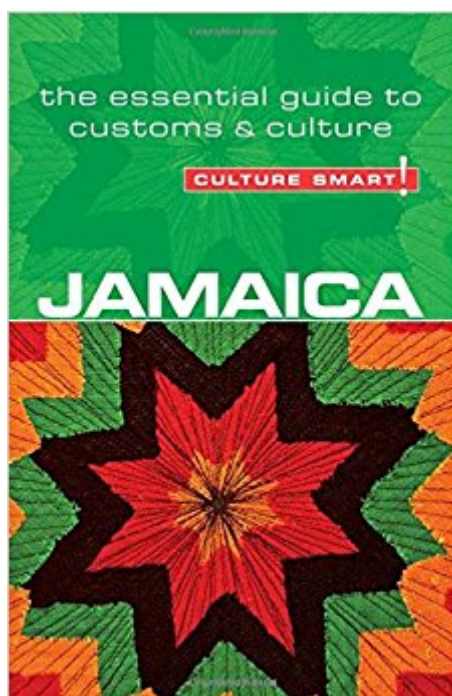


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# Jamaica - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide To Customs & Culture



## Synopsis

Laid back, sun-drenched tropical paradise, or hotbed of drug-related crime and violence? Neither stereotype is true. Jamaica suffers from a PR problem, created largely by tabloid headlines written thousands of miles away. The reality is more complex and more fascinating. Despite its small size, Jamaica punches above its weight. Its footprints in sport and music are, like its people, larger than life. It is one of the few countries to have its own soundtrack—mento, ska, and reggae are popular around the world. The University of the West Indies campus at Mona is a regional source of excellence. Jamaicans have a fire that has been hard to douse. It was burning when their forefathers arrived on slave ships, barely alive after the middle passage, and it was there when they fought the British to a standstill in the Maroon Wars. In the English-speaking Caribbean they have a reputation for being brash, but the Jamaicans have a warmth that is unmatched. They are unafraid to talk to strangers, they'll laugh at nearly anything, they'll discuss and debate with passion, and they'll let you know it straight. Despite real economic and social problems, this beautiful and invigorating country regularly ranks among the top five happiest nations in the world in the annual Happy Planet Index. Culture Smart! Jamaica takes you beyond the clichés with a fresh, uniquely well-informed look at one of the most intriguing countries in the region.

## Book Information

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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 - ...full of fascinating, as well as common sense, tips to help you avoid embarrassing faux pas, Observer - ...as useful as they are entertaining, Easy Jet Magazine - ...offer glimpses into the psyche of a faraway world, New York Times.

Nick Davis is the BBC's Jamaica Correspondent, reporting for TV, Online, and Radio from the Caribbean. A graduate of Leeds Trinity University College and the University College of Falmouth, he specializes in Caribbean affairs and the diaspora in Britain. Nick's parent's came to the UK from Jamaica in the 1960s and returned to the island when he was sixteen. He's lived between both countries ever since, helping to run their guesthouse on the North Coast. He regularly contributes as a broadcaster on public radio in the USA and also for CBC in Canada.

The "Jamaica - Culture Smart" guide was written by a native Jamaican and veteran BBC correspondent who knows the country and its people well. The guide is a no-frills briefing on all aspects of the country, invaluable for anyone planning to spend time in country as a tourist or on business. If you're looking for great storytelling or personal vignettes, this book isn't for you. It's a factbook, written in an easy-to-read, straightforward style. Highly recommended.

I just got back from Jamaica and found this book to be spot-on as a cultural guide. If you're going to an all-inclusive resort you may not need it, but we were on our own and I found the advice really worthwhile. It's an inexpensive and useful way to do your research before you go to Jamaica. I recommend it as a valuable adjunct to a tour guide.

I am from Jamaica. I bought this book for my son, so he could understand the Jamaica culture and perspective. My wife and kids are American. This was definitely written by a Jamaican.

Enjoyed reading of the history from Jamaica. Highly recommend to anyone wanting to know basic history of Jamaica and people.

This book is good for someone like me that wants to know about someplace they are going to before arriving. I learned a lot about the people and the country. Learned why the country did have a bad name for a while for tourists.

Provides good general information for travelers. Does not go into specific detail, but that level of detail is not the focus. Still gives a good background on many aspects of the island, history, people, and culture.

I am amazed at how little I knew about Jamaica. This goes really deep into the history and the culture. A great companion to The Harder They Come DVD about Jimmy Cliff.

Tells a little about various historical sites and places to visit and how best to go about it.

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