

TOP TIPS FOR TIPPING ON YOUR TRAVELS

A Travelex Savvy Traveller Guide

HOW TO TAKE COFFEE IN CANNES WITHOUT CAUSING A STIR

AND MORE INSIDER TIPS ON TIPPING ABROAD

To tip or not to tip? The oldest of travel conundrums. Every country has a unique set of social customs and tipping etiquette can vary greatly between different cultures.

Deciding whether or not to tip is the easy part; the real problem lies in deciding how much to tip. Too little might be considered an insult. Too much and you could be viewed as flashy or arrogant. In places like Japan and China virtually all tipping is seen as rude and it's just not done.

This short guide is designed to put your mind at rest next time you travel abroad; whether you find yourself in a café in Cairo, a bar in Budapest or a hotel in Honolulu.

And the bottom line? If the service wasn't up to scratch, then don't leave a tip.

Follow our
Quick Tip
Guide as
you go



RESTAURANTS



BARS



HOTELS



TAXIS

AUSTRALIA

In keeping with Australia's relaxed national character, service is often more casual than in many countries – even in expensive hotels and restaurants. There are **no mandatory gratuities or built-in service charges**, although a 10% Goods and Services Tax (GST) will be included in the total figure on your bill.

However, tipping is certainly appreciated, and seems to be becoming more common, but usually only in expensive restaurants. Australians leave **10% tips for good service** or more if it's exemplary!

In bars and taxis, many people simply **leave some of their coin change on the bar** after picking up their drink, or tell the cabbie to **keep the change**. Tipping in hotels is still uncommon.



BAHRAIN

In Bahraini restaurants, there is a **service charge added** to your bill, but don't expect this to be passed on to your waiter or waitress! You can either **round up your bill** or leave a **10-15% tip** for good service.

In hotels, it's appropriate to **tip porters and bellhops 0.4 Bahraini Dinar (BHD)** for each piece of baggage, and room maids the same for each night of your stay.

There's no set tip for bartenders but, again, if you wish, **0.4 BHD per drink** is standard.

Taxi drivers usually receive an **extra 10% above the meter fare**.



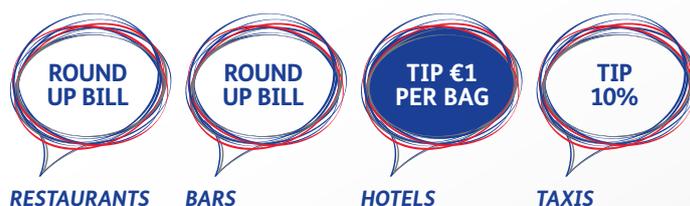
AUSTRIA

In Austrian restaurants there's normally a **service charge included in the bill**. As for tipping – the custom is to **round up the bill**, which might turn out as more or less than 10%. For example, if the meal comes to €37 you'd say "Here's €40, thank you."

In bars it's much the same – you're told a drink costs €5.50 and you say "Take €6."

In taxis, it's customary to give an extra 10% over the meter fare to your driver.

In hotels, porters or bellhops should receive up to **€1 per bag**.



BELGIUM

Service charges are always included in restaurant, bar, taxi and hairdressing bills. However, people may give tips as a sign of appreciation, often saying "Please keep the change" when paying.

In the tourist hotspots, more may be expected but don't feel obliged!

In hotels, a tip of **€1 per bag** is appropriate for porters or bellhops.



BRAZIL

Tipping in Brazil isn't expected or frequently given. That's not to say it isn't welcome!

In restaurants, a **service charge** of 10% is added to the bill. This is not compulsory but is usually paid unless there's a good reason not to.

In bars, it's usual to get a bill at the end rather than hand over cash each time you buy a drink. Tipping's at your discretion.

To avoid taxi drivers having to deal in coins, it's usual to **round up your fare** to the nearest note.

Hotel staff appreciate a **small tip** for carrying your bags.



