

Five Winning Tips to Bridge the Cultural Gap at the Summer Olympics



Our Olympic Hosts

British nationals can seem a bit reserved, with a "stiff upper lip," as the saying goes, but don't let that mislead you. The British are just more reserved than Mediterraneans or Americans.

Cheek Kisses, Anyone?

Let your greeter take the lead. Two kisses are usually acceptable. Remember, kissing isn't an Olympic sport, so no aiming for the gold!

Should You Smile?

For Russians, smiling at a stranger can be perceived as impolite. In Asia, a smile can mask feelings of discomfort. So, before you flash those pearly whites ... look for context cues, and use your smile wisely.

Are You a Coconut or a Peach?

Some cultures are coconut-like, with hard exteriors, while others may appear softer, like a peach. Sharing the Olympic experience will open the door to making fast friends, so don't miss the chance to bond with the coconut next to you!



Comment Games

Food, Glorious Food!

Did you know that in China, leaving a small amount of food on your plate indicates you're full, while clearing it will get you another serving? Food and the ritual of eating are huge cultural signals. A meal is the perfect opportunity to build relationships, so enjoy the foods from around the world this summer in London!



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