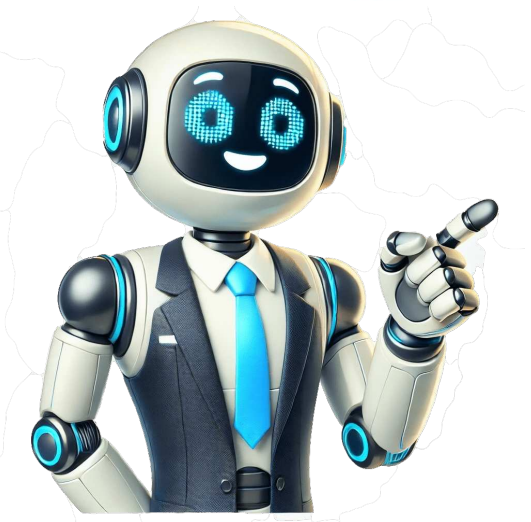


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The average wage for a tour guide in the United States is around \$11.32 per hour.Avg WageTour guides earn an average hourly wage of \$11.32. Salaries typically start from \$9.87 per hour and go up to \$16.54 per hour. Approximate values based on highest and lowest earning segments. State Name Average Salary Wyoming \$41,950 Alaska \$32,670 Washington \$32,330 District of Columbia \$32,010 Nevada \$31,440 New York \$31,234 Colorado \$30,720 New Mexico \$28,490 Montana \$27,980 Hawaii \$27,930 Texas \$27,000 Pennsylvania \$26,480 California \$26,397 Illinois \$25,660 Ohio \$25,650 Minnesota \$25,290 Rhode Island \$25,080 Oregon \$25,050 Utah \$24,980 Florida \$24,960 Arizona \$24,450 New Jersey \$24,410 Massachusetts \$23,920 Arkansas \$23,880 Connecticut \$23,870 Delaware \$23,860 New Hampshire \$23,800 Virginia \$23,660 Virgin Islands, U.S. \$23,620 South Dakota \$23,520 West Virginia \$23,480 Vermont \$23,450 Kansas \$23,440 Mississippi \$23,360 Oklahoma \$23,330 North Carolina \$23,310 Louisiana \$23,280 South Carolina \$22,710 Missouri \$22,360 Georgia \$22,320 Kentucky \$22,090 Nebraska \$21,700 Wisconsin \$21,230 Maryland \$21,160 Maine \$20,930 Indiana \$20,750 Michigan \$20,080 Tennessee \$19,680 Iowa \$19,620 Alabama \$19,450 Guam \$19,190 Idaho \$18,780 Puerto Rico \$18,490 Tour guides earn about the same as related careers in the United States. On average, they make less than recreation workers but more than receptionists. Source: CareerExplorer (Aggregated) Published: December 14, 2023 Modified: December 28, 2023 by Cathryn Moody Being a tour guide is an exciting and rewarding career choice for individuals who have a passion for travel, adventure, and sharing their knowledge with others. But one question that often comes to mind is: how much does a tour guide make? The answer to this question can vary based on several factors, including location, experience level, specialization, and additional compensation opportunities. In this article, we will delve into the factors that can affect tour guide salaries, explore the typical salary range for tour guides, discuss how salaries can vary based on location and experience level, and even highlight specialized tour guide roles that may offer higher earning potential. Additionally, we will touch upon additional compensation opportunities such as tips and bonuses, and provide some tips for increasing tour guide salaries. By the end of this article, you will have a better understanding of what tour guides can expect to earn and how you can potentially maximize your earning potential in this thrilling profession. Several factors can influence the salaries of tour guides. Understanding these factors will provide valuable insight into why tour guide salaries can differ and help individuals gauge their earning potential in the field. Here are some key factors to consider: Location: The location where a tour guide operates plays a significant role in determining their salary. Tourist hotspots or popular destinations tend to have higher demand for tour guides, resulting in better earning opportunities. Additionally, cities with a higher cost of living may offer higher salaries compared to rural or less popular areas. Experience Level: Tour guides with more experience tend to command higher salaries. As they gain knowledge and expertise in conducting tours and providing exceptional customer service, their value in the industry increases, allowing them to negotiate higher wages. Specialization: Specialized tour guides who focus on niche markets or specific types of tours, such as adventure tours, historical tours, or culinary tours, may be able to command higher salaries. Their specialized knowledge and ability to offer unique experiences can set them apart from general tour guides. Language Skills: Tour guides who are fluent in multiple languages or possess rare language skills have an advantage in the industry. Being able to cater to a diverse range of tourists and provide tours in different languages can result in higher demand and potentially higher salaries. Education and Certifications: Some tour guide associations or organizations offer certifications or training programs that can enhance a tour guide's credentials. Obtaining these certifications can demonstrate expertise and professionalism, potentially leading to higher salaries. Seasonality: The seasonality of tourism can impact tour guide salaries. In peak tourist seasons, there is typically higher demand for tours, allowing tour guides to earn more. Conversely, during off-peak seasons, there may be a decrease in tourist activity, which can affect tour guide earnings. It's essential to remember that these factors interact with