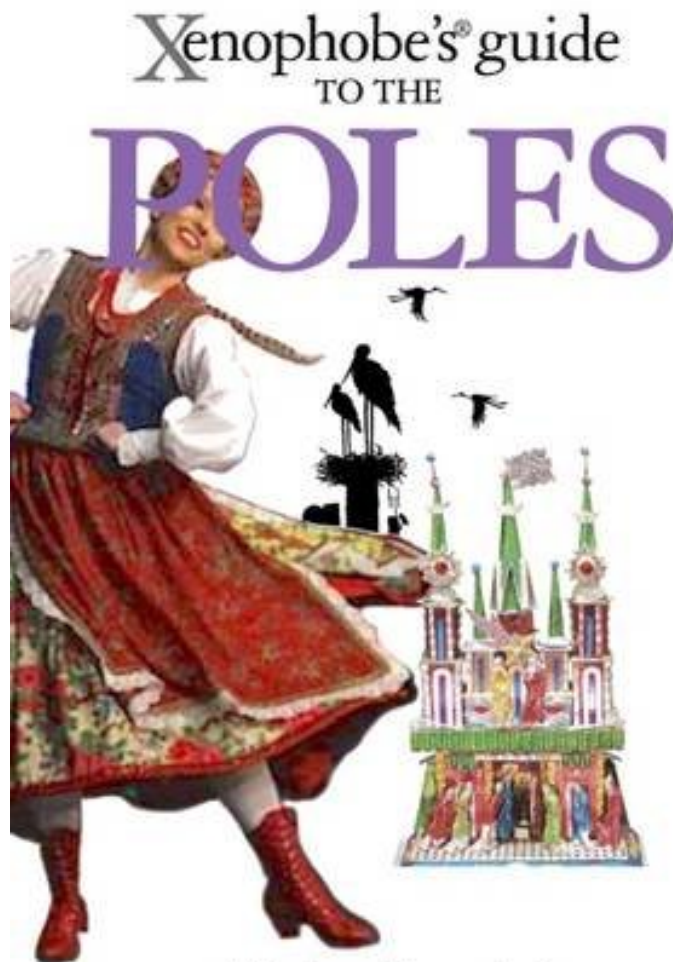


[FREE] Xenophobe's Guide to the Poles

## Xenophobe's Guide to the Poles

*Ewa Lipniacka*

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A frank and funny look  
at what makes the Poles POLISH

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#1586237 in Books Oval Books 2000-06-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.00 x .30 x 4.251, .15 #File Name: 190604244692 pages | File size: 70.Mb

**Ewa Lipniacka : Xenophobe's Guide to the Poles** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Xenophobe's Guide to the Poles:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very poor compared to other books from the seriesBy SylwiaThe author clearly grew up and has lived most of her life outside of Poland. She doesn't know the contemporary Poland.

She doesn't seem to know that most of the things she writes about perhaps were to some extent true 20-30 years ago but things have changed since then. There are some funny universal bits in the book but most of the time it seems that the book was written in the seventies by someone who visited once and declared herself an expert. The author tries to be funny but she's just uninformed. Shame, other books from the series apart from being funny are also largely accurate. Here, the ratio of informative to mocking disappoints. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, true, and very humorous By Anna This was an excellent book to read. It was recommended to me by my friend who is married to a Polish woman. He is an anthropologist and I am a sociologist. He thought I would be great for me not only because I teach sociology and cover in my classes stereotypes, culture, etc., but also because I was born and raised in Poland. He was very right. I have enjoyed this book tremendously. Poles are described in a very true, but not offensive way. Page after page I had to laugh because of what author said about Polish nature and Polish way of living and doing things - eating, drinking, taking care of places they live in, taking care of their health and talking all the time about their health issues to name the few. All those things that became so clear to me after I moved to the United States and now drive me nuts at times every time I go to Poland. I would strongly recommend it for anyone planning to go to Poland or is friends with Pole(s) and want to understand some of their behavior. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A funny and (mostly) accurate portrait of the Polish mores and foibles. By Dorota Dyman The book is amusing and mostly correct in how Poles see themselves and others see Poles. My US-born children, who don't speak Polish but otherwise consider themselves connected to the country of their grandparents, laughed and liked what they saw in this book. I only wish there was more!

A polarized people The Poles are either bubbling with life, or comatose; they love or they loathe. It is this total commitment to the occupation of the moment which earns them the reputation of being mercurial. As Hemar wrote in his song: "If only Poles did systematically and economically what they do spontaneously, they would be perfect." Necessity is the mother of invention Key national characteristics are adaptability, a knack for improvisation, and the ability to make the best of what is available. A good Polish cook is one who can make gourmet soup from a rusty nail. The Polish touch Devotion to style pervades all areas of life: the table might be rickety, but it is covered with a snowy tablecloth and decorated with a vase of flowers. Never say never When the Communists rather foolishly tried to stop the Poles practicing their religion, the churches filled to overflowing. "Forbidden" is a term of encouragement to a Pole.

"An enlightened new series, good natured, witty and useful. The Xenophobe's Guides to different nations deserves a real cheer." --"The European" "Each book is an entertaining essay on the failings, foibles and good points of their subjects. Their humour is relaxed and gentle and it would be a sour, churlish native of a subject country who would object seriously." --"The Northern Times" "From the Back Cover' Polish mothers view all humanity in the same way that the residents of Strasbourg view geese - there for the fattening. If a Polish mother tells you that she has a problem child, it does not mean that little Tomek has burnt his school to the ground and is being sought by the police of five counties. It means he hasn't eaten his dinner.' Xenophobia is an irrational fear of foreigners, probably justified, always understandable. Xenophobe's Guides - an irreverent look at the beliefs and foibles of nations, almost guaranteed to cure Xenophobia. (4 1/4 x 7, 64 pages) About the Author The Lipniackis arrived in Britain (via Siberia and Palestine) when Ewa was three. She was educated in a Polish convent boarding-school in Northamptonshire, and progressed to London University where she took a degree in Polish. In her late teens she was one of the first English Poles to set out to rediscover the real Poland, and found a vast family stretching from the Wol'omin Poles to the Poles of Cze?stochowa. She has been extending this network ever since. A naturalised Willesden Pole, she maintains close links with the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Rugby and Galashiels Poles. Her home has become a central node on the Polish world trade routes linking the Warsaw, Kraków, Poznan' and Gdan'sk Poles with the New York, New Jersey, Toronto, Melbourne, Venezuela, South Africa and Patagonia Poles. Like bindweed, Polish roots are long and indestructible. A librarian by profession, she can be found most Saturdays at the Polish Library in Hammersmith. She has written several rarefied works on librarianship and a clutch of children's picture books - most of which are illustrated by her cousin, a Balham Pole