

TIPPING

While tipping has now become an accepted practice in Asian countries, it should always be considered a gesture of appreciation for good service and not an obligation. Tipping is now commonplace in Laos especially in the service industry and you should be prepared to tip guides, drivers, porters and those who assist you during your stay.

Restaurants

In high end western restaurants you may be expected to tip. This should be about **10% of the total bill** – but only if a service charge hasn't already been added. You should check to see if you are paying for a service charge though. In normal restaurants tipping is not required or necessary.

Tour guides

As a guideline if you are **travelling alone** we would recommend that you tip your guide between **\$7-8 per day**, if travelling **in a couple** then allow **\$8-10 per couple per day**. When travelling **in a group of 3-4** then tipping in the region of **\$10-15 per group per day** is appropriate, when travelling **in groups larger than four** then allow an increase roughly equating to **10% more for each additional person** in the group. **For your driver** please tip around **half of the total tip given to your guide**. If your itinerary is more intensive and incorporates more specialised elements such as trekking or overland journeys then increase these guidelines by 20% or more depending on your satisfaction level.

Hotels

A tip is not expected in hotels. However, for porters a tip of **\$1 per person per bag** is appropriate and it is useful to have several dollar bill notes to hand for your convenience, alternatively an equivalent amount in local currency will suffice.

Taxis

Not required as you will likely negotiate the fare before hand. If you don't then simply round **up the fare**.