

What are your culture
shock experiences?



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What are your culture shock experiences? Culture and society go hand and hand but their precise meaning differ. Culture is a shared way of life and society is a group of people constantly interacting with each other in a given territory and share a culture. Therefore there is this cultural difference around the world. This is the main reason why most travelers experience this so-called “ culture shock”. It is a personal disorientation when experiencing an unfamiliar way of life.

Personally, I also experienced the same feeling of being a newbie in town. The feeling of awkwardness and homesickness. This happened on my first day as a college student in Cebu away from my parents in Masbate (Bicol Region). The first culture shock I experienced was when we visited the famous Sto. Nino Church and I saw that people would wave their hands after the mass. I felt hesitant to also do the same because in our place, we do not do such gesture.

Next is my interaction with a Cebuano guard. I spoke to him in Tagalog but he just gave me a steady look and talked to me in Cebuano. I could not understand it so I just said thank you and went on my way. At first, it was hard for me to communicate with my classmates especially when they are talking to their fellow Cebuano and I could not relate. This is also a burden to me whenever I am riding a jeep I can’t even ask where Copy trade is say for example.

Luckily, I was helped by my classmates in learning their dialect and after few months, I can construct a sentence on my own in Cebuano. Now I am almost adjusted to the Cebuano culture. Overcoming culture shock is indeed an

ongoing process. You need to be socializing with other people and try to fit with their kind of culture, Through this, you can gain friends, new discoveries about the place and not feel homesick.