

China – Culture Smart!

The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Indre Balcikonyte-Huang and Kathy Flower

For thousands of years, the Chinese believed that they had created a perfect social system, based on Confucian values and tempered by the "Mandate of Heaven." Dynasties came and went, but the essence of being Chinese remained essentially unchanged until the twentieth century. Since then, change has taken place in Chinese society at unprecedented speed, as the country first experienced the turmoil of civil war and revolution before emerging on to the world stage as a global superpower.

Culture Smart! China aims to put these changes into an historical context, explain deep-seated cultural attitudes, and guide you through the maze of unfamiliar social situations, in order to help you discover for yourself the pragmatism, genius, warmth, and humanity of this extraordinary people.

***Culture Smart!* guides are created to help travelers have a more meaningful and successful time abroad through a better understanding of the local culture. Chapters on values, attitudes, customs, and daily life will help you make the most of your visit, while tips on etiquette and communication will help you navigate unfamiliar situations and avoid faux pas.**

Indre Balcikonyte-Huang was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. Fluent in Mandarin, Indre has lived in China for more than ten years and has completed an M.A. in Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature at Fudan University in Shanghai. She currently works for a cross-border consultancy helping companies find a footing in China, and lives in central Shanghai with her husband Ruiyu, and son Roy.

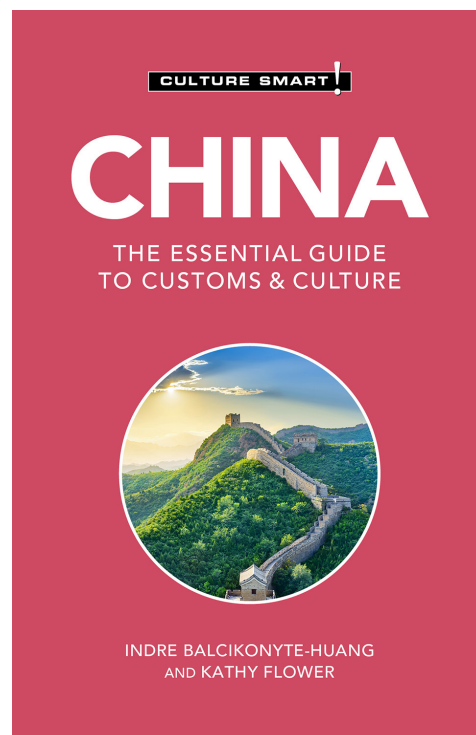
Kathy Flower has worked in the UK and China as a BBC radio producer, TV presenter, scriptwriter, teacher, and trainer. She became known to hundreds of millions of enthusiastic Chinese viewers as "Fay-lau-ah laoshi," or "Teacher Flower," after presenting China's first major English-language teaching series, "Follow Me," on Chinese TV.

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