

Reporters around the world ask people about cross-cultural experiences.

Chris Brooks: Hi. I'm Chris Brooks. Welcome to *Travel World*. Have you ever traveled to a country with a completely different culture? If you have, you probably know what "culture shock" is. It's a feeling of confusion you get from suddenly being in a new environment. The traditions and customs may seem strange. Expectations are different. You don't know exactly what you're supposed to do. You may even be a little bit afraid of making a mistake. In time, you get used to everything. But when you get home, you often have some interesting and perhaps humorous stories to tell about your cross-cultural experiences. Today, we're going to Latin America to meet some people who've traveled abroad and hear about their experiences crossing cultures. First, let's go to Brazil.

. . .

Chris: Ah, yes. Rio de Janeiro – that picturesque city of beautiful beaches, Carnaval, and samba. Enjoying a spectacular view of Sugar Loaf Mountain is our lucky reporter Fátima Nolan.

Fátima Nolan: Hi, Chris. I'm here in beautiful Rio de Janeiro. Like everywhere else in the world, people here like to travel abroad and have some interesting stories to tell. Let's talk with some of them.

. . .

Fátima: What's your name, and where are you from?

Camilla: My name is Camilla, and I was born in Stockholm, Sweden, but I moved to Rio when I was four, and I've lived here ever since. Two years ago, I went to Sweden, and I lived there for a year.

Fátima: What did you notice that was different?

Camilla: Well, the first thing that I noticed when I got to Sweden was how people greet each other. It was completely different. Because here in Brazil, we kiss on the cheek and they shake hands. So I went to kiss like [*kissing sounds*] and they . . . "Oh, my goodness!

What's going on?" And they felt like, "You're invading my space" or something like that. It was strange.

. . .

Fátima: What's your name, and where are you from?

Mônica: Uh, my name is Mônica, and I'm from Brazil.

Fátima: And where have you traveled?

Mônica: Uh, I went to Japan, and I lived there for six months.

Fátima: Is there anything that surprised you when you went to Japan?

Mônica: Well, you know there are a lot of earthquakes in Japan. And one thing that surprised me was that . . . uh . . . people stayed very calm during an earthquake. And I guess they are accustomed to them.

Fátima: Do you think that people would react differently here in Brazil?

Mônica: Well, I think here in Brazil if we had an earthquake, people would get very frightened and would run away.

Fátima: Hope your next cross-cultural experience is a good one. This is Fátima Nolan from Rio de Janeiro. Back to you, Chris!

Chris: Thanks, Fátima. Now, let's cross the South American continent to Lima, Peru, where our reporter, Denise Arregui, is standing by. Denise?

Denise Arregui: Thanks, Chris. We're here at the beautiful Plaza de Armas. This is a favorite spot for tourists and the people of Lima. Let's talk to some people here about their cross-cultural experiences.

. . .

Denise: Hi. What's your name, and where are you from?

Sally Hekobo: I'm Sally Hekobo. I'm from the Philippines, but I've been living here since 1986.

Denise: And what most surprised you when you came to Peru?

Sally: Uh, what most surprised me upon coming to Peru was the public display of affection, because in the Philippines couples don't kiss in public. And I feel really uncomfortable when I see these things, you know, and, uh, sometimes I feel embarrassed in such a situation. And you know, in the Philippines, when . . . whenever we . . . uh . . . we are on the streets – we are in public – it is not really acceptable to . . . to kiss in public.

. . . .

Denise: Hi. What's your name, and where are you from?

Andrew Levin: My name's Andrew, and I'm from the United States.

Denise: Have you noticed any difference in the way people do things here in Peru?

Andrew: Yeah. One thing that I really notice is the public transportation system is really different. Because here the bus system is private, and so there's all these people trying to get you on their bus because the way they make money is by getting as many people as possible to get on their bus. So the whole time they're yelling, "Get on my bus! Get on my bus!" And sometimes it's not the bus that you want to be getting on.

Denise: This is Denise Arregui here in Lima, Peru. Back to you, Chris.

Chris: Thank you, Denise. Now, reporter Hilary García is standing by in Mexico, our final destination for today. What do you have for us, Hilary?

Hilary García: Thanks, Chris. I'm here in beautiful Tepoztlán, Mexico – a town that both Mexican and foreign tourists like to visit. Let's talk with a few of them about their cross-cultural experiences.

. . . .

Hilary: What's your name, and where are you from?

Monie: My name is Monie, and I'm from Minnesota – from the United States.

Hilary: And how long have you been in Mexico?

Monie: I've been living in Mexico for about a year now.

Hilary: Have you noticed any cultural differences between Mexicans and Americans?

Monie: Yes, I have. I teach English, and at the school that I work at, Mexican women tend to dress more professionally: high heels, nylons, makeup, hair in perfect order. And we Americans tend to dress more casually: in jeans, tennis shoes, T-shirts.

. . . .

Hilary: Hi. What's your name, and where are you from?

Delfino Valdez: My name is Delfino Valdez, and I was born in Renosa, Mexico, and now I live in the United States.

Hilary: Tell us about your cross-cultural experience.

Delfino: I am married to an American woman. And she was making me lunch one day, and she brought me a soup and a sandwich. Once I was done with it, I said, "OK, honey. Where's the rest of it?" And she said that was it. Well, it is customary in my culture to have a huge meal in the middle of the day – with the beans, the rice, a meat. So, needless to say, I was very surprised.

Hilary: This is Hilary García in Tepoztlán, Mexico. Back to you, Chris.

Chris: Thanks, Hilary, for helping us cross cultures. Next time I'm in Mexico, I'll remember to bring a big appetite when I'm invited to lunch. And we hope we've given you something to remember the next time you go abroad. Until next time, this is Chris Brooks for *Travel World*, bidding you "Bon voyage."