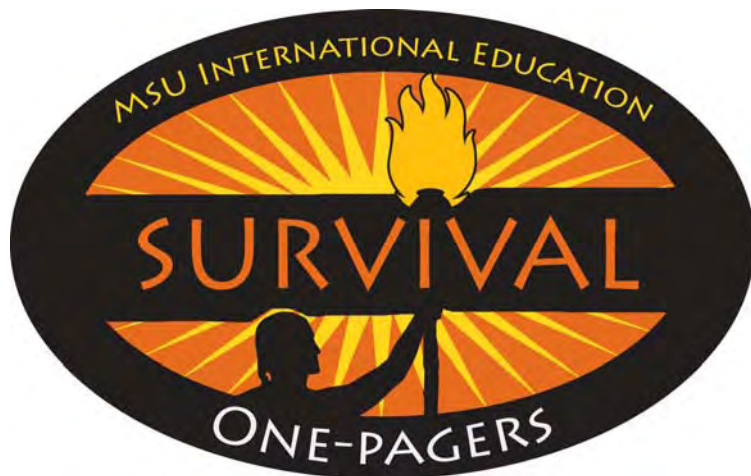


Tipping Etiquette in the US

Tipping customs vary from country to country, so it's important to familiarize yourself with tipping etiquette in the US or any other country you plan to visit. Check out the information below!



“When is it appropriate to tip someone in the US?”

Most people in the hospitality industry are used to receiving tips from their customers. These jobs include the following: restaurant staff (bartenders and wait staff), drivers (cab, limousine, and shuttle bus drivers), hotel staff (chambermaids, bellhops, porters, room service staff, and concierge), casino staff (waiters and dealers) tour guides, and beauticians (nail technicians, spa workers, masseuses, and hair stylists).

“How much should I tip?”

Normally, people tip between 15 and 25 percent of the cost of the service before tax is applied. Fifteen percent is for standard service, 20 percent is for good service, and 25 percent is for excellent service.

“What if I don’t have any dollar bills to leave as a tip?”

When you travel, it’s a good idea to keep small bills on you for tipping purposes. However, people are often willing to make change if you have a large bill. If you are paying with a credit or debit card, you may add the tip onto the total amount printed on the receipt.

“Is tipping really important in the US, or is it optional?”

Tipping IS very important in the US because many people in the hospitality industry (restaurants, hotels, casinos, etc.) are paid less than minimum wage because they are expected to make tips. Many people in these jobs rely on tips as a major part of their income.

“Sometimes I see tip jars at fast-food restaurants, ice-cream parlors, or coffee shops. Is tipping necessary at these places?”

No, tipping is not necessary in these cases.

“Do I have to tip when the service was bad?”

If the service is very bad, you may choose to leave a small tip (such as 10 percent) or no tip at all if the service was horrible. Remember, if the food doesn’t taste good, then tell your waiter or waitress so the problem can be corrected, but DON’T punish the wait staff for bad food.

Need more information?

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