to money tips, terrorism, funds replacement, driving and visa requirements, making it the most comprehensive handbook in print on international travel. A "must" for any who frequently go overseas." *The Midwest Book Review (BOOKWATCH).*

"Information is relevant, reliable, and easy to use. This resource delivers on all it promises. It is a great book! Very highly recommended." *American Reference Book Annual.*

COUNTRY REPORTS

[Note: Individual Country reports are currently available at \$7 per country, per report. Price includes postage]

AFRICA

ALGERIA
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CENTRAL AFR. REP.
CHAD
COMOROS
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REP OF.
COTE D'IVOIRE
DJIBOUTI, REP. OF
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ETHIOPIA
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ST. HELENA IS.
TUVALU
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THE CARIBBEAN

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ANGUILLA
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
CAYMAN IS
CURACAO
DOMINICA
DOMINICAN REP.
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GRENADA
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ST. MARTIN
ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON
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CANADA
AUSTRALIA
USA

DO'S AND DON'TS AROUND THE WORLD: A COUNTRY GUIDE TO CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TABOOS AND ETIQUETTE
MACEDONIA

<u>MACEDONIA</u>	Is customary Is allowed Is permissible Is used. Is OK	Is not customary Is frowned upon	Is disallowed Is forbidden Is a crime	(See last page for comments on items referenced here)
Smoking in public			U	
Eating in public	U			
Not flushing public toilet		U		
Spitting in public		U		
Feeding animals & birds in public	U			
Whistling in public		U		
Drinking alcohol in public			U	
Kissing in public		U		
Breast feeding in public		U		
Drunkenness (in public)			U	
Cursing in public		U		
Religious preaching in public			U	
Begging (panhandling) in public		U		
Giving money to beggars/panhandlers	U			
Giving food/drink to beggars/panhandlers	U			
Brushing teeth in public (other than in restrooms)		U		
Strolling with pets in major public roads/streets	U			
Chewing gum in public	U			
Chewing gum in government offices		U		
Combing hair in public (other than in toilets/restrooms)		U		
Undressing/dressing in public		U		
Wearing of dark glasses indoors in public places	U			
Public display of wealth		U		
Praying openly in public in non-designated areas		U		
Walking bare feet in public		U		
Chewing tobacco in public		U		
Trimming one's finger or toe nails in public		U		
Laughing aloud in public		U		
Mingling of the sexes in public	U			
Mixed bathing in public swimming pools	U			
Distributing religious pamphlets (literature) in public/side streets			U	

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	Is customary Is allowed Is permissible Is used. Is OK	Is not customary Is frowned upon	Is disallowed Is forbidden Is a crime	(See last page for comments on items referenced here)
Dancing on side street		U		
Nude bathing			U	
Littering			U	
Binge Drinking			U	
hitchhiking	U			
Jaywalking			U	
Drunk driving			U	
Speeding			U	
Skating on side streets (side-walk)		U		
Graffiti painting		U		
Pilfering			U	
Prostitution			U	
Haggling in the market place	U			
Consumption of alcoholic beverages in bars and restaurants	U			
Gambling			U	
Possession of pornographic materials		U		
Possession of the Christian Bible	U			
Possession of the Moslem Koran	U			
Possession of bullet-proof vest				
Possession of toy gun	U			
Possession of fire crackers and fireworks			U	
Possession of prescription drugs (without doctor's note)	U			
Possession of regulated drugs (narcotics)			U	
Possession of firearms (by foreigners)			U	
Possession of pocket knife in public		U		
Using walkie talkies	U			1
Using of "boom boxes"(loud sounding stereo system)		U		2
Using "walkman" (very small radio/cassettes with ear plugs) in public places	U			
Using "walkman" (very small radio/cassettes with ear plugs) while driving or riding		U		

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Use of cellular phone	U			
Use of binoculars/periscopes other than in sports arena	U			
Taking photographs of people (without their permission)		U		
Taking photographs at airports, train and bus stations		U		
Taking photographs of airports			U	
Taking photographs of churches and synagogues	U			
Taking photographs of religious statues	U			
Taking photographs of public buildings	U			
Taking photographs of bridges				
Tipping (gratuity)	U			
Tipping (when service is rendered)	U			
Tipping (when service is not rendered)		U		
Tipping waiters/waitresses at restaurants and hotels	U			
Tipping taxi/cab drivers	U			
Tipping baggage handlers, porters, door persons	U			
Tipping of hair dressers/barbers	U			
Overtipping	U			
Undertipping	U			
Spilling cigarette butt (ash) on side streets/on the floor		U		
Men wearing lipstick		U		
Wearing visible tattoo marks		U		
Men painting/coloring their finger or toe nails		U		
Cross dressing (men dressed like women & vice versa)		U		
Walking in public without a shirt (i.e. with the upper half of the body naked)		U		
Men wearing braided hair	U			
Men wearing earrings	U			
Men wearing dreadlock hair style	U			
Homosexuality		U		
Lesbianism		U		

