

## **Tips on Tips: Taxi's how to avoid trouble .....**

On the whole taxi drivers are an honest lot, but there are of course bad apples in the lot who will always try to cheat you. Following tips will help you avoid paying too much, be an advised traveler and never be cheated again!

Cheating taxi drivers are often found at airports, railway stations and attractions where they take advantage of tired and ignorant tourists. The best way to avoid cheating in a new destination is of course to take public transport, but that is not always possible, so following tips can be of help.

### **Variable tariffs**

Be aware of the existence of variable tariffs: on the whole rides are more expensive at night and during the weekend and for transfers to the airport and loading and unloading of luggage there is often a supplement asked.

### **Clear logo**

**When you are queuing for a cab only get into one that has a clear logo and telephone number for the cab company displayed.**

### **Meter**

Insist when getting in that the driver actually uses his meter or agree on a fixed rate before setting off. Via the website [worldtaximeter](http://worldtaximeter.com) you can look up the going rates in major cities around the world. It is also always a good idea to ask the hotel for the going rates.

### **Tricks**

A much used trick is of course to use the more expensive night or weekend tariff during a normal weekday, look for the displayed different tariffs and do not hesitate to ask for details from your driver.

### **Telephone**

If the hotel or restaurant has called you a cab, take in account that the meter starts running from the moment the cab company has received the call and the cab is underway.

### **Deterrant**

If you suspect your driver of trying to con you, make sure they see you are following the route on the map or start taking note –clearly – of his

license number, that will definitely deter them.

### **Cheaper**

When you travel in group ( friends/family) taking a taxi will definitely be cheaper than public transport.

### **Tips**

If you are satisfied with the services of your driver it is custom to add a 5 to 10% tip to the total sum.

### **Usefull tips**

Let's face it, a ride with a good cab driver can also be the source of some very useful tips on your destination. They know it best and can show you the best places...let yourself be driven and enjoy!

## **.... & tipping customs in different countries**

When traveling abroad it is not always easy to estimate when or how much tip is expected. In some countries it is a must, in other regions the giving of small change can be seen as an insult. A short review of customs around the world seemed a handy tool for regular travelers!

### **1. Great-Britain**

A restaurant bill will – most of the time – have included automatically a 12,5 % for service, if this has not been done, one should add a 10% tip to the total bill. Taxi drivers also expect a 10% tip.

### **2. France**

in France tips are usually included in the bill. It is however custom to leave some small change for the waiter. But be careful that the waiter returns your change, in Paris and on the Riviera waiters can be cheeky! You can decide for yourself to tip – or not – your taxi driver; guides in museums like to be rewarded with a 3€ tip.

### **3. Germany**

German waiters will be happy if their tip is 5% or more of the total bill.

Taxi drivers on the other hand expect a 10% tip. For porters or bell boys 2 or 3 euros are sufficient.

#### **4. Italy**

Refrain from giving too many tips in Italy: waiters do not expect a tip but you can of course always reward good service. Do not forget however that you have already automatically paid a cover charge.

#### **5. Switzerland**

Tips are automatically included in bills one gets from restaurants cafés, taxis , therefore extra small change is not necessary.

#### **6. Canada**

In Canada it is custom to give a tip of about 10 to 20% on your restaurant bill.

#### **7. United States**

Tips are part of the daily life in the US, a 15% tip is expected.

#### **8. New-Zealand**

The Kiwis do not expect extra change but like everywhere else will appreciate a small token of appreciation. You will not however get a long face if no tip is given.

#### **9. Australia**

Same goes for the Aussies, a tip will be appreciated but is not essential. In the more fancy restaurants of Melbourne or Sydney tips are given.

#### **10. China**

No tipping in China! Be aware that foreigners pay a steeper bill in any case as regulated by the local government.

#### **11. Japan**

This is the big exception: do NEVER tip in this country as it will be seen as an insult!

#### **12. Hong Kong**

No extra expected here either, just give the cab driver who takes you to the airport a little extra.

#### **13. Singapore**

Tipping is not encouraged by the authorities in Singapore. You will often see the notice 'No tipping required'.