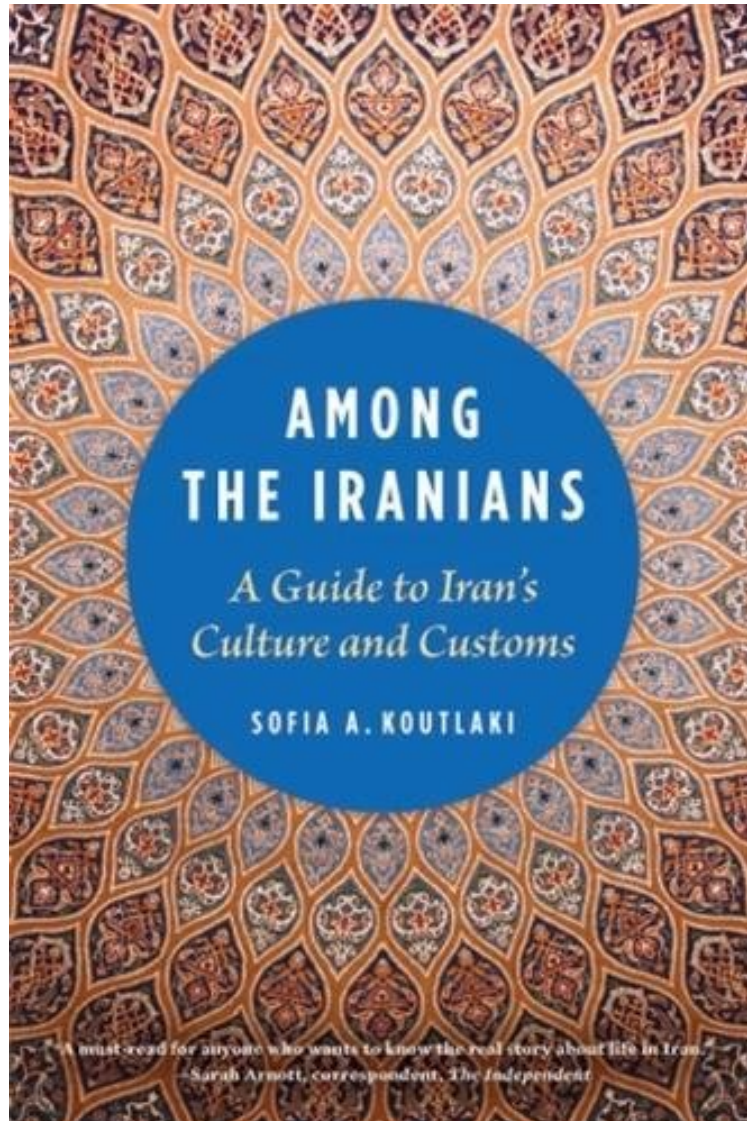


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Among the Iranians: A Guide to Iran's Culture and Customs

Sofia A. Koutlaki

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Sofia A. Koutlaki : **Among the Iranians: A Guide to Iran's Culture and Customs** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Among the Iranians: A Guide to Iran's Culture and Customs:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book for anyone spending time in Iran By R. AslanI ordered this book before I came to Iran for the summer to study Persian and travel around the country and it has proved to be invaluable. I stayed with an Iranian family and many aspects of the culture were new for me despite the

fact that I have spent many years living in other Middle Eastern countries. Iranian culture and society is very sophisticated and for those who wish to go beyond the surface of Iran and to really experience life here, a good knowledge of culture and society is necessary to show respect. I read through the whole book and then kept on going back to it as a reference book whenever I encountered something that I didn't understand or didn't know how to respond to. The author covers every minor and major custom and tradition in Iranian society and is very comprehensive, discussing everything from how to navigate the famous Persian custom of ta'roof, how to dress for a wedding, to what gifts to bring for different occasions and which shoes or sandals you should or shouldn't wear inside and outside the house. As a foreign woman married to an Iranian and living in Iran for a number of years, the author's personal narratives about her experiences in Iran are also insightful and a good read. If you plan on traveling through Iran or staying for a longer period of time, this book should be the first book on your list! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By TX consumer This is a readable book that delivers on the title: A guide to cultures and customs. 4 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Simplistic and redundant By Mother Jones I had expected a lot more when I ordered this book. I found it to be very simplistic and very repetitive. I've traveled extensively in the middle east and was hoping for a book that would be more nuanced in explaining the cultural differences between Iran and other Islamic countries.

The eyes of the world are on Iran, from nuclear issues to women's rights to Iran's perspective on Palestine. Yet a strictly political view does not allow for an accurate or complete outlook on this important and fascinating country. In *Among the Iranians*, Greek-born author Sofia A. Koutlaki shares the lessons she's learned firsthand as a foreigner living in Tehran. Through memorable anecdotes and in-depth explanations of Iranian customs, Koutlaki presents a side of Iran that foreigners rarely see. The author's insight challenges readers to dispel their previous notions and judgements to see Iran at its heart--warm, inviting and rich with tradition. *Among the Iranians* is also an indispensable practical guide, offering insight about Iranian dress, etiquette and even food.

Sofia Koutlaki has opened a window onto ordinary Iranians and their everyday lives. She takes us inside the home, but also out into public spaces, and shows us, with love, an Iran rarely seen by outsiders. Ziba Mir-Hosseini, author of *Islam and Gender: The Religious Debate in Contemporary Iran*, and co-director of the award-winning film *Divorce Iranian Style* An excellent, useful introduction to Iranian culture and customs for people who have never been to Iran. Michael Axworthy, author of *A History of Iran: Empire of the Mind* About the Author Sofia A. Koutlaki was born in Athens in 1964 and has called Greece, Britain and Iran home. She is an independent researcher and writer whose work often explores cultures and how they function. She also works as a freelance translator and English teacher, is currently at work on a novel set in Greece and maintains a blog at www.amongtheiranians.blogspot.com