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Females covering their hair (wearing headgear) in public	U			
Females exposing their full face in public	U			
Females driving automobiles	U			
Females riding motorcycles	U			
Females riding bicycles	U			
Females smoking in public			U	
Women wearing bras (braziers) in public	U			
Use of lipstick by women	U			
A woman extending her hands first when introduced		U		
Female bashing		U		
Females wearing trousers	U			
Females wearing minis (short dresses)	U			
Females wearing bikinis	U			
Females wearing shorts	U			
Persons of opposite sex holding hands in public	U			
Persons of same sex holding hands in public		U		
Handshake between opposite sex	U			
Hugging in public by same sex		U		
Hugging in public by opposite sex	U			
Men and women walking side by side in public	U			
Man walking ahead (in public), with the woman following				
Woman walking ahead (in public), with the man following		U		
Men opening doors for women	U			
Sitting with legs crossed in the presence of elders	U			
Talking to an elderly person with one's hat/cap on				
Talking to an elderly person with hands positioned on both sides of one's waist		U		
Blowing one's nose in public		U		
Blowing one's nose in the presence of others		U		
Addressing people by their title	U			

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Addressing people by their family name/surname/last name/given name	U			
Addressing people by their first name/ given name	U			
Women going through doors first	U			
Men helping women with their coats	U			
Men extending their hands to women first during greetings	U			
Taking off one's hat when entering a private home	U			
Removing one's shoes when entering a private home	U			
Invited guests bringing food at social gatherings		U		
Guests bringing drinks at social gatherings		U		
Shaking hands when leaving a small group	U			
Shaking hands with everyone present, upon arrival at a social gathering	U			
Eating with the right hand	U			
Eating with the left hand	U			
Eating with both hands		U		
Presenting a gift or passing on an object with the left hand	U			
Asking a man about his wife	U			
Asking a woman about her husband	U			
Making prior appointments before a meeting or visit	U			
Addressing an audience with one or both hands in the pocket		U		
Carrying on conversation during meals		U		
Females sitting with legs crossed	U			
People discussing their wealth		U		

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Asking someone his or her age, or how old the person is		U		
Complementing someone on his/her physical looks	U			
Complementing someone on his/her attire	U			
Use of both hands in handshake	U			
In greeting, a handshake accompanied by a slight bow	U			

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	Is customary Is allowed Is permissible Is used. Is OK	Is not customary Is frowned upon	Is disallowed Is forbidden Is a crime	(See last page for comments on items referenced here)
Salutations such as "Good morning", "Good afternoon", "Good evening"	U			
The completion of a business deal with a handshake	U			
Starting a negotiation session with a handshake	U			
A gift for the host/hostess	U			
Giving a business gift	U			
A gift of money (use of money as gift)	U			
Use of flowers as a gift	U			
Use of business cards	U			
Accepting/presenting gifts with both hands	U			
Burning of the country's flag			U	
Mutilation of the national currency			U	
Casual wearing of clothings made with colors & marks of the national flag		U		
Wearing of look-alike military (camouflage) fatigues (attire)		U		
Sitting on the floor (on floor mats)		U		
Discussion of religion	U			
Discussion of politics	U			
Discussion of sex	U			
Patting/slapping someone on the buttocks		U		
Patting/slapping someone on the back	U			
Touching or patting someone's head/hair		U		
Casual touching of any part of someone's body		U		
Drinking directly out of a bottle/can		U		
Placing one's leg(s) on the table or chair		U		

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Showing the sole of one's foot (feet)		U		
People standing very close when talking	U			
Maintaining steady eye contact (direct gaze) when talking to someone	U			
Kissing or exchange of kisses on the cheek	U			
Counting money (change) in someone's palm		U		
Finger pointing in public (in a daring manner)		U		
Seeking attention by winking the eyes		U		
Tapping the head to indicate someone is crazy		U		
Twirling the head to indicate someone is crazy		U		
Whistling as a way of requesting something/seeking attention		U		
Using "thumbs-up" sign to mean OK	U			
Forming a circle with the thumb and index finger (forefinger) to mean OK	U			
Using the fingers to make a "V" sign for victory		U		
Beckoning to someone with the index finger (forefinger)		U		
The left to right waving of the hand with open palms facing outward to indicate "Good bye"	U			
The use of a nod to show acknowledgement	U			
Stopping/beckoning a taxi using a stretched hand with the thumb pointing upward	U			
Using the thumb finger pointed to a direction, to request a ride or a hike	U			
Raising one's hand/waving with an open fist to summon a taxi	U			
Tapping one's foot/feet on the floor in a public gathering		U		
Wiggling one's leg(s) when in a sitting position	U			

