

Tipping

Ever wonder if you shorted someone who gave you great service? In other words, do you know what an acceptable gratuity for a provided service should be?

Here are the rules:

- 15-20 percent for servers, wine stewards, and stylists (like in the salon).
- 15 percent for bartenders, too, and remember, for the best service, tip with every drink, not at the end, unless you're running a tab, because the bartender may think you're a lousy tipper and you'll wait much longer for a drink.
- 15 percent for cab drivers, and never less than \$1.
- For a valet, \$2; for a coat room clerk \$1 per coat; for the restroom attendant, \$1. A bellhop gets \$3 if he shows you to your room, \$5 if he carries your luggage. In luxury hotels double this, so \$6 without luggage, \$10 with luggage.

Generally, you don't tip the maitre' d unless he or she does some special service, like a phone call, then tip \$5. And you never have to tip a bus-person.

Summer Tipping

NEW YORK (CNN/Money) - Okay, so it's summer and the living is supposed to be easy. But if you're traveling on vacation, playing golf, sending your kids to camp or just having the lawn mowed, there are always two hard questions that linger: "Do I have to tip? And if so, how much?"

This table may help. Below are some suggested tipping guidelines for traveling and summer living culled from The Emily Post Institute, "The Itty Bitty Guide to Tipping" and Tipping.org.

(Keep in mind, if you're traveling abroad, these guidelines may not apply since tipping etiquette varies by country. To find the lowdown on the tipping customs where you're going, check with a good travel agent or country-specific travel book. Or, for some broad guidelines to tipping in 52 countries, check the "Itty Bitty Guide to Tipping.")

AIRPORT TIPPING	
Skycaps:	\$2/bag
Electric cart driver:	\$2-\$3/person
Wheelchair pusher:	\$2-\$3/person

AUTO TRANSPORT	
Taxi drivers:	10%-15%; up to 20% if driver helps with bags or makes extra stops
Car service/limo drivers:	15%-20%
Door-to-door shuttle:	For paid shuttle service, 15%, with \$1-\$2 extra per bag if help with luggage is provided. No tip if shuttle is free.

BUS TOURS	
One-day trips	
Guide & driver:	10%-20% cost of tour
Extended tour	
Guide & driver:	\$1-\$10/day, unless gratuity is part of tour price

CRUISE TIPPING

Varies. Follow guidelines provided by the specific ship.

HOTEL TIPPING

Doorman:	\$1-\$3 for hailing cabs, helping with luggage
Bellhop:	\$1-\$2/bag
Concierge:	\$3-\$5 for dinner reservations (\$10 for hottest restaurants); \$20 for booking tours; \$25 for getting tickets to a sold-out show
Room service staff:	15%
Hotel housekeeper:	\$2-\$5 a night (Leave every day as opposed to once at the end of the stay, since different housekeepers may clean your room.)

RESTAURANTS

Table-service waitstaff:	15% to 20% before tax
Buffet, waitstaff:	5% to 10% before tax
Bartender:	\$1/drink or 15%-20% of bar bill before tax
Sommelier:	20% of wine bill before tax
Parking valet:	\$2

SUMMER FUN

Poolside/beachside attendant (hotels):	\$2-\$5 per service (e.g. getting extra towels, setting up chair/umbrella)
Golf caddy:	\$10-\$25 above fee if fee is paid to the golf club
Country club staff:	Policies vary. 57% of private clubs have a no-tipping policy
Boat trip operator:	For trips of three hours-plus, \$5-\$75, depending on service and excursion cost
Trip guides (flyfishing, river rafting, horseback riding, etc.):	15% cost of the excursion. But check with the company about their tipping policies when signing up.
Staff on specialty vacations (dude ranch, spa, etc.):	Check with the company about their tipping policies when signing up. Some may suggest paying a lump-sum equal to a percentage of the cost of your stay, and the company then divvies it up among the staff. Absent a tipping policy, 15% is a good base.

SUMMER LIVING

Gardener:	\$20-\$50 at end of season or holidays (If gardener is from a professional service, a tip may not be necessary.)
Person who mows your lawn:	\$10-\$25 at the end of the season, but not necessary
Babysitter/Nanny accompanying you on vacation:	Small gift (e.g., gift certificate for dinner or a massage) or a day or two off during the trip

WHO NOT TO TIP

Front-desk clerk at a hotel

Ice cream vendor

Camp counselors (But if you want to recognize someone in particular, a handwritten note or small gift at the end of summer is appropriate.)

Lifeguard

Swimming, tennis and golf instructors