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## Tiping Considerations for International Travel

Many of our Party Leaders enquire about tipping while visiting some of our 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 many parts of the world. In North America, tipping is a component that is quite different here than in the UK. In the USA, all service staff – food servers, bartenders, ski school instructors and other service personnel depend on tips to earn adequate wages. In most cases, a food or beverage service worker will earn about \$3 (£2 per hour!) while the rest is generated in tips for delivering customer service.

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

*The average tip in Canada or Costa Rica is 10-15% of the total sum of purchase (10% considered customary for basic service, 13% for standard service, 15% for good service, 15%+ for exceptional service).*

Other service personnel that generally receive tips for performing service functions include hotel bell staff, valet staff, bus drivers if they are with you for an extended period of time, tour representatives and others who work in a service capacity on behalf of your group. For more information in customary tipping practices around the world, visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tip\\_\(gratuity\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tip_(gratuity)).

Please note that all pre-planned meals noted in your itinerary do not require tipping. Any meals in which you are served by wait staff that are not scheduled in your itinerary are not included in your package plan. Additionally, tips for shuttle drivers to local excursions are also included in your package provided they have been pre-arranged. If you have a motorcoach driver with your group for an extended period of time, the best practice is to "pass the hat" at the end of the tour to give your driver a suitable gratuity.

Following is a chart of standard tipping rates for "good" service within the USA.

<i>North American Tipping Considerations</i>	
Food Service Wait Staff	15-20% (USA) or 10-15% (Intl) of your total bill
Bartenders	\$1 per beverage
Housekeepers	\$1 per room occupant, per day
Bellmen	\$1 per bag
Motorcoach Drivers	\$1 per person, per day of service
Tour Ambassadors	\$1 per person, per day of service
Ski School Instructors	\$1 per person, per day of service

Thank you! Please feel free to contact us with any questions!