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Use of the hand (by motorists and cyclists) to signal direction of traffic	U			
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		(See last page for comments on items referenced here)
Foreign tourists are welcome in the country.	yes	
The use of seat belt is mandatory.	yes	
International driving license is accepted.	yes	
U.S. driver's license is accepted.	yes	
It is considered impolite to yawn in public.	yes	
Death penalty for drug trafficking is the law.	no	
Life imprisonment for drug trafficking is the law.	no	
Guilty until proven innocent in court is the law.	no	
Innocent until proven guilty in court is the law.	yes	
Pedestrians always have right of way.	yes	
Exit visas are required of visitors.	no	
Crash helmet is mandatory for motor cyclist.	yes	
Hanging is used as a form of legal punishment.	no	
Decapitation of a limb is used as a form of punishment.	no	
Caning is used as a form of legal punishment.	no	
Electric shock is used as a form of legal punishment.	no	
One is expected to stand up during the playing of the national anthem.	yes	
Crash helmet is mandatory for bicyclists.	yes	
Guests are expected to eat every thing on their plates.	no	
Table manners are very informal.	no	
One is expected to cover one's mouth when laughing.	yes	
A vertical nod of the head means YES (OK).	yes	
A horizontal shaking of the head means NO (Not OK).	yes	
Prostitution is allowed only in designated areas.	no	
One is expected to take off one's hat during playing of national anthem.	yes	
Separate seating arrangements (between sexes) are maintained at movies.	no	
Separate seating arrangements (between sexes) are maintained at churches.	no	
Uninvited visitors or guests may not be welcome, even among acquaintances.	yes	
Pets (e.g. cats, dog) are allowed in some hotels and restaurants.	yes	
Couples invited for a meal may be separated during meals according to their sex.	yes	
Punctuality is the order of business.	yes	
Automobiles are driven with headlights always turned on.	no	
Motorcycles are driven with headlights always turned on.	no	
Visitors with expired visa face mandatory jail time.	no	

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Visitors without exit visa face jail time.	no	
Visitors without entry visa face mandatory (automatic) jail time.	no	

ADDITIONAL COUNTRY INFORMATION

(A)	The types of gifts to avoid:	n/a
(B)	Appropriate gifts for a foreigner to give:	souvenirs
(C)	Best time to present gifts (at the beginning or at the end of a visit?):	at the beginning
(D)	Best time to present gifts (on initial or later visits?):	initial
(E)	Best place to present gifts (in private or in public?):	in private
(F)	Number(s) with certain connotations and/or myths attached to them:	13 (bad luck)
(G)	Basic shape(s) with negative connotations:	n/a
(H)	Basic color(s) with negative connotations:	black
(I)	Traditional greeting methods include:	a handshake, hug, a kiss, a nod, patting the other's back.
(J)	Safe topics for discussion include:	weather, fashion, travel, art, family, food, sports
(K)	Best time for conversations (before, during, after meals?):	after
(L)	Forms of legal punishment:	jailing
(M)	Approximately length of time one could be detained by law and order authorities before being charged in court:	from 24 hours till 90 days
(N)	January 15, 1999, for example, will normally be written as:	15.01.99
(O)	Emergency code number:	94
(P)	Ambulance code Number:	n/a
(Q)	Police code number:	92
(R)	Telephone (country) code:	389
(S)	Telex (country) code:	597
(T)	Electricity requirements:	220V
(U)	Legal drinking age:	18
(V)	Systems of weights and measures:	metric system
(W)	Legal age of incarceration:	18
(X)	Driving side of the road:	right
(Y)	Minimum expenditure expected of foreign visitors? _____ \$ _____	n/a
(Z)	Name of currency:	denar
(Za)	Some places off-limits to foreign visitors:	n/a
(Zb)	Some places, structures and items prohibited	military and selected infrastructure objects.

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	from being photographed:	
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ENDNOTES

Item Number: COMMENTS/EXPLANATIONS

n/a: Not applicable/Not available/No response

(1) Only on allowed frequencies

(2) With permit.