

# 20 Cultural Taboos

1. In Thailand and in Arab countries never point your shoe/foot to another person. The shoe/foot is the unclean part of your body.
2. In Thailand, don't touch the head of someone older than you, or, in general, don't touch the head at all.



(Image from: [www.lastingimpressions.wordpress.com](http://www.lastingimpressions.wordpress.com))

3. In many African countries when talking to a tribal chief, make sure that your head is not above his.

4. If you are a male, don't try to shake hands with an orthodox Muslim (covered) woman.

5. Don't walk into a Japanese home with your shoes on.

6. Don't forget to say "takk for maten" ("Thank you for the meal.") in Scandinavia. It is a MUST!

7. Never eat while standing while in Indonesia
8. Never wear red to a funeral in China or write a person's name in red in Korea.
9. Never chew gum in public in Austria, Italy, Germany, or Malaysia.
10. In India and many other countries, don't eat food with your left hand.
11. Don't cut your grass on Sunday in Switzerland



(Image from: [www.ethicsoup.com](http://www.ethicsoup.com))

12. In Japan, don't point with your chopsticks.
13. Don't bring wine as a gift in France.
14. In Germany and the United Kingdom, it is frowned upon to spit in public.
15. Don't give an even number of roses as a gift for a romantic occasion in Russia.
16. Don't stretch or yawn in public in Spain. It is considered extremely vulgar.



(Image from: [www.scienceline.org](http://www.scienceline.org))

17. Don't touch a Mongolian's head, hat or horse.
18. Cambodians believe you should not take a photo of 3 people.
19. It is considered bad luck for a building to have a 13th floor in the United States or a 4th floor in China.
20. In Nepal, never share food from the same plate, once its been touched by one person its considered disgusting to be eaten by someone else, which is the total opposite of Korean dining.



(Image from: [www.thekitchn.com](http://www.thekitchn.com))