

# COMMON CULTURAL MISTAKES



These tips about avoiding cross cultural mistakes were collated by EFNEP staff working in the Pacific Islands and Hawaii:

# Yap: common cultural mistakes

Men are always served first and are usually served by women. It is also rude to reach over the table while someone is eating.



There is a Caste System: different classes of people are only allowed to eat with their own class/caste.

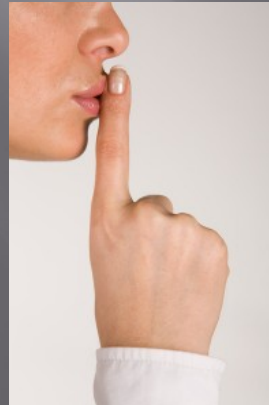
Lower class groups are allowed to eat upper class prepared meals, but upper class groups are not allowed to meals prepared by lower class groups.

Not allowed to wear short shorts and high mini skirts.



# Guam: common cultural mistakes

- ❖ Make sure children and elderly are served first
- ❖ Offer drinks to elders
- ❖ Don't share or don't ask any personal information
- ❖ Keep your own personal space





# American Samoa: common cultural mistakes



- ❑ Women should not wear skimpy clothing, no spaghetti straps allowed to be worn outside in the village.
- ❑ Men only need to wear bottoms or *lavalava*.
- ❑ If you wear shorts, pants, or dresses above the knee, must cover when sitting with a cloth. (ie *lavalava*)



When the *Tapou* is dancing do not dance close to her. It is OK to take pictures but do not get in her way.



Do not walk past anyone without saying excuse me (*tulou*)



Do not interrupt elders when talking.



Outsiders are not allowed to eat certain parts of the pig at feasts, special occasions, or gatherings. The reverend and high talking chief get those parts first. Must sit down when eating.

# Chuuk: cross cultural mistakes

- Serve men first
- Don't dress in short skirts or dresses
- Don't address women if there's a male in the room
- Ask permission from the group leader
- Always sit with the group
- Don't stand too close to a person
- When asking a question always ask permission to ask the question

- ▣ Always sit with the group



- ▣ Serve men first



# Tinian: cross cultural mistakes



- ❖ Don't wear see-through clothing or short shorts/skirts in churches
- ❖ During events, always allow elders to take their food before anyone else.
- ❖ Don't play loud music on All Soul's Day (November 1)- a large portion of the population is Catholic and observes this day.
- ❖ Ask permission to take photos of Bangladeshi women, and no portrait shots
- ❖ No pork for Bangladeshi groups and no beef for Nepalese group
- ❖ Halal chicken only for Bangladeshi group

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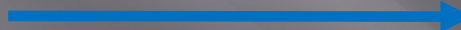


# Marshall Islands: common cultural mistakes

*Women  
shouldn't wear  
pants*



*Lack of respect  
of elders*



*Gender equality*

