

Tipping & Etiquette

In Norway, **tipping** is not compulsory. It is however usual for Norwegians to leave a tip in restaurants and bars if they are happy about the service. A 10-20% tip is expected if the customer is satisfied. For Norwegians it's uncommon to tip taxi-drivers or cleaning staff at hotels. If you choose to pay with credit/debit card it is common that the waiter brings a card terminal to you table. The screen will show you the total price, and you will be able to type the total amount you wish to pay. If you don't wish to tip, then type the same amount as given on the screen. Note that though Norway is expensive, tips are **not included** into the price of food and drinks. This is a common perception, as Norway has strict requirements regarding the wage of workers. Still, a lot of restaurant workers work on minimum wage, and are reliant on tips.

Bargaining or **haggling** prices will in most cases get you nothing but puzzled looks and/or angry vendors. The price is on the tag, and unless the item you want is damaged or highly overpriced (higher than usual in Norway) haggling will usually not get you anywhere. Bargaining or haggling is mostly restricted to second hand sales and car dealers.

Norwegians are in general **informal** and there is in general no, or very little, difference between "high" and "low" in society. Except, perhaps, for the King, all are addressed by "du" (Norwegian second person singular "you"). "Hei" is informal Hello, while "god dag" is more formal "hello". As in every country, politics and religion are the most sensitive issues, so be cautious in discussing such topics with total strangers. Many things in Norway are expensive for overseas visitors. Criticizing prices is of course legitimate, but can easily be felt as unfair and uninformed.

While "tipping" can mean giving a gratuity in English, it means "betting" in Norwegian. If you use the word "tipping" the Norwegians will think you are referring to placing tips on a gambling website. "Tips" or "drinks" are used in Norwegian to refer to gratuity.

For men it is customary to take off your hat, or cap, when entering a house, and in particular when seated to eat.

Nearly all Norwegian sidewalks have "rain gutters" cut into them that are supposed to channel the rain from the downspouts of buildings into the nearby gutter. The actual result is an endless series of opportunities to twist your ankle if you don't watch it! And, if you are pulling a heavy suitcase with small wheels, it is guaranteed that it will be wrenched out of your hands several times as the wheels catch in the channels. Suitcases with larger wheels work much better.