

TIPPING ETIQUETTE

by Margaret Page
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When you are benefiting from personal service, it's customary to provide some form of gratuity. Here are guidelines for tipping in a variety of situations:

GENERAL TIPPING

- For very bad service, don't leave any gratuity. It's best to let management know why you are unhappy.
- In a restaurant, tip your waitperson 15% (before tax is added) for good service and 20% for great service.
- Alternatively, for great service, tip 15% on the total amount (after tax has been added).
- It is okay to ask a waiter (room service or in a restaurant) if the gratuity has been added to the bill.
- For a wine steward or sommelier, tip 5% to 10% of the wine bottle's price if you've received special service.
- Tip bartenders 15% to 20% (before taxes), depending on the service.
- It is not customary to tip doormen at hotels for taking your bag out of the car. However, if they bring your bags inside the hotel or up to the room, a tip is warranted.
- Note these tipping amounts for various service providers:

Valet	\$2 – \$5
Bellhop	\$5
Airport Porter	\$1 per bag
Train Porter	10% – 20%
Doorman who hails a cab for you If a doorman must stand in the rain while getting you a cab you, tip double.	\$1
Limousine Driver	15% – 20% of the fare
Taxi Driver	15% – 20% of the fare
Chamber Maids	\$5 – \$10 a day
Rest Room Attendants	\$1
Food Delivery to your home or office	10%
Hotel Room Service	15% – 20%
Beauty Salon	15% – 20%
Golf Caddies	15% of the greens fees
Masseur or Masseur	20%
Sight Seeing Tour Guides	\$5 – \$10 per person
Bus guides	\$1 – \$5 per person

TIPPING WHEN TRAVELLING

- Servis Compris means tips are included.
- In some countries like China, tipping is not customary. Ask a travel agent to find out about tipping practices in the countries you will be visiting.
- In Europe, it is not customary to tip the bellhop or housekeeping staff.
- A concierge who provides a service should be tipped. As usual the tip is determined by the service provided and in the case of a concierge can vary widely. Getting dinner reservations or tickets to a local event can vary from \$5 to \$100, depending on popularity and availability.
- It is not mandatory to tip strolling musicians in restaurants. However, if you enjoyed their music, they appreciate receiving a gratuity.
- In New York City, tip the maitre d' \$20 in order to get a good table.
- Tip a steward on a yacht the same amount as a bellman in a hotel.
- On a cruise ship, tip dining stewards at least once a week, so they can have cash when at port (unless requested otherwise by the shipping line).
- The cruise director on a cruise does not normally receive a tip. Thank you is adequate.
- The purser and officers on a cruise ship do not get tipped. Thank you is adequate.
- Flight attendants on airplanes do not get tipped. Thank you is adequate.
- It is not necessary to tip the host of a bed and breakfast when you depart. Thank you is adequate here as well.

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