CHINA

In mainland China and Macau **tipping is not a part of the culture**, and many establishments have a strict no-tipping policy. This includes almost all restaurants and services such as beauty treatments. It's actually **against the law for taxi drivers to accept tips** in most areas.

Offering a tip may sometimes even be considered impolite – it can be taken to imply that an employee's work is undervalued by the employer.

The only place where a **tip might be expected is at high-end hotels and restaurants** in tourist areas that cater specially for westerners.

Sometimes you can offer a small gift instead of a tip!

The big exception to the general rule is the tipping of **tour guides and drivers** who depend on the extra income to supplement their wages. Guides may expect 10 USD per day per person, and drivers 5 USD.

In **Hong Kong**, western ways are more prevalent and there's usually a **10-15% service charge** in restaurants, tipping is welcomed and taxi drivers expect to "keep the change."

CANADA

They like tipping in Canada! They tip everyone. They also tip a higher percentage in restaurants – **15-20% is the standard**. The culture there is that tips are a significant contribution to the overall income of people working on a minimum wage. Hence, it is customary to pay a generous tip and it also shows appreciation for good service.

If the meal was not satisfactory, alert a manager instead of refusing to tip. You may be offered a complimentary dish or discount.

For taxi drivers a 10% tip is acceptable.

In hotels, tipping is at the discretion of the guest but a **CA\$2-5 tip is standard for porters** who carry your bags.

In bars you are expected to tip too, usually leaving between **CA\$0.50-2 per drink**.



MAINLAND CHINA



HONG KONG



CROATIA

Tipping in Croatia is appreciated but not expected. They are a bonus, not calculated as part of the wage, as in some countries. The 'rules' are arbitrary, depending on how much you have enjoyed the meal or valued the service, however, **around 10% is the norm**.

Some people always **tip taxi drivers**; some never do. The most usual thing is to **round up the bill** and say "keep the change."

For most other services, like beauty treatments, for example, tipping is not customary but will bring a smile to some faces! Again, rounding up is the accepted practice.

Tips in hotels are seen as a token of gratitude rather than a necessity and small amounts are welcomed with good grace.



DENMARK

It's the law in Denmark that any **service charge**, including tips for waiters, has to be **included in the price** in restaurants. This could be a disadvantage for customers as waiters don't need to provide good service to secure a tip! On the other hand, it's a shame that exceptional work isn't rewarded – so, to cut a long story short – it's up to you.

Taxi drivers in Denmark will automatically include a set tip in their fares so there's **no need to tip**.

Some bars include tips in their tabs but if not, 10% would be appropriate. Check though, to avoid paying twice.

In hotels, as in most countries in the world, it's always good to **tip people for carrying your heavy bags** – the equivalent of 1 USD is the norm.



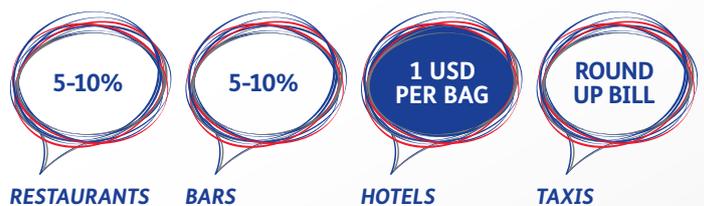
CZECH REPUBLIC

Tipping in cheap eating places isn't expected. While in tourist areas, foreign visitors are **expected to tip 10%**, especially in high-end restaurants, bars and hotels, but the **general rate is 5-10%**. In less visited areas, it's common to **round up your bill** by a few Crowns, to the nearest note.

To be sure your waiter/waitress actually gets the tip, **use cash rather than adding a gratuity to a credit card** payment. However, in rural areas, leaving a tip on the table is not the usual practice and may cause offence.

Rounding up is customary for taxis too.

In hotels, **porters and bellhops may expect the equivalent of 1 USD tip** as a general guide – and around the same per day for a room maid.



