

## **Tipping Guidelines**

Tipping is not included and is entirely at your discretion.

The suggestions below are provided only as general guidelines. You may wish to base your tips primarily on:

The level of service

Your comfort level with tipping

Your personal budget

If you do not believe in tipping, please do not feel obligated.

### **Restaurants**

Restaurants in Costa Rica are required by law to add a 13% sales tax and a 10% service charge to the bill. Because of this, Costa Ricans generally do not tip beyond what is already included. If you wish to leave something additional for exceptional service, an additional 5–10% is common.

### **Taxis**

Taxi drivers are not usually tipped unless they provide extra service, such as helping with luggage or making additional stops.

### **Bellboys**

Typically, \$1–\$1.50 per bag when assisting with luggage at check-in or check-out.

### **Housekeeping**

Often overlooked. \$2–\$5 per night is common. Many travelers prefer to leave this in the room at the end of their stay.

### **Private Naturalist Guides**

For a naturalist guide accompanying you throughout your journey, a typical tip is \$15–\$20 per person per day. Travelers in smaller groups sometimes choose to tip a little more.

### **Local Guides**

For a naturalist guide leading a morning or afternoon activity, \$10–\$15 per person is a common range, depending on group size and level of service.

### **River Guides**

The average tip is \$5 per person per day. Travelers sometimes choose to tip a little more when the raft has fewer than four people.

### **Transfer Guides**

The average tip is \$3 per person. Travelers in smaller groups sometimes choose to tip a little more.

### **Drivers**

Typical tip: \$5–\$7.50 per person per day. Travelers in smaller groups sometimes choose to tip a little more.

### **Guachimán**

If you are driving, you may notice someone guiding cars into parking spaces or sitting nearby in a parking lot or along the street. This person watches over parked cars and is commonly known as a “guachimán” (pronounced watchy-man).

It is not an official position, but they typically keep an eye on the vehicles. It is customary to give them a small tip—about \$1 is sufficient.