

Tipping Guide for Ireland

While tipping in Ireland is NOT EXPECTED, adding 10% to many services is common and expresses your appreciation for Ireland's service-oriented culture. In a nutshell, tipping is completely at your discretion.

Who to Tip in Ireland:

While tipping isn't mandatory in Ireland, it's appreciated in several service industries.

- Waitstaff in restaurants and cafés
- Bartenders in pubs
- Hotel employees, including house cleaners, bellmen, and concierge staff
- Guided tour operators
- Taxi drivers
- Spa and salon professionals
- Porters and hotel staff
- Musicians performing in venues or on the street

When to Tip in Ireland:

In Ireland, knowing when to tip can significantly enhance your travel experience.

- Tip after receiving service at a restaurant, bar, or café.
- Tip upon completion of a tour or transportation service.
- Tip after a spa or salon service.
- Tip at the end of a stay in a hotel or accommodation.
- Tip musicians and performers after a live show.

How Much to Tip in Ireland

- In Irish culture, gratuities typically range from 10% to 15% of the total bill. It is a moderate expectation, reflecting respect for service while remaining mindful of a traveler's budget constraints.
- Avoid the faux pas of under-tipping by gauging the quality and responsiveness of the service. Should your experience fall between average to excellent, consider 12%-15%.
- Conversely, over-tipping can be viewed as ostentatious. Therefore, unless service is truly exemplary, restrain from exceeding the customary 15% threshold.

Restaurants, Cafes, Bars and Pubs:

- Always check your bill. A service charge (usually 10-15%) may already be included in upscale dining venues.
- Consider leaving a tip for exceptional service on top of the service charge.
- In casual cafes or eateries, a tip of around 10% is appreciated.
- If a service charge isn't included in your bill, aim for a 10-15% tip.
- Tipping bartenders is rare, however, leaving rounding up your bill or leaving small change is appreciated. If you want to show your appreciation, it's common to offer a drink to the bartender. You can do this by saying, 'Have one for yourself,' though they may choose to take it as a financial tip instead.
- Tipping in Ireland is typically given directly to the service provider. So, hand your tip directly to the bartender instead of leaving it on the counter.

Taxis:

- The tipping protocol for taxi drivers in Ireland is straightforward: it is expected and appreciated. Most passengers round up the fare to the nearest Euro or tip about 10% of the price.

Tipping Guide for Ireland, Continued...

Hotels and Accommodations:

Irish accommodation providers, in general, have factored in all costs. You are not expected to tip excessively and no tips are needed if the hotel is small and staffed directly by the owners, such as a small bed and breakfast or guest house.

- **Porters & Bellmen:** Porters and bellmen generally anticipate tips ranging from €1-€2 per bag.
- **Housekeeping:** Tips for housekeeping is optional, but you can leave €1-€3 per day for exceptional service.
- **Room Service:** A service charge may be included in your bill. If not, a gratuity of 10% is usual.
- Keep in mind that each establishment might have its own policy. Some hotels equally split the gratuity among the staff, while others may let each person keep their tips.

Tour Guides:

- For a private tour, you should tip your guide 10% of what you paid for the tour. If you're unsure of the cost, figure on €5 per person for a half day, or €10 per person for a full day.
- On a group tour, it's likely that a basket will be passed around at the end of the tour. In this case, it's appropriate to contribute €1-2 or more, depending on how satisfied you were with the tour. It's possible that your guide might refuse the tip, but you can insist.
- If you are in a semi-private group, you could also choose to pay €10 per person in your party.
- Private drivers also appreciate tips, though not mandatory. A ride rounded up to the nearest Euro or a 10% tip is standard.
- Most tour operators include a `tip` in quoted prices bear in mind that the guides are often paid a low wage, so if one is particularly enthusiastic or informative do not hesitate to slip them a little extra if you wish! The guide may refuse at first, as part of the Irish custom, but politely insist if you have really enjoyed your experience.

Other Services:

- **Restroom Attendants:** A tip of about €1-€2 is generally accepted as the norm.
- **Spas and Salons:** Clients ordinarily tip about 10-15% for superior service.
- **Musicians and Performers:** During live gigs in pubs or music sessions, a general guideline of about €1-€2 per song is acceptable, or a little more if the setting warrants it. Performance artists at festivals or events often have a collection box for tips. Contributing a few spare coins is typical.

Final thoughts:

- **`Luck Money:`** You may run into the tradition of `luck money,` mostly with tradesmen; they'll charge you the agreed upon price, say €50, and when you hand over the cash they'll press a Euro coin back into your hand. In theory, this will ensure that you bring your business back to them. You can think of it like a reverse tip. This is less likely to happen at a hotel or restaurant, but it could happen when shopping at a market or at a family-owned shop.
- **Whenever possible, tip in cash.** If you leave a tip on a credit card, the person providing the service may never get it.