FINLAND

Tippling is not a part of Finnish culture, so you can safely say that most people won't object to being tipped but few will mind if it doesn't happen.

Service is generally included in restaurant bills, however, a lot of people **round up the bill to the nearest convenient figure**. The same applies to taxi fares – though drivers do not expect a tip.

In bars, again, it's optional but some people **leave small change or round up**.

It's **rare to tip in hotels** unless you've caused extra inconvenience, but it's kind to tip porters a small amount for carrying your bags.



FRANCE

In France it's considered **flashy to tip for no good reason**.

In restaurants you will see the phrase 'service compris' on your bill. This is the 15% service charge required by French law for taxation purposes – which your waiter might never see, so if you're happy with the service you can always **add a tip with a few coins or by rounding up the bill**.

In bars it's not generally the custom to tip at all.

Tipping in taxis isn't obligatory, although most people do tip a small amount, often rounding up to avoid the hassle of dealing with fiddly coins.

In hotels, **tipping is entirely at your discretion** with a few Euros being standard.



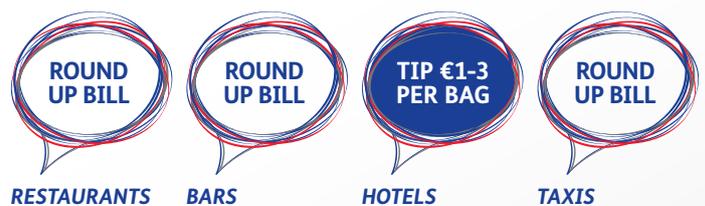
GERMANY

Service and VAT are included in the menu price in restaurants and bars across Germany but it is usual to round up to the nearest full Euro.

By the way, it's **not done to leave tips on the table** – give them directly to the waiter or waitress!

In taxis, as before, tipping isn't required but most **round up the fare** to the nearest Euro. Don't tip more than 10%.

Tipping is expected in hotels. Porters may expect 1-3 Euros per bag and your housekeeper 3-5 Euros per night for good service.



GREECE

In Greece, **tipping is optional** as charges are added to bills, but it's polite and generous to add a little extra for good service, especially bearing in mind that the waiters and hotel staff are unlikely to see any of the service charge themselves.

As with many European countries, tipping is nonetheless sought in tourist traps but not in outlying areas.

In bars, tipping is not customary amongst the locals so it's at your discretion, as is giving a little extra to porters and other hotel staff for good service.

Taxi drivers don't expect tips – but people often round up the fare, up to an amount equivalent to 10%.



INDIA

In general, **in large restaurants, 10% service charge** is included in the bill, but it's quite **common to leave a tip too** – INR 100 in a casual place, up to INR 300 in a five star restaurant. It's best to give a tip directly to staff in cash to be sure they get it.

It's **not customary to leave tips in bars**.

Carry a stock of small denomination notes separately from your other cash so they are readily to hand for tipping purposes.

In hotels, it's usual to tip bellboys or anyone who carries luggage about 50-100 Rupees per bag. Be warned – don't allow someone to grab your bags if you don't want to tip!

It's **against the law for taxi drivers to charge more than the cost of the ride** so the best way to tip, if you'd like to, is to simply round up the amount.



ITALY

Service charges are included in most restaurants but if not, 10% is considered the norm. No-one has to tip on top of that but many do if they feel the service warrants it.

In bars, Italians often **leave small change when purchasing drinks**, though it's not obligatory.

Taxi drivers like to be tipped, but it isn't expected nor is it common. It's probably better practice to **agree a final fare before the journey begins which includes the tip**.

In hotels, the same as anywhere else in the world, porters, concierges and those who provide room service can expect **a few Euros to thank them for their efficiency**.



MALAYSIA

Malaysians do not tip and they do not expect to be tipped either. Malaysian waiters receive a comparatively higher fixed basic pay so that tips are not factored in to it.

