



DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING?!

Here are fifty basic questions about your host country and culture. They are not intended to be an inclusive list. Many more will be suggested as you attempt to answer these. You may not necessarily encounter all situations during J-term nevertheless, when you have the answers to the following fifty, you may consider yourself well beyond the beginner stage!

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who are the prominent people in the affairs (politics, athletics, religion, the arts, etc.) of your host country? 2. Who are the country's national heroes and heroines? 3. Can you recognize the national anthem? 4. Are other languages spoken besides the dominant language? 5. What are the social and political implications of language usage? 5. What is the predominant religion? Is it a state religion? Have you read any of its sacred writings? 6. What are the most important religious observances and ceremonies? How regularly do people participate in them? 7. How do members of the predominant religion feel about other religions? 8. What are the most common forms of marriage ceremonies and celebrations? 9. What is the attitude toward divorce? extra-marital relations? plural marriage? 10. What is the attitude toward gambling? 11. What is the attitude toward drinking? 12. Is the price asked for merchandise fixed or are customers expected to bargain? 13. How is the bargaining conducted? 14. If, as a customer, you touch or handle merchandise for sale, will the storekeeper think you are knowledgeable, inconsiderate, within your rights, completely outside your rights? Other? 15. How do people organize their daily activities? What is the normal meal schedule? Is there a daytime rest period? What is the customary time for visiting friends? 16. What foods are most popular and how are they prepared? - What things are taboo in this society? 17. What is the usual dress for women? For men? Are slacks or shorts worn? If so, on what occasions? Do teenagers wear jeans? 18. What kind of health services are available? Where are they located? 19. What percentage of people have health insurance? Is it public or private? 20. What are the special privileges of age and/or sex? 21. If you are invited to dinner, should you arrive early? on time? late? If late, how late? 22. What occasions would you present (or accept) gifts from people in the country? 23. What kind of gifts would you exchange? 24. What are the dating and/or courtship customs of the host culture? 25. How do people greet one another? Shake hands? embrace or kiss? How do they leave one another? What does any variation from the usual greeting or leave-taking signify? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. Is education free? compulsory? 27. What percentage of people has undergraduate degrees? 28. Where do university students typically live? 29. What are the important holidays? how is each observed? 30. What are the favorite leisure and recreational activities of adults? teenagers? 31. What sports are popular? 32. What kinds of television programs are shown? What social purposes do they serve? 33. What is the normal work schedule? How does it accommodate environmental or other conditions? 34. How will your financial position and living conditions compare with those of the majority of people living in this country? 35. What games do children play? Where do children congregate? 36. How are children disciplined at home? - Are children usually present at social occasions? At ceremonial occasions? If they are not present, how are they cared for in the absence of their parents? 37. How does this society observe children's "coming of age"? 38. What kind of local public transportation is available? Do all classes of people use it? 38. Who has the right of way in traffic: vehicles, animals, pedestrians? 39. Is military training compulsory? 40. Are the largest circulation newspapers generally friendly in their attitude toward the United States? 41. What is the history of the relationships between this country and the United States? 42. How many people have emigrated from this country to the United States? Other countries? 43. Are there many American expatriates living in this country? 44. What kinds of options do foreigners have in choosing a place to live? 45. What are the common home remedies for minor ailments? Where can medicines be purchased? 46. In schools, are children segregated by race? by caste? or class? by sex? What kinds of schools are considered best: public, private, parochial? 47. In schools, how important is learning by rote? 48. How are children disciplined in school? 49. Where are the important universities of the country? 50. Are bathroom facilities different than in the U.S.? |
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