Some Customs and Traditions from around the World

Ghana
When greeting people in a home, it is considered rude if the guest ignores any person present. Guests are expected to greet every person, including children and babies, by shaking hands.

When you invite a person to a social event (e.g. a bar or restaurant) it is understood that you will pay for everything.

South Africa
It is tradition in South African culture not to look an elder or a superior in the eye during conversation. This shows humility. It is considered rude if you look directly into their eyes.

Arab Nations
In the Middle East, the left hand is reserved for bodily hygiene and is considered dirty. So, the right hand should be used for eating. Shaking hands with one's left hand is considered an insult.

In Iraq, the "Thumbs Up" gesture is considered very offensive.

Asia
It is common in many Asian countries that the person who cooked a meal will say that there was something wrong with it (for example "Oh, it was too salty."). You are expected to disagree (for example "No, no, it was incredible!").

India
India's many languages have three versions of the word "you" (polite, friendly and informal). Not using them correctly can be a cause of some discomfort.

Accepting goods or making payments with the left hand is considered impolite (the left hand is considered to be dirty). The right hand should always be used. However, using both hands together is a sign of respect.

Japan
In Japanese culture it is considered polite to refuse a gift when it is first offered and the giver is expected to offer it multiple times. Also the gifts are generally not opened in the giver's presence.

Guests entering a Japanese home are expected to remove their shoes.

Thailand
If you drop money in the street, don't put your foot on it, as it signifies disrespect. Money has a symbol of the King, and it is a sign of great disrespect to put your foot above his head. Kissing in the streets or any public display of affection are considered rude.

Australia
Tipping is not expected in Australia. Employees are usually forbidden from accepting tips. However, if you have received particularly good service in a café or restaurant, it is OK to add some coins to the 'tip jar' on the counter, which is usually shared among the employees.

In Australia, alcohol is prohibited on beaches.

Greece
Making a fist with the thumb placed between the middle and index fingers is an offensive gesture.

Russia
When passing people in a row of seats of a theater or cinema, you should face them. It is considered rude to pass with your back toward the other people.

Estonia
Cutting a slice of bread with a knife is considered disrespectful. The bread should be broken with the fingers.

Italy
It is forbidden for a man to enter a church with the arms or legs exposed. Women must wear a skirt to the knee, at least. Residents often complain about tourists breaking this rule.

The Netherlands
Calling the country “Holland” is considered ignorant in most parts of The Netherlands, because “Holland” only covers two of the twelve provinces of the country.

It is considered obligatory to kiss family and friends three times on the cheeks when meeting.

England
Kissing or hugging people you have just met makes them feel uncomfortable.

Everybody’s “personal space” must be respected. Standing too close to someone makes them feel uncomfortable. If they step back from you, then you know that you have violated their personal space.

Brazil
Kissing people when you meet is extremely common. Depending on where you are, the number of kisses may vary: for example - one kiss in São Paulo, two kisses in Rio de Janeiro and three kisses in Belo Horizonte. For men, they should shake hands both when meeting and when saying goodbye. When you know each other better, you can give a hug or tap him on the back.

Germany
Germany is well-known for its unusual food, for example: sausages (wurst), pork dishes (Eisbein, Schnitzel), sauerkraut (pickled cabbage), Apfelstrudel (an apple dessert).

It’s also famous for its excellent beer and Oktoberfest!

Source: https://www.yukonhostels.com/customs.htm