



Tipping Considerations for International Travel

Helping you travel with confidence

Many of our Party Leaders enquire about tipping while visiting some of our international destinations. We thank you for doing this and appreciate your concern to best understand the customs of the country you will be visiting. Below is information we hope you will find helpful. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Although tipping is discretionary, it is customary to tip service providers in many parts of the world. These include positions such as food servers, bartenders, coach drivers, ski school and dive instructors and other service personnel who depend on tips to earn adequate wages.

From a restaurant server perspective, please note that all pre-planned meals noted in your itinerary do not require tipping. Any meals that are not pre-planned/paid by your operator generally do require tipping, if elected. If you have questions, simply enquire with your Ambassador. Additionally, tips for shuttle drivers to local excursions generally do not require tipping, however if you have a motorcoach driver dedicated to your group for an extended period of time, those positions generally do. In most instances, the best practice is to “pass the hat” at the end of the tour to give your driver a suitable gratuity.

For restaurant service, guidelines are:

The average tip in the USA is 15-20% of the total sum of purchase (15% considered customary for basic service, 18% for standard service, 20% for good service, 20%+ for exceptional service).

The average tip in Canada, Mexico or Costa Rica is 10-15% of the total sum of purchase (10% considered customary for basic service, 13% for standard service, 15% for good service, 15%+ for exceptional service).

Other service personnel that may receive tips for performing service functions include hotel bellmen and housekeeping staff, tour ambassadors, national guides and others who work in a service capacity on behalf of your group. Following is a chart of standard tipping rates for “good” service:

Tipping Considerations	
Bartenders	\$1 per 1-2 beverages
Housekeepers	\$1 per room occupant, per day
Hotel Bellmen	\$1 per bag
Motorcoach Drivers	\$1 - \$2 per person, per day or service
Tour Ambassadors	\$1 - \$2 per person, per day or service
Ski School Instructors	\$2 - \$5 per person, per day or service
Dive Instructors & Boat Crew	\$5 for Instructor + \$5 for Boat Crew per DIVE

SPECIAL NOTE FOR GROUPS TRAVELING TO COSTA RICA: In some locations, such as Costa Rica, you will also have the luxury of having a National Guide assisting our groups periodically. In cases such as these, we would suggest you budget for \$4 a day for gratuities, per person traveling, to split between your motorcoach driver and your National Guide.