

CULTURE SHOCK

1. Germany: you have to have your own bag while shopping, the shop will not provide any shopping bag
2. Spain: evening meals are taken late in the evening usually at 9 pm or 10 pm
3. South Africa: people are unpunctual
4. China: people eat with chopsticks, they eat scorpions in Peking
5. France: people eat frogs and snails
6. United Kingdom: there is left-sided traffic
7. Thailand and Vietnam: people eat dogs
8. Korea: you should not pour your own drink. It is customary for others to pour your drink for you and for you to pour for them. Whether you pour using one or both hands is important. If the person for whom you are pouring is older than you or of higher status, then you should pour holding the bottle with two hands, otherwise pour with one hand.
9. Spain: people use two family names, they are used to being called by their first names
10. Italy: sunbathing topless is common on beaches in northern and central Italy
11. Japan: when you come to somebody's home or to some restaurants, you have to put off your shoes
12. Finland: people don't hug unless they are really close friends
13. Brazil: a stereotypical Brazilian greeting is a kiss hello on each cheek
14. Philipines: kissing on the hands to bless - a gesture made to pay respect to parents, elders and other folks at home, a party or a family reunion. Failing to do it in
15. any gathering is socially unacceptable.
17. Balgium: prostitution is legal (in the red lights districts in Amsterdam), marijuana is sold in coffee shops
18. Austria: is incredibly clean, you can "eat off the pavement"

Poland

1. Paying for the toilet in some restaurants or bars.
2. Trying to send a parcel in the post office may require a special kind of string.
3. Having to be quiet in your flat after 10 p.m. but being allowed to start loud work again at 6 a.m.
4. Flowers for every occasion (but always an odd number!).
5. Polish celebration of a name day.
6. Christmas dinner is eaten on Christmas Eve with carp often eaten in jelly (delicious!).
7. The direct translation of "I'm sorry, I'm afraid we haven't got any of that at the moment, try again tomorrow or would you like me to order some for you" in a shop is 'Nie ma' said in a tone of voice that makes you feel guilty for having even asked.
8. Despite the fact that a handshake is the typical greeting in Poland, some men might kiss hands of women. Women (and sometimes men) who are close friends will kiss each other on both cheeks.
9. Time of eating meals differs considerably from that in other European countries. Thus, breakfast is eaten early in the morning, then at about 4 p.m. there is usually two-course dinner (soup and the main course), finally supper is consumed at about 7-8 p.m. (it often consists of sandwiches or yoghurts). There is no lunch break at work.
10. Poland is a very religious country and on a Sunday you will see numbers going to church, young as well as old.
11. The month before Christmas is a holy time (advent) not a time for parties. Similarly, the time of Lent before Easter.
12. You should cross a street at zebra crossings but watch out as cars sometimes do not seem to have to stop!
13. Lectures at the university may start sometimes 15 minutes later (so-called 'academic quarter' acceptable rather among university teachers and not students)
14. Students usually wear formal clothes (often a white blouse/shirt and dark skirt/trousers) during university exams.
15. English is still not so common in Poland (not in the countryside at least), German is more popular among middle-aged and older people.