Hi John,

In this email, I’ll explain the social rules in my country.

First of all, you should know that in Russia, it is customary to address people by their first name and patronymic in formal situations or when speaking with elders. When someone invites you for dinner, it is appreciated if you bring a small gift, such as sweets. Additionally, you must take off your shoes before entering an apartment.

If you go to a restaurant or café with someone, remember to be polite and thank the waiter for their service. Unlike in Europe, you don’t have to give tips, you can just pay for your meal, but of course if you want to give tips, you can.

If you don't know a person's name and want to address them, it is polite to start with "excuse me" or "sorry".

That's all you need to know for now. I'm looking forward to your next email.

Best wishes,

Ilya