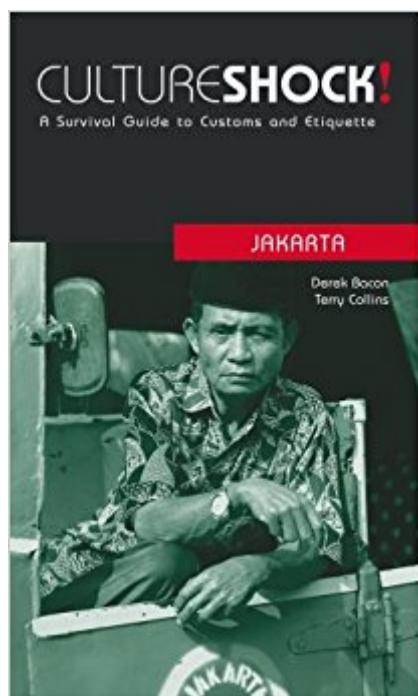


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# **Culture Shock! Jakarta: A Survival Guide To Customs And Etiquette (Culture Shock! At Your Door) (Cultureshock Jakarta: A Survival Guide To Customs & Etiquette)**



## **Synopsis**

With over three million copies in print, CultureShock! is a bestselling series of culture and etiquette guides covering countless destinations around the world. For anyone at risk of culture shock, whether a tourist or a longterm resident, CultureShock! provides a sympathetic and fun-filled crash course on the do's and don'ts in foreign cultures. Fully updated and sporting a fresh new look, the revised editions of these books enlighten and inform through such topics as language, food and entertaining, social customs, festivals, relationships, and business tips. CultureShock! books are packed with useful details on transportation, taxes, finances, accommodation, health, food and drink, clothes, shopping, festivals, and much, much more.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

From the fact that over 3 million books in the Culture Shock! series have been sold it is obvious that these guides are well known so I was happy to be asked to review the long-awaited update of CultureShock! Jakarta. One important point to make about this series of publications, which now covers almost 80 locations, is that they are not intended as guide books for tourists although tourists will also find them very useful. They give good information on local culture and traditions, together with some very helpful guides to the language. Essentially, they assist travelers in adapting to their new environment and obtaining the most benefit from their experience. The authors of Culture Shock! Jakarta, Derek Bacon and Terry Collins, are both highly qualified to advise newcomers to this hot, lively and often rather sleazy city; having spent many years living here. They certainly aren't

set out to sell Jakarta to the visitor as they are vociferous in their criticisms. Their very dry British sense of humor comes across in various ways but despite what could be construed as cynicism, irony and sarcasm, this is an extremely informative book. ...The contents of this very reasonably priced book are far too numerous to mention in a short review but subjects covered include weather, a good outline of the history, geography and politics of the city, a substantial section on how to adapt to living with Jakartans and how to settle in, plus some very good advice on culture and travel. How to do business in Jakarta is also dealt with and, most importantly, there are some excellent tips on the language. Once you have read all the advice and information, there is a light-hearted quiz for you to check on whether or not you have learned anything. For a new arrival in Jakarta, this book is essential reading but it will appeal also to veteran residents who will recognize all the stages through which they have already passed and probably have a good laugh in the process. --The Jakarta Post, December 31, 2007 This 2007 re-write of the original book authored by Derek Bacon is an essential guide to living in Indonesia! Author Terry Collins covers a wide range of subjects, giving advice to newcomers on: First Impressions, Fitting into Society, Settling In, Food and Entertaining, Culture and Travel, Communicating, Doing Business, and of course a bit of Indonesian History and Government to round out this very informative guide! On sale in Kinokuniya stores in Jakarta (Sogo Plaza Senayan, Sogo Plaza Indonesia, Pondok Indah Mall , Grand Indonesia) and Periplus as well as online through . --Living in Indonesia, A Website for Expatriates

Marshall Cavendish is a Marshall Cavendish author.

Culture Shock! is the only must-read book on how to survive the confusing "monster" named Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. Being born and raised there, Jakarta hasn't stopped surprising me to this very day, especially since I no longer reside there in the last decade. This revised version is more comprehensive and up-to-date, as the co-author Terry Collins is, undoubtedly, superbly skillful in describing and explaining how Jakarta has evolved and will continue to evolve as one of the most unique places on the planet. Overall, it is a great book to read and keep on your bookshelf. Suitable for those who intend to visit Jakarta for pleasure or business for a few days, weeks, months, or even years.

My cousin said this book is great... that it exceeded her hopes and expectations.... that it is better than any of the other book she was considering.

