Rough Guide to Tip Amounts
Remember: To Tip is Your Choice!

- **Restaurants**: Required by law to add a 13% tax and 10% tip to the bill. As a general rule, Costa Ricans do not tip. If you wish to, tip between 5 and 10%, depending on service.
- **Taxis**: Cab drivers are not usually tipped unless extra service is provided.
- **Bellboys**: Often tipped a minimum of US $1.00 - $1.50 per bag, at check-in and check-out.
- **Housekeepers**: Often overlooked. You may want to consider around US $2-5 per night, left at the end.
- **Private Naturalist Guides**: Average tip is $15-20 per person per day for a naturalist guide who is accompanying you every day of your journey. It’s better to give a little more if the group size is less than 10 persons.
- **Local Guides**: For a naturalist guide who takes you on an afternoon or morning’s adventure, a tip of between $10-15, or more depending on the size of the group, is average.
- **River Guides**: Average tip is $5.00 per person per day. It’s better to give a little more if there are less than 4 persons in the raft.
- **Transfer Guides**: Average tip is $3.00 per person. It’s better to give a little more if the group size is less than 4 persons.
- **Drivers**: Average tip: US $5.00 - $7.50 per person per day. It’s better to give a little more if the group size is less than 4 persons.
- **Guachiman**: If you’re driving, you might have someone guide your car into a parking space, or sitting in a chair in the parking lot or along the street. This person gets a tip – a dollar will do. They are a “guachiman” (pronounced - watchey man). It’s far from an official position, but they’ll be guarding your car and it’s a good idea to pay them.