each other in determining tour guide salaries. For example, a highly experienced tour guide with specialized knowledge in a popular tourist destination and proficiency in multiple languages will likely command a higher salary compared to a less experienced guide without these qualities. Now that we understand the factors that affect tour guide salaries let's move on to exploring the typical salary range for tour guides. The salary range for tour guides can vary significantly depending on various factors such as location, experience level, and specialization. However, it is important to note that tour guide salaries are typically moderate and can be influenced by the seasonality of tourism in a particular destination. On average, tour guides can expect to earn between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per year. This range can fluctuate based on the factors mentioned earlier. Entry-level tour guides may start with a lower salary, and as they gain experience and expertise, their earning potential can increase. It's important to keep in mind that these figures are general averages, and there can be exceptions. In some popular tourist destinations or for specialized tour guides, salaries can surpass the \$50,000 mark. Additionally, tour guides typically do not work a standard 40-hour week. The nature of the job often involves flexible working hours, with tour guides working on a per-tour or per-day basis. This structure allows for the potential to earn more during busy periods or by offering additional tours. While the salary range for tour guides may not be exceptionally high compared to other professions, it is the love for adventure, travel, and sharing knowledge that often attracts individuals to this line of work. The rewarding experience of connecting with people from different cultures, showcasing fascinating destinations, and creating unforgettable memories for tourists can be priceless. Now that we have explored the typical salary range, let's dive into how tour guide salaries can vary based on location. Location plays a significant role in determining the salaries of tour guides. The popularity of a destination, its level of tourism, and the cost of living all contribute to the earning potential for tour guides in that specific area. In general, tour guides in popular tourist destinations such as major cities or iconic landmarks tend to earn higher salaries compared to those in less popular or remote locations. This is due to the higher demand for tours and the larger number of tourists visiting these areas. For example, tour guides in cities like New York, Paris, or Rome may have higher salary opportunities than those in smaller towns or less touristy locations. The constant influx of visitors to these major cities results in a higher demand for tours and allows tour guides to command higher rates. Additionally, the cost of living in a particular location can also influence tour guide salaries. Cities with a higher cost of living, such as San Francisco or Tokyo, may offer higher wages to compensate for the increased expenses that tour guides have to bear. On the other hand, tour guides in remote or less popular destinations may have lower earning potential due to the limited number of tourists visiting those areas. However, tour guides who specialize in these off-the-beaten-path locations can still find opportunities to offer unique experiences and cater to a niche market, potentially commanding higher rates. It's worth noting that location affects not only the base salary but also the potential for additional income through tips and bonuses. In some locations, tipping is customary, and tour guides can earn a significant portion of their income in the form of tips, which can further boost their overall earnings. Before pursuing a career as a tour guide, it's essential to research the specific market and demand in the desired location, as this will help determine the potential salary range and job opportunities available. Now that we have explored tour guide salaries by location, let's move on to the influence of experience levels on tour guide earnings. Experience level is a significant factor that influences the salaries of tour guides. As tour guides gain more experience in the industry, their knowledge, skills, and reputation grow, allowing them to command higher wages. Here are some general salary ranges based on experience levels: Entry-Level: Tour guides who are just starting their careers typically fall into the entry-level category. These individuals may have limited experience or may have recently completed tour guide training programs. Entry-level tour guides can expect to earn a starting salary ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year. Intermediate: As tour guides gain more