

TIPPING

Tipping is NOT customary in Thailand, there is absolutely NO mandatory requirement to tip anyone, but small gratuities for great service are very much appreciated. Bear in mind that the majority of workers in the hospitality and service industries in Thailand earn very little, so a small tip goes a long way and will generally bring out extra enthusiastic service. If you do tip make sure you tip directly to the person who served you and always in cash. If you tip using a card, or if you give your tip to the manager the person who served you may not receive the tip.

Hotels

At a hotel in Thailand it is nice to tip the bellboy or porter **20 to 50 baht** depending on how many bags they carry. A tip won't always be expected but try to remember that a hotel worker in Thailand may only earn 200 baht a day. As such a tip of 20 to 50 baht will go along way and may lead to exceptional service later.

Your hotel maid won't expect a tip but nevertheless some guests will leave a small tip of **20 to 50 baht** in an envelope on the pillow of the bed. Whilst this won't be expected it is a nice gesture and it will certainly be appreciated.

Restaurants

At cheaper restaurants in Thailand it is customary to leave behind any loose change in coins as a tip. If you are eating at a small roadside place then you should round the bill up.

In high end restaurants tips are more likely to be expected because the waiters are professionals. Here you should tip at least **10%** for good service but only if there is no service charge on the bill. You should hand your tip directly to the waiter. If you are served by multiple people give the gratuity to the most senior waiter who served you. Make sure that the other staff who served you can see this and indicate clearly to the waiter who the tip should be shared between.

Spas

If your Spa treatment in Thailand is at a high-end hotel then you should tip good service at-least **10%**.

If your visit an independent Spa then you should consider the tip to your therapist a little more carefully: For a short massage less than one hour long you should tip **50%** or a **minimum of 50 baht**. If your treatment is longer then you should tip **100 baht per 30 minutes**. Hence a two hour massage should receive a tip of at least **400 baht**.

You should give your tip directly to your therapist and you should pay in cash to ensure that they will receive the gratuity.

Tour guides

In Thailand you can tip the equivalent of between **\$10 and \$20 per day** for the tour guide (the guide should be giving a portion of your tip to the driver).

Taxis

All public taxi rates are metered, and you shouldn't have to settle on a fixed rate. Both Thais and local ex-pats commonly **round up the fare** (i.e. 51 baht fare rounded up to 60 baht).

If you take a taxi from the airport, avoid services by Touts. You can order a taxi from the taxi desk – they will probably give you a sheet of paper with your taxi driver's name on it. Keep this in case there is a problem. There is always a surcharge for taking a taxi from the airport. There is no surcharge when going to the airport.