Restaurants add 10% service charge and 5% government tax on to the bill, though it is unlikely that waiting staff will see any of this. Locals may **leave loose change or notes** if happy about the service (but not for street stalls or cheaper restaurants.) Tipping can ensure better service throughout your stay.

Taxi drivers, hairdressers and delivery people do not need to be tipped either nor do they expect to be.

The only exception to this is hotel staff. You are encouraged to tip porters, bellhops or room service anything from RM2 to RM10.



JAPAN

It is almost true to say that there is **no tipping in Japan**. The Japanese consider that good service is standard and to tip is an insult. However, in high class hotels (ryokan) it is acceptable to give a tip – but never directly. It must be placed in a **small sealed envelope** and given discreetly with a small bow of the head.

Alternatively, you can **express your appreciation or give a gift** instead.

Hotel staff in Japan may be trained to say “no thank you” if they are offered a tip.

You **don't need to tip your taxi driver**, tour guide, hairdresser or any other service provider.



MEXICO

Tipping is part of the culture of Mexican economy. Mexicans working in service industries earn modest wages and rely upon tips to supplement their weekly take-home pay.

In restaurants, there may be a **service charge of 10%** in which case tipping isn't obligatory. For exceptional service, 20% is sometimes given. It's best to **tip in cash** so the waiting staff benefit.

In bars, it's usual to **tip 10-20 Pesos per drink**, or 15% at the end of the evening if you run up a tab.

Every service provider hopes for a tip – hotel staff, hairdressers, people who guard your car, people who bag your shopping, massage therapists – from a few Pesos to 20%.

Taxi drivers don't expect a tip but many people reward them for loading and unloading luggage with a tip of by rounding up the fare.



NETHERLANDS

All taxes and service charges are included in the published prices of hotels, restaurants, cafés and nightclubs, by law. Even taxi fares have taxes and a standard 15% service charge. To be sure, look for the phrase “**inclusief BTW en service.**”

The Dutch tourist board states that ‘**Tips for extra service are always appreciated but not necessary.**’

In a café or bar, leave some small change. In a restaurant, leave **1€ to 5€ per person, or 10% of the bill.**

Tipping in hotels isn’t expected unless you are staying for a long time, or you receive extra services, but of course, it’s good to reward bellboys, porters and room service with €1-2.

For **taxi drivers, round up the fare** by a Euro or two, or give as much as 10% if you wish.



NEW ZEALAND

The government advises tourists that **tipping in New Zealand is not obligatory** – even in restaurants and bars. However, tipping for good service or kindness is at the discretion of the visitor.

It is not part of the culture, indeed, in a recent poll, locals stated they were happy to tip for exceptional service, but 90% were **against tipping becoming the norm.** 84% thought international visitors should not be encouraged to do it either, because good service should simply be part of the job.

People may feel uncomfortable to be offered tips, but the more ‘touristy’ places will be accustomed to receiving them.

For **exceptional service, tip 10%.** In taxis, **leave your change.** In hotels, perhaps **\$1-2 for carrying bags** and **\$1-5 for room service.**



NIGERIA

In most bars and restaurants **tips are not expected**, but 5-10% is optional. Apparently, if tips are given, the recipient will show extreme, and sometimes colourful, gratitude!

Again, **in hotels a 5% tip is optional** but only for great service.

Remember that taxi fares are usually increased for tourists so **tipping isn’t as necessary** unless you wish to reward exceptional service, when you could round up. It’s a good idea to negotiate a fare before embarking, to include the tip.



NORWAY

Norwegians working in the service industries **earn decent wages and do not depend on tips.** Of course, tips are always appreciated and anyone who wishes to tip is free to do so.

The **price of your hotel will include a gratuity for service workers** and, generally, Norwegians expect to carry their own baggage!

Service is usually included in your restaurant bill, but if not, a **10% tip** is the norm – and you can add more for exceptional service.

It’s **uncommon to tip taxi drivers** unless they handle heavy luggage.



OMAN

Tipping has not been part of the culture of Oman but is becoming more so.

