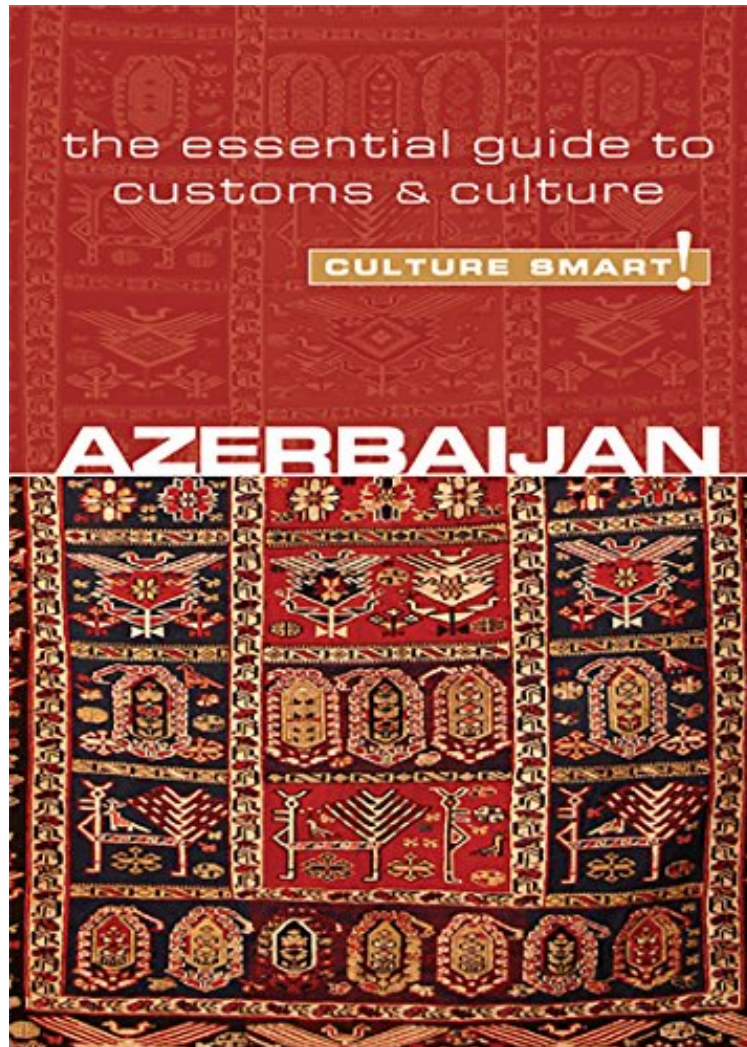


# Azerbaijan - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture

*Nikki Kazimova*

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**Nikki Kazimova : Azerbaijan - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Azerbaijan - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs Culture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I wish there was an option for more starsBy grandmaThis is a great book. It's easy to read and full of information. Our son and daughter-in-law just moved to Baku and found this book to be VERY helpful to them. They happened, by chance, to be on the same plane as the author as they made their first trip to Azerbaijan. They all visited across the aisle and found the author to be even more helpful than her book (which is a wonderful introduction to Azeri culture, history, etc.) Highly recommend.8 of 9 people found the following review

helpful. A new country for me!  
By Virginia G. Reyerse  
This is a very concise book for the visitor to this country. I intend to visit here to see my sister who is starting a new job. The book gives me a very good idea of the history of this area over time. And what a history it has been! I can sense the culture from the descriptions of the country-side and the many previous rulers this area has endured. Now, as an oil-rich country the people are experiencing much improved living conditions and education. My sister is involved in the education aspect of the capital of Baku. I have watched the various You Tube videos for the tourist, but this book certainly has further defined the culture. A very intriguing country to visit!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read before joining Peace Corps Azerbaijan  
By Hali Coppin  
This was a great first look into Azerbaijan. I really wanted to read something interesting about the life and culture of Azerbaijan and this was a great pick! Helped my transition into Peace Corps Azerbaijan and also got my family and friends interested in the country and culture before I left when I would share some facts and stories from the book!

For Westerners, the modern state of Azerbaijan may be hard to pinpoint. This small, oil-rich country in the southern Caucasus, on the southwestern shore of the Caspian Sea, only made its way on to the contemporary world map after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. As the world shrinks and competition for precious resources intensifies, the direction this strategically and economically important country takes will affect us all. The historically tolerant and pluralist Azeri people have an ancient history and a rich culture. Azerbaijan lay on the route of the Great Silk Road, the trade network that connected China with Europe, and its people have lived through centuries of conquests by different imperial powers. It was also situated in the heart of the Great Game, the struggle for control of Central Asia played out between Russia and the West at the turn on the nineteenth century, which seems to be going through a modern remake. Azerbaijan has been called "the quintessential borderland, many times over: between Europe and Asia, Islam and Christianity, Russia and the Middle East, Turks and Iranians, Shia and Sunni Islam." Azerbaijan was briefly independent after the First World War, when it was the first Muslim state to adopt progressive Western values. A democratic republic with full women's suffrage, it boasted the first women's high school, the first opera, and the first female opera composer, as well as the first ballet in the Muslim world. There followed seventy years of Soviet rule. After a bitter war in 1991-94, areas of Azerbaijan were occupied by neighboring Armenia, and the country has absorbed a huge number of refugees. At the same time, it is experiencing a new oil boom and the economy is growing. Among the people, there is a growing sense of national identity. Culture Smart! Azerbaijan looks at the many facets of this identity and explains the complex workings of Azerbaijani society. It will equip you with vital information and advice about the customs, practices, and sensibilities of a society poised on the brink of change.

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.  
About the Author  
Nikki Kazimova is a Baku-born cross-cultural trainer and freelance writer. Over the last ten years, she has been dividing her time between Azerbaijan and the United States, where she studied and worked in journalism and for media development organizations, including CNN International and the International Center for Journalists in Washington, DC. Nikki has worked for ExxonMobil in Azerbaijan, was a regional correspondent for Bloomberg News and the International Journalists Network, and was consultant to a number of non-profit organizations in Baku and Washington. She also managed the communication campaign of the Council of Europe's "All Different All Equal" program in Strasbourg, France. She was an adjunct lecturer at Khazar University in Baku, and conducted training courses for young journalists in partnership with international organizations. Nikki is an honors graduate from the Azerbaijan University of Culture and Arts, and has an MA in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has also attended cross-cultural training, peace-building, and counseling courses at the American University in Washington, DC, the Catholic University of America, Argosy University, and the Interchange Institute.