As an Indonesian born and living around Jakarta, reading this book still managed to give me insights about the little and not-so-little things that escaped my attention. This probably says something about how "kuper" I am, but also about how the authors are quite keen observers. In addition to writing this book, Terry Collins has also been keeping his Jakartass blog busy for years with posts on the subject of politics (which coincidentally I have zero interest in). Politics being a big part of staple news here in Indonesia and substantially painting a good picture of the country, along with the author having 20+ years of experience living in the capital city, should probably make him pretty competent to write this particular book. For the most part, I'd say roughly 85% of the observations are spot on. The sarcastic style of writing also somehow matches how Indonesians are in general apathetic and untrusting about their government with their corrupt officials. As with any text of sufficient length, there are some incorrect facts, generalizations, or misattributions, but they are quite minor and forgivable. For example, plastic wrappers on sofa incorrectly being called polyurethane. Also be reminded that many characteristics that are said to belong to Indonesians actually belong to the Javanese or Sundanese culture. People from Batak, to take one example, are usually much more to-the-point and have little problem saying no or be in a confrontational situation. In fact, people from one region would experience as much culture shock should they live in another region. Such is the diversity and vastness of Indonesia. What's not forgivable though is the sloppy editing and the bad usage of Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian language). The text has an annoying habit of missing one period in the last sentence of a paragraph. There must have been 10 of this, I lost count after that. There's a half-page worth of text being copy pasted some tens of pages apart, so you'll find there are twice as many words for rice in Indonesia, because you'll be reading them twice! There are many gross misspellings and misusage of many Indonesian words and names, even for the most common ones. And it's even more ironic since the author decides to stick in one Indonesian word in the text for every 25 words or so. He uses 'gotong royong' when it should have been 'musyawarah'. And he keeps using the word 'mandi' (to bathe) as if it's a noun, even though it's clearly only a verb. Obviously not a single Indonesian is involved in proofreading the manuscript, if any. Judging from this, the reader can safely skip the chapter on Language/Communication and find some other good book on it. Nevertheless, it's still a very enjoyable read.

This book manages to be both practical, informative and entertaining. You don't need to be an expert in Jakarta to enjoy and a friend who is an expert in Jakarta enjoyed it as well. High praise. Recommended to anyone who has experienced, visited or wants to visit this crazy, brilliant city!

I am not quite sure why I bought this book! Maybe it was to make sure that the authors (Terry Collins and Derek Bacon) get at least some royalties for their efforts or perhaps the more likely excuse is that I needed to see whether my experiences were the same or similar to others. Then again maybe I bought the book because I just wanted to criticize the characterization or stereotyping of what it is like for us white folk living in Indonesia and particularly Jakarta! The book set me back some IDR 163,000 from Kinokuniya in Plaza Indonesia. I was in Kinokuniya to buy a cross-stitch magazine for my better half and I happened to see the book and thought, why not? So, I whacked it on the counter and I now have my very own copy! You might be wondering why a bloke who has spent so long in Jakarta wants to read anything to do with Culture Shock. Well, even after all this time living in Indonesia I am still "hey Mister" and perhaps this is both the beauty and the beast that is Jakarta; no matter how long you might have lived here and no matter how much you have integrated into society, you will never get away from being "Hey Mister!" The book is well written (at least for my mind) and I found myself smiling and chuckling to myself as I read through it. It is surprising how much of the experience is common and how much we tend to forget of what has happened. It was nice to read and remember some of those long forgotten experiences that were jogged back into the more conscious memory! I know one of the authors (Terry Collins) and perhaps I should make this as a disclaimer. Nevertheless, those of you that know me would know that I pull no punches. If I thought the book was garbage I would say so in not such an eloquent way! Yet, the book, I have found has been worth the money I outlaid for it, if for no other reason than it reminded me of moments that I have enjoyed during my stay. Funnily enough most people are reporting that they are not finding this book in the arrival halls to Jakarta but rather in the departure shopping areas. I guess this might afford those on their way out of Jakarta a chance to buy the book for the purposes of answering this question: "what the hell just happened to me?" I would have thought though that the best spot for this would be in the departure lounges of foreign locales and the arrival lounges of points of entry into Indonesia...but I guess this is why I studied law and not marketing! But for anyone interested in learning the "ins and outs" of the Jakarta experience then this is perhaps the book for you. The book contains sections on the history and politics of Jakarta, settling in for those of you who might want to be more than tourists, visa and immigration information, business information, food and entertaining, fitting in, and communicating, among a number of others. I think the most valuable learning tools in the book are the short glossary at the end, the culture quiz, and the "do's and don'ts" section. So, go out and buy the book as it might just help you understand the experience you are about to have or the experience that you have just had!

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