

Tipping and Gratuity Etiquette in Africa

In Africa the tourism, hospitality and service industries often employ people from previously disadvantaged areas within the local community, many of whom do not earn a large basic salary and therefore rely on tips from customers in order to survive financially. However, tipping indicates appreciation for good service. Dollars and Euros are accepted if you don't want to withdraw money at the ATM.

The following amounts are basic guidelines only and you can always reward excellent service with a larger gratuity, should you wish to. R stands for South African Rand.

Ranger and tracker tipping when staying at a game lodge:

It is standard to tip your game ranger and tracker at the end of your stay at a game lodge. Many lodges are allowing you to charge the tip to your credit card so you don't need to carry money or exchange money. Usually suggestions are given at the lodge but to give you an idea here are some guidelines:

Ranger / Guide	R300/ USD \$17 per couple per day
Tracker	R200/ USD \$11 per couple per day
Butler/waiters	R150/ USD \$8 per couple per day
General Camp Staff	R175/ USD \$9 per couple per day

Accommodation/housekeeping tips:

Similar to what you would tip cleaning staff in the US-between \$3-5 a day, or around R50/day.

Airport, train station and hotel porters tipping in Africa:

Porters are given a tip of R10-20 (\$2-3 USD) per item of luggage, paid directly at the service.

Tour Guide Tipping in Africa:

Recommended rate is **R300-350 (USD \$20-\$30) per couple per day** for a fully guided day. Should you have the services of a driver, plus a specialist guide, you can give the driver R150 and the guide R275-300. If you are on an escorted tour, check with your escort. Sometimes they tip for your group.

Restaurant tipping in Africa:

A tip of 15% is standard but do check with the manager as some restaurants in South Africa add on a service charge if in a large group.

Spa & beauty tipping in Africa:

10% – 15% tip to the stylist or beauty therapist
R10 – R20/ \$2-3 USD for the person who washed your hair

Zimbabwe- pay in USD or South African Rand as Zim dollars are not recommended.