A tip of **10% is considered the norm at more expensive hotels** and restaurants or rounding up to the next Rial and asking them to keep the change is acceptable.

However, **elsewhere it is uncommon**. Leaving your loose change after a meal may be polite, but it's unnecessary and at times a confusing gesture for locals.

Tipping taxi drivers is not thought to be necessary as they may, as in other countries, inflate the price for tourists and also claim they have no change if you present them with high denomination notes! It is best to agree a fare before you set out.



RUSSIA

Once, very few places in Russia expected you to tip; now it is increasingly common. Top-end hotels and restaurants in Moscow and other large cities add a **10-15% service charge**.

If that's not in evidence, **10-15% per cent is a customary tip** in these places, depending on the service. If paying by credit card, never add the tip to the bill but **leave cash**. There are tax issues that would complicate a pay out to waiting staff.

Tips for porters, room service and house-keeping in hotels vary from the equivalent of **1-5 USD**.

Tipping is not considered customary for taxi drivers but you can round up the fare. In fact, you should negotiate and settle upon your fare before you get in.



QATAR

Though Qatar is one of the richest countries in the world, the **workers in the service industry are very poorly paid** and rarely see the benefit of the (usually 10%) service charges in place in restaurants and hotels – so to **tip for good service** is an act of generosity. Even small amounts make a huge difference.

Tips are not expected but if they happen they tend to improve the service “remarkably” according to one visitor! **10-15% in a restaurant** is a nice gesture.

10-20 Riyals for doormen, porters, service staff at mosques, petrol service station workers and slightly more per day for hotel housekeepers is appreciated.

For taxi drivers, round up fare.

It is most important to be discreet and respectful when you tip.



SOUTH AFRICA

Tipping in South Africa is widely practised and well-received. In restaurants and bars, particularly in upper class suburbs, **service charge is likely to be included in the bill** – between 10-15% – and this is the standard rate to tip in the absence of that charge.

In hotels, **leave tips for housekeeping** (about 10-15 Rand per night) in the room or give it directly to the housekeeper.

Porters may be paid about 10 Rand per bag.

Taxi charges don't include a tip and 10% is the norm.



SPAIN

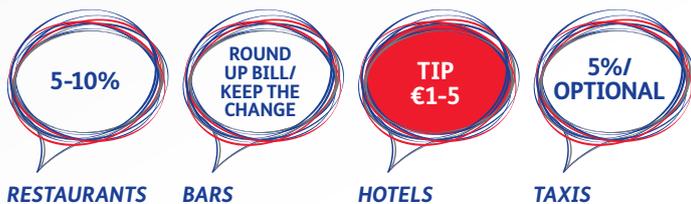
In restaurants bills always include service. An extra tip of **5-10% on top is customary**. It's best to leave tips in cash, even if paying by credit card.

If you're eating tapas or snacks at a bar – just round up the bill to the nearest Euro.

Tip bar tenders €0.20 a drink, depending on the bar.

Taxi drivers expect no tip at all and are happy if you round up the fare especially if extra help with luggage is given. A tip of 5% of the total fare is considered very generous.

In hotels, porters receive €1 a bag; for room service and doorman €1. Tip the maid about €1 per night and the concierge from €1 for basic help to €5.



SWEDEN

A service charge is automatically included in most Swedish hotel and restaurant bills. Tipping for extra services provided by staff is fine, but is not expected and is your choice.

Porters and cloakroom attendants often charge fixed fees. Doormen at hotels and restaurants are tipped modestly. Beauty therapists and hairdressers expect no tip at all.

At restaurants, a small tip of **5-10% is usual for evening meals**.

If you buy a drink at the bar, it's appreciated if you **leave any small change** on the bar.

Taxi drivers should be given a few extra Kronor or the fare may be rounded up.



SWITZERLAND

There is no obligation to tip in Switzerland because **service is included** in restaurants, bars and hotels, etc. Rounding to the next Swiss franc for small amounts or giving a couple of Swiss francs, **up to 5%**, when spending larger amounts in expensive restaurants is usual.

