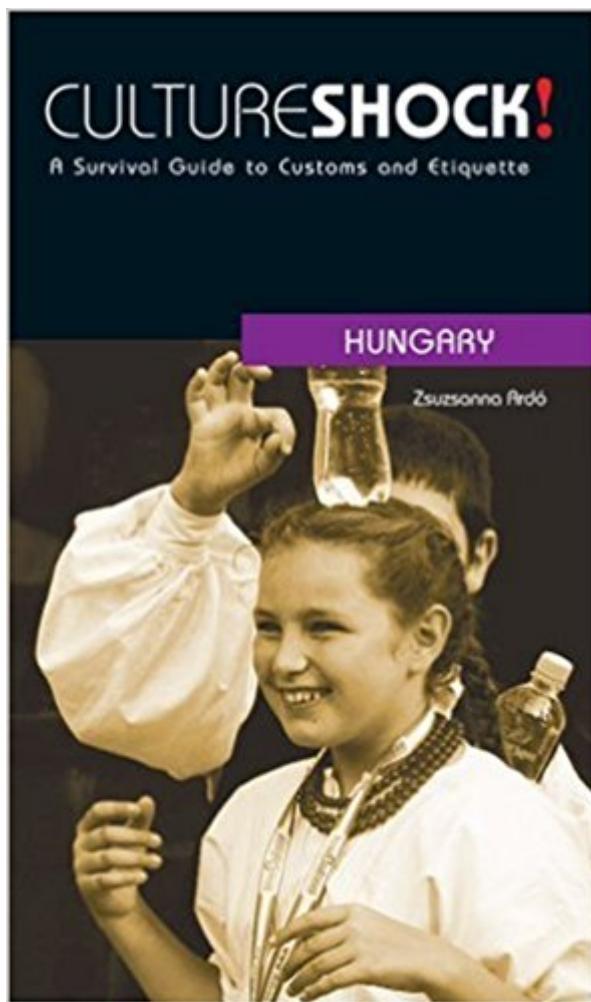


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# **Culture Shock! Hungary: A Survival Guide To Customs And Etiquette (Culture Shock! Guides)**

## **(Cultureshock Hungary: 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 topics such 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**

Series: Cultureshock Hungary: A Survival Guide to Customs & Etiquette

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Marshall Cavendish Corp/Ccb; 3 edition (June 15, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761454063

ISBN-13: 978-0761454069

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 5 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,611,868 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Travel > Europe > Hungary > General

## **Customer Reviews**

A comprehensive - and often hilarious - expose of the Hungarian psyche, culture, language... a brutally honest jab at the Hungarian ego. Very insightful. A delight to read and often had me laughing out loud. --The New Hungarian VoiceFascinating, in-depth guide to the Hungarian psyche. --Hilton DestinationsShe doesn't shy away from difficult areas. Insightful in a way that regular travel books are not. Her writing is seasoned with plenty of sometimes sarcastic humor, which makes it an enjoyable read. --Budapest SunAll explained and given their proper context in such a way as to create a real sense of a society and how it continues to evolve. It had the effect of making me want to book my tickets and experience it all for myself. --EC Culture MagazineInsightful & thorough. --Perceptive TravelAll explained and given their proper context in such a way as to create a real sense of a society and how it continues to evolve. It had the effect of making me want to book my

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Zsuzsanna Ardfi is Hungarian by birth, English by existence, human by inclination, humorous by nature--and a writer and photographer by profession. Her books and articles have been published internationally. Her play, *The Hat: Arendt Meets Heidegger* premiered at Harvard, and she wrote and directed *Allegro Barbaro*, a triple-flashback visual poem to music about memory and creativity. *Culture Shock! Hungary*, her social anthropology-cum-travel book, is in its third, expanded edition worldwide, illustrated by her photos. She is a member of the BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts), the British Association of Journalists, the founding Chairman of the Hampstead Authors' Society. She has had solo photo exhibitions in Hungary, the UK, the US and India, including the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in Delhi, Amnesty International and the European Commission UK Representation in London, and the European Commission in Luxembourg, and the Pompidou Centre in Paris, France. She has curated installations and exhibitions, and has been invited to serve on juries of photography competitions internationally.

I was planning a two-week trip to Hungary, so I thought I would read this to get more insight into the culture. It was okay. I think it would be more valuable if you are planning to live and work in Hungary. To give you an idea, some of the chapter titles include "Socialising," "Settling In," "Leisure and Pleasure," "Language," and "Working in Hungary." Also, I sometimes found the writing confusing. There is a lot of humor in the book, but at times I could not tell whether the writer was being serious or sarcastic. It is important to be able to distinguish between these, for if serious, that is the point she is trying to make, and if sarcastic, the complete opposite! By the way, Budapest was fabulous!

I am an American born son of a Hungarian mother and had grown up with Hungarian grandparents. They raised me bilingually and exposed me to Hungarian culture. Once my grandparents passed away, I started to lose my connection to my ethnic roots. A trip to Hungary this summer reignited my interest in both the language and culture. When I returned from the trip I was eager to consume as much material on Hungary as I had the time for. I heard about "Culture Shocked!", so I picked it up and read it in just a few days. Once I finished, I found it was one of those books that I was very sad

to put down. It is a very well written, insightful, and delivered with a healthy dose of humor. It not only helped me make sense of the Hungarians I have known in my life, but it also helped me understand some of my idiosyncratic ways that I do not share with my fellow American's. Well, I found out that in Hungary, my idiosyncratic ways are quite the norm. Recommend this for anyone interested in Hungarian culture or those that are a part of it some way.

Gave me some insight into the Hungarian culture. It helped me understand the people, and really respect where they are coming from.

I really love the author's style of writing; she explains the customs without sounding stuffy. In fact, I really enjoyed many of her tongue-in-cheek commentaries. The fact that she is Hungarian inspires confidence in her observations.

Written in a rather dry style. Does not capture the liveliness of the Hungarian personality or Hungarian culture.

Over the past 15 years, my wife and I have purchased six of the Culture Shock books (Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Hungary). We have found them to be very useful in providing information not in the typical travelogue tour guides. However, CS-Hungary was not up to the standards established by the series. There was, in some cases, too much detail, rather than a good overview (where we could choose to further dig in with our own research elsewhere). Might be that CS-Hungary was written by an ex-pat Hungarian, rather than a foreigner to the subject country (which I think is more commonly the case for the series). I think that the better perspective of a book intended for foreigners considering travel to a country is to learn about it from the perspective of a well-acculturated foreigner; not a native (ex-pat or otherwise) who wants to tell us everything she knows, rather than what WE want to know.

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