



## Tipping Considerations for Travel

Many of our Trip Leaders enquire about tipping while visiting both domestic and 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 most parts of the world. These include positions such as food & beverage servers, coach drivers, local guides, ski school and dive instructors and other service personnel who depend on tips to earn adequate wages. Please know, if you would prefer, we are happy to include appropriate gratuities in your pricing. Some school like to have it included, while others use the actual tipping process as part of the overall educational of the trip. If you would like for us to include gratuities in your pricing, please just let us know.

- For restaurant servers, 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 use bar services for beverages (and not part of your standard meal plan), these positions would be tipped by you directly at the time of service.
- Hotel service providers such as housekeepers and bellmen appreciate tips if you utilize their services.
- Tips for drivers dedicated to serving your group receive gratuities. In most instances, the best practice for drivers is to “pass the hat” at the end of the tour to give your driver a suitable gratuity.
- Instructors such as scuba dive instructors or ski instructors also receive tips for their time in instructing your students to achieve their certifications.
- Finally, local guides and your Ambassador also receive gratuities.

If you have any questions, simply ask us and we will be happy to review your specific tour. If traveling in the field and you have a specific question, please inquire with your Ambassador.

For restaurant service, guidelines are:

*The average tip in the USA is 15-20% of the total sum of purchase (15% considered customary for standard service, 18% 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 standard service, 13% for good service, 15% for excellent service).*



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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 if service is used
Motorcoach Drivers	\$1 - \$2 per person, per day of service
Tour Ambassadors	\$2 per person, per day of service
Ski School Instructors	\$2 - \$5 per person, per day of service
Dive Instructors & Boat Crew	\$5 for Instructor + \$5 for Boat Crew per DIVE

For scuba diving, if you are getting certified for the first time, it is also appropriate to tip your instructor for the time spent in the classroom and pool prior to embarking on your dives. In this case, a standard ‘instruction’ tip would be around \$30 - \$50 per person, in addition to the actual dive gratuities which cover the ocean dives. General rule of thumb: bring \$100 per person for dive tips.

**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, along with the National Guide.

Thank you!  
The SST Operations Team



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