

## ARAB CULTURE

1. Insha Allah ("If God wills") and AAl-Hamdu Lillah@ (Apraise be to God@) these are the most widely used phrases in Arabic by people of all religious backgrounds.
2. Bukra insha Allah ("We will do things as soon as possible, but only God knows when that will be").
3. Critical importance of maintaining face and reputation.
4. Never criticize, show up, or disgrace an Arab publicly.
5. High value placed on political and commerce.
6. Importance of connections and networking (doing things with the person, not the contract or company).
7. Most Arabs do not like to touch or be in the presence of household animals, especially dogs. Pets should be kept out of sight when Arab guests are present.
8. Work relationships are based on a sense of family, security, and friendship.
9. Most important decisions are made by a small group who rely heavily on emotion, feel, and interpersonal "vibes."
10. Great stress given to elaborate hospitality. It is a way of life for the Middle Easterner, and thus, it plays a very important role. If you are invited to a meal, expect lots of food; for the hosts will go out of their way to serve you the most lavish meal they can.
11. Strong black coffee is seen as the ultimate show of hospitality.
12. When you visit people at their home or work place, they will generally insist that you at least have something to eat or drink.

13. Arabs enjoy emotional, colorful, close proximity communication.
14. Verbal exaggeration is relished. It is considered rude not to say good morning, good evening, or hello if you happen to see someone know, even casually.
15. In social situations, it is polite to shake hands upon meeting or greeting another person, especially someone of the same gender.
16. Close friends of the same gender often greet each other by kissing on both cheeks 2 or 3 kisses depending on the country.
17. Middle Eastern Paternalism is taking care of those you are responsible for at home and in the workplace Your honor ("face") is on the line.
18. Also being loyal to your friends, and nation/kingdom & religion is important.
19. The main conflict in the Middle East is between Israel (Zionism) and Islamic fundamentalism.
20. Disunity between the Arabs themselves and differing treatment of women throughout the region.