As giving a tip is not expected, when it does happen it's seen as confirmation of good service.

Although tax and a tip are already in the price of hiring a taxi, usually the driver will **round up the fare** to the nearest Franc.



THAILAND

Tipping is not usual in Thailand although some Thais will leave loose change. In Bangkok, more western standards have been adopted. At hotel and upmarket restaurants, there's **10% service charge**. If there's none, acceptable tipping for a tourist is either to round up to the closest **20 Baht or tip up to 10%**.

Taxi drivers don't expect a tip. Some may try to return it if you try, but a small tip is reasonable if the service is good; more if it's a longer journey.

In most hotels, you are not expected to tip. At high end hotels, **service charges are usually included** but tips of **20 to 50 baht are still expected for porter or bellboy**.

Tips left at bars and nightclubs are thrown into a pot to be **divided among the workers** at the end of the night.



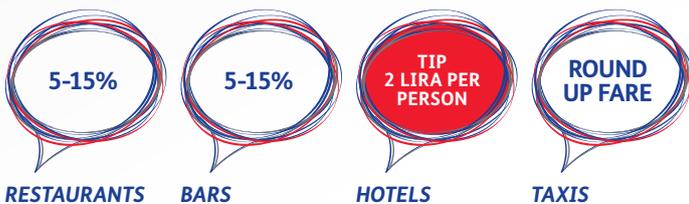
TURKEY

In **inexpensive restaurants, cafés and bars** **5-10% tips** are not necessary, but are appreciated. In **luxury restaurants**, **tip 10% to 15%**.

It is also customary to **tip hotel staff, porters, hairdressers and musicians**. The amount is your choice, but the norm is **2 Lira** per person.

Tipping is preferred in Lira or foreign notes but not coins which are difficult to exchange.

Taxi drivers do not normally expect a tip, but it's acceptable to round up the fare if you wish.



UNITED KINGDOM

Tipping is not so much a part of the culture of the UK as it is in America. However, there are some customary practices if you feel the service was good and you want to show your appreciation.

Most **hotel bills include a service charge of about 10-12%**. Where a service charge is not included in a hotel restaurant, it's usual to **tip 10-15%** of the bill. For rooms and other hotel services you can leave as much or as little as you choose.

Many restaurant bills include a service charge so check the bill to avoid tipping twice. Where service charge is not included, it is **customary to tip 10-15% of the bill**.

It's not customary to tip in pubs, bars or for any over-the-counter service.

Taxi drivers generally expect 10-15% of the fare.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Sometimes, **restaurants, hotels and bars apply a service charge**, which is meant to be split amongst the staff. This may not happen so you might want to tip more, in cash, to reward good service. If no service charge is included at a restaurant, **add 10-20% of the total to the bill**.

Tipping in bars is not always expected, but if received will ensure quick service with a smile next time you buy a round!

In hotels, consider tipping early on during your stay for the same reason. You can **tip bellboys, valet parkers or porters about 5 or 10 Dirhams** a time. If you want to **tip cleaners, leave 20 or 30 Dirhams** in your bedroom at the end of your stay.

Taxi drivers don't expect a tip but you could **round up to the next 5 Dirhams**.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

When in doubt, tip – this is a rule of thumb in the States, and, like Canada, the tips are generous and factored into the workers' wages.

In restaurants, **for meals it's 15-20% minimum**. It's always possible to tip with cards. At the bar tip **\$1 for every drink** ordered. Pay an **extra 20% for spa treatments, hairdressing and tour guides**.

\$1 is the going rate for hotel bus boys, bell hops and porters for every bag or box carried. For this reason, it's useful to carry Dollar bills just for tipping.

For short taxi rides, expect to tip \$1, but **15-20% for rides from the airport**.





References:

As well as gratitude for advice from our own employees, we would like to thank the following for additional information:

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