

# THE ULTIMATE FESTIVALS GUIDE

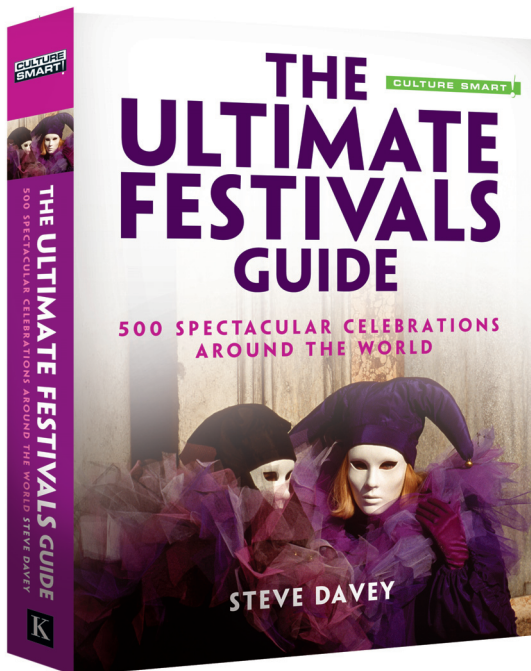
## 500 SPECTACULAR CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

The trail-blazing Culture Smart! guides aim to break down cultural barriers and enrich the travel experience. With their unique focus on the human dimension of the countries they describe, they have created a new genre in travel publishing.

*The Ultimate Festivals Guide* takes this approach to a new level. It is a large, visually stunning, information-packed, illustrated volume that captures the richness and variety of humanity, sharing the most colorful, moving, joyful, and spectacular events around the world.

More people than ever are traveling to far-flung destinations, seeking a fuller experience than is offered by beach holidays or short tours. Travelers today want to feel part of the culture and to experience a place at its defining moment. Festivals generate that life-affirming buzz, turning onlookers into participants and adding breadth and depth to the cultural experience.

*The Ultimate Festivals Guide* is both a checklist of festivals and a guide to getting the most out of your travels. It will help people who want to plan their trips to



coincide with a festival, and enthrall and inform the armchair traveler who wants to learn more about exotic cultures. By avoiding purely commercial festivals this book will be timeless and will appeal to a wide spectrum of travelers. Festival goers are not restricted by age, and come from every class and income bracket. What links them is a desire to be in a new place when it is most alive, and to have a life-affirming experience by taking part in some of the most iconic celebrations on the planet.

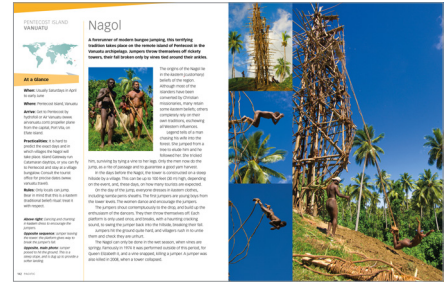
It is always best to travel to these events with an open mind – but some prior knowledge and understanding of the social context and cultural sensibilities are vital to full enjoyment of the experience. This volume provides that, and much more. It contains:

- A comprehensive, fully illustrated listing of 500 iconic festivals around the world
- More than 400 photographs that capture the spirit and immediacy of the events
- Extended photographic essays of selected major festivals
- Original research and stunning photography by an internationally recognized writer-photographer

Elegantly designed and lavishly produced, *The Ultimate Festivals Guide* is exceptional value and makes a perfect gift for travelers and readers of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures.

**SPECIFICATION:**

- TPS:** 210 X 160 mm portrait
- Word Count:** 90,000
- Extent:** 432 pages
- Illustrations:** Over 400 photographs
- Paper:** Matt art 130 gsm
- Cover:** Softbound, sewn, 4-col, laminated, with 100 mm flaps



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**STEVE DAVEY** is a much published writer and photographer based in London. For the last twenty years he has been traveling the world, writing and photographing features and books. He is the author of the internationally bestselling *Unforgettable Places to See Before You Die* and *Unforgettable Islands to Escape to Before You Die* (BBC Books). Between them, these titles have sold over 500,000 copies and been translated into over 30 language editions.

In the course of his travels Steve has visited dozens of festivals around the world. A self-confessed festival junkie, he thrives on the chaos, excitement, and deeply rooted culture of traditional festivals, believing that the only time to visit a place is during a festival, when it is most alive. Wherever possible, he schedules trips to coincide with some of the most iconic festivals on the planet. He is not by nature a passive observer. Having run with bulls in Pamplona, thrown tomatoes at La Tomatina in Spain and water at Songkran in Chiang Mai, and bathed with pilgrims at three different Kumbh Mela festivals in India, he brings a sense of involvement, integrity, and adventure to this book.