

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'.