

A photograph showing four people (two men and two women) sitting around a table on a rooftop terrace. They are holding wine glasses and talking. The scene is lit with the warm, golden light of a sunset. The background shows a white railing and a clear sky.

TIPPING GUIDE

Ecuador

When considering tipping customs in Ecuador, it's helpful to understand the country's economic context. At the time of writing, the minimum gross wage is USD 425 per month. Considering the cost of living, even small tips can make a meaningful difference.



RESTAURANTS

Most restaurants add a 10% service charge to the bill, along with 12% VAT. Lower to mid-range restaurants often don't include the service charge, and it's customary to leave a 5–10% tip. In higher-end restaurants, a 3–5% tip is typical. Tips can be left in a tip jar, but handing them directly to the service staff is appreciated.

HOTELS & SPAS

For spa and hotel services, a 5–10% tip is customary. While local tourists don't often tip housekeeping staff, their wages are typically low. If you notice excellent service, it's encouraged to tip accordingly.



TAXIS

Tipping taxi drivers isn't expected, but if the driver provides excellent service or helps with luggage, a tip of USD 1–2 is appreciated.

TOUR GUIDES

Mainland Ecuador

Mainland tour guides usually earn modest wages. In group tours, tipping around USD 5 per person for the guide and USD 3 for the driver is common. For private tours, USD 10 per day per person is appropriate.

Amazon

In the Amazon region, customary tips per person per day are:

- USD 10 for the naturalist guide
- USD 10 for the community guide
- USD 5 for the paddler
- USD 5 for support staff

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Tipping in the Galapagos is customary but never mandatory. It's highly encouraged as a way to recognize good service. If you wish to tip someone directly, feel free to do so. Alternatively, use the "Crew" or "Guide" envelopes provided at the end of your stay onboard. In this case, the crew tips will be shared equally among staff.

Typical tips in the Galapagos:

- USD 10–20 per person per day for crew members, as a collective group.
- USD 8–10 per person per day for guides.

Tipping is always at your discretion. Base it on the quality of service and your overall experience.



SUGGESTED BUDGET FOR TIPPING IN THE GALAPAGOS (PER PERSON):

Mid-Range Galapagos cruise

- 4 days - USD 70 - 80
- 5 days - USD 90 - 100
- 8 days - USD 140 - 150

First-Class Galapagos Cruise

- 4 days - USD 120 - 150
- 5 days - USD 150 - 170
- 8 days - USD 240 - 250