

TIPPING YOUR SAFARI GUIDE

Tipping your safari guide is usually considered customary in Africa but is always at your discretion. It is a delicate and sensitive issue and many people look for tipping guidelines. Here's what we suggest.

- Transfer drivers: USD 2 -5 per transfer
- Lodge guides: USD 10 - 20 per couple per day
- Trackers: USD 5 - 10 per couple per day
- Driver and tracker: USD 15 - 20 per couple per day (give the tip to the driver who will then split it)
- Driver/guides & specialist guides: around USD 50 per couple per day
- Lodge staff: the easiest way to tip the lodge's cooks, housekeepers and porters is to use the staff tipping box - the contents of which are shared - at the end of your stay. Work on USD 10 per person per day. If there is someone who has really stood out and provided excellent service, you may want to tip him or her separately - simply put your tip in an envelope with the person's name on it or pass it on via the camp manager.

Note that at some camps a butler service is provided. Should you wish to tip your butler separately, work on between 5 and 15 dollars per day.

HOW MUCH TO TIP:

The following are guidelines only – please feel free to increase or decrease your tip according to the level of service that was provided to you:

Transfers

Budget about **ZAR 30 / USD 3 / EURO 2** per couple per day to hand to the driver at the end of your journey. If he or she has helped extensively with your luggage, consider increasing the tip.

Restaurants

Bills for parties of fewer than eight people generally do NOT include a service fee – it is up to you to add it at about **10 percent of the total for good service** or 15 percent for exceptional service. Some establishments may automatically add a service day for parties larger than eight people. This will be stated on your bill.

Bars

It is customary to tip bar staff about ZAR 5 a time if you order directly from the bar or to add a 10 to 15 percent fee if you are running a tab and a waiter has been serving you.

Hotels

Bar and waiting staff in hotels expect the same as those in restaurants.

On safari

The following guidelines apply throughout Southern and East Africa:

Game lodge staff	ZAR 110 / USD 15 / EURO 10 per couple per day
Ranger or guide	ZAR 150 / USD 20 / EURO 15 per couple per day
Tracker	ZAR 110 / USD 15 / EURO 10 per couple per day
Butler	ZAR 90 / USD 15 / EURO 10 per couple per day

Game lodge staff such as kitchen staff, gardeners, guards and cleaners can be tipped in the 'staff tip box' where the gratuities will be shared among them.

TIPPING GUIDELINES FOR

RWANDA

- Go2Africa stresses that gratuities are not obligatory but they are customary throughout Rwanda
- Tips can be handed to the relevant member of staff in cash directly or placed in a staff 'tip box', if there is one.
- It is customary to tip taxi or shuttle drivers; hotel and airport porters; waitering and bar staff; chambermaids; tour guides; game rangers and trackers.
- For restaurants and bars, 10% to 15% of your total bill is customary, although some establishments may add an automatic service fee for groups larger than eight.
- For transfers, consider tipping about US\$5 per person in your group to the driver.
- Game lodge staff can be tipped about US\$15 per person per day, and rangers and trackers about US\$20 per person per day.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Go2Africa stresses that gratuities are not obligatory but they are customary throughout South Africa.
- Tips can be handed to the relevant member of staff in cash directly or placed in a staff 'tip box', if there is one.
- It is customary to tip taxi or shuttle drivers; hotel, railway and airport porters; waitering and bar staff; chambermaids; tour guides; game rangers and trackers;

golf caddies and 'car guards' (if you hire a car, informal guards may offer to keep an eye on it while you are away).

- For restaurants and bars, 10% to 15% of your total bill is customary, although some establishments may add an automatic service fee for groups larger than eight.
- For transfers, consider tipping about US\$5 per person in your group to the driver.
- Game lodge staff can be tipped about US\$15 per person per day, and rangers and trackers about US\$20 per person per day.

UGANDA

- Go2Africa stresses that gratuities are not obligatory but they are customary throughout Uganda where many workers may be sole breadwinners or supporting extended families. Tips can be handed to the relevant member of staff in cash directly or placed in a staff 'tip box', if there is one. It is customary to tip taxi or shuttle drivers; hotel and airport porters; waitering and bar staff; chambermaids; tour guides; and game rangers and trackers.
- For restaurants and bars, 10% to 15% of your total bill is customary, although some establishments may add an automatic service fee for groups larger than eight.
- For transfers, consider tipping about US\$5 per person in your group.
- Game lodge staff can be tipped about US\$15 per person per day, and rangers and trackers about US\$20 per person per day

WEB:

- *Rangers*: \$10 per guest per day in a shared vehicle. At least double that amount per guest in a private vehicle.
- *Trackers / butlers / valets*: \$5 per guest per day.
- *General staff fund (for cleaners, cooks, waiters, etc)*: \$5 per guest per day

Tipping guidelines vary from lodge to lodge, but plan to give the local equivalents of about US\$10 per person per day to the ranger and not much less to the tracker; an additional tip of US\$25 for the general staff would be sufficient for a couple staying two days

- 1 per bag for porters
- \$1- \$2 per day for hotel staff
- \$3 - \$5 per day for personal butlers, trackers, drivers
- \$10 per day for professional guides and/or drivers who are with you throughout the trip
- \$5 - \$10 per person for one day or half day guides (city tours, safari walks, rafting guides etc)
- \$1- \$2 for transfer drivers (to and from airport and hotels)

Porters, Guides and Cooks on Mountain Treks

If you're planning to [climb Kilimanjaro](#) or go on other [mountain treks in Africa](#), your booking company should be able to advise the appropriate tipping amounts. For a quick budget estimate expect to spend 10% of the cost of your trek on tips. Or figure on:

- \$15 - \$20 per day for a guide
- \$8 - \$10 per day for a cook
- \$8 - \$10 per day for a porter

Who?	How much?
Game Rangers	R200 to R300 per family (couple) per day
Trackers	R100 to R200 per family (couple) per day
Tour Guides (Group Tour)	R20 and up per person
Tour Guides (Private)	R100 and up per couple/ family/ single traveller
Waiters and Waitresses	10 to 20 % of total bill
Barmen and bar women	10 to 20 % of total bill
Accommodation	10 % of total bill
Hotel porters	R10 to R20
Airport porters	R3 to R5 per piece of luggage

2009:

Ranger R250/couple

Tracket R150/couple

Ranger \$15-20pp

Tracker \$5-10 pp

Camp \$5 pp

Transfers \$5pp

Driver full day \$15-20pp

Driver Half Day \$7-10pp

Transfer 10% cost of transfer

2007:

Ranger R150pp

Tracket R75pp

Ranger \$10-15pp

Tracker \$5-10pp

Butler \$5pp

Staff \$5pp

2013 at Singita:

Ranger \$20pp

Tracker \$10pp

Butler \$20pp

&Beyond Ranger \$20 per couple

&Beyond Tracker \$15 per couple

&Beyond Butler \$15 per couple

&Beyond Staff \$15 per couple

Transfer R20pp

Half day tour guide R50 pp

Ranger R120pp

Tracket R80pp

Staff R20pp

2014 Singita

Ranger \$15pp

Tracker \$8pp

Staff \$12pp