

Grace's Cruises - Insider Travel Tip

Tippling Around the World — What's Expected?

Tippling can be one of the most confusing parts of traveling — especially when every country has different customs.

The good news? With a little guidance, it's easy to navigate and avoid awkward moments.

It Varies More Than You Think

Tippling culture is not the same everywhere.

In some countries, tippling is expected and appreciated.
In others, it's already included — or not expected at all.

Understanding the basics before you travel helps you feel confident and respectful in each destination.

North America: Tippling Is Expected

In the U.S. and Canada, tippling is part of the service culture.

Restaurants: 15–20% standard

Taxis: 10–15%

Hotel staff: Small tips for housekeeping and porters

 This is one destination where tippling is most structured and expected.

Mexico & Caribbean: Expected but flexible

In tourist areas, tippling is common and appreciated.

Restaurants: 10–15% standard

Resorts: Small tips for bartenders, servers, housekeeping

Tours: Tippling guides and drivers based on service

 Even at all-inclusive resorts, small tips go a long way.

Asia: Often Not Expected

In many parts of Asia, tippling is not customary and can sometimes feel uncomfortable.

Japan & South Korea: Tippling is generally not expected

Southeast Asia: Small tips are appreciated in tourist areas

 When in doubt, follow local cues or keep it minimal.

Europe: Service Often Included

In many European countries, service charges are already built into the bill, but tipping customs vary slightly by region.

Mediterranean (Italy, Spain, Greece, France etc.)

Restaurants: A small tip (5–10%) is appreciated, but not required

Cafés: Rounding up is common

Taxis: Round up or add a small amount

Northern Europe (UK, Iceland, Scandinavia etc)

Restaurants: 10% if service not included

Tipping is more modest than North America

👉 Overall: Tip lightly – it's appreciated, but not at North American levels.

Australia & New Zealand: Not Expected

Tipping is not part of the culture and service staff are well paid.

Restaurants: Not expected, but 5–10% for exceptional service

Taxis: Round up

Hotels: Not required

👉 Think of tipping here as optional — only for standout service.

South America: Appreciated

Tipping is not always built into pricing but is generally appreciated.

Restaurants: 10% is common (sometimes included)

Taxis: Round up

Tours: Tip guides/drivers modestly

👉 Always check your bill — some countries include a service charge.

On Cruise Ships: It Depends on the Cruise Line

Tipping onboard varies depending on the cruise line you're sailing with.

Premium cruise lines: Daily gratuities are usually added automatically

Ultra-luxury cruise lines: Gratuities are typically included in the fare


👉 Always check what's included so you don't double-tip unnecessarily.

Guides & Drivers: A Helpful Guideline

For tours and transfers, tipping is often appreciated:

Tour guides: Small tip based on length and service

Drivers: A few dollars/euro per person

 If the service was excellent, a little extra is always appreciated.

Final Thoughts From Grace

When you're unsure:

- Tip modestly rather than generously
- Follow what locals are doing
- Keep small bills or coins handy

Most importantly, focus on enjoying your trip.

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