experience and establish themselves in the field, their earning potential increases. Intermediate-level tour guides with a few years of experience can earn salaries ranging from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year. They have built a foundation of knowledge and may have started to specialize in specific types of tours. Advanced: Tour guides at the advanced level have a wealth of experience and are considered experts in their field. These individuals have a strong reputation, extensive knowledge, and developed relationships with travel agencies and tour operators. Advanced tour guides can earn salaries ranging from \$40,000 to \$50,000 or even higher, depending on their specialization and location. It's important to note that these salary ranges are general guidelines, and there can be variations based on factors such as location, demand, and additional qualifications. It's also worth mentioning that tour guides have the potential to increase their earnings through seasonal bonuses, tips from satisfied customers, or by offering additional services such as photography or language translation. As tour guides gain experience, they may also have the opportunity to move into leadership positions within tour guide companies or start their own tour guide businesses. These transitions can further increase their earning potential and open up new avenues for growth and success in the industry. Now that we have discussed tour guide salaries based on experience levels, let's explore specialized tour guide roles and their potential salaries. Specialized tour guides, who focus on specific niches or types of tours, often have the opportunity to command higher salaries due to their specialized knowledge and expertise. These specialized roles require additional training, certifications, or unique skill sets, which can differentiate them from general tour guides. Below are a few examples of specialized tour guide roles and their potential salaries: Adventure Tour Guides: Adventure tour guides who specialize in leading outdoor activities such as hiking, rock climbing, or white water rafting, can earn higher salaries due to the unique nature of their work. These guides often have advanced skills, certifications, and experience in navigating challenging terrain. Their salaries can range from \$40,000 to \$60,000 or more, depending on the location and the level of expertise required. Cultural Tour Guides: Cultural tour guides specialize in providing insightful information about the history, art, architecture, and cultural heritage of a destination. These guides often have in-depth knowledge of specific historical periods or cultural aspects and work predominantly in museums, historical sites, or art galleries. Salaries for cultural tour guides typically range from \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year, with the potential for higher earnings based on experience and location. Language-Specific Tour Guides: Tour guides who are fluent in rare or less commonly spoken languages can command higher salaries due to the limited availability of such language skills. Being able to offer tours in languages like Mandarin, Russian, or Arabic can cater to specific markets and attract more tourists. Salaries for language-specific tour guides can vary greatly, but it's not uncommon for them to earn between \$35,000 and \$60,000 or more annually. Special Interest Tour Guides: Special interest tour guides cater to niche markets and offer tours focused on specific themes or activities, such as wine tasting tours, food tours, or wildlife safaris. These guides have specialized knowledge and connections in their respective fields, allowing them to provide unique and immersive experiences. Salaries for special interest tour guides can range from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year, with the potential for higher earnings based on the popularity and exclusivity of their tours. It's important to note that specialized tour guide salaries can vary widely depending on the demand for their services and the location in which they operate. As with any career, gaining experience, building a strong reputation, and continuously developing skills and knowledge can lead to higher earning potential in specialized tour guide roles. Now that we have explored specialized tour guide salaries, let's take a look at additional compensation opportunities for tour guides. In addition to their base salaries, tour guides often have opportunities for additional compensation, which can significantly boost their overall earnings. Here are some common forms of additional compensation for tour guides: Tips: Tour guides typically receive tips from their clients as a reward for their services. The amount of tips can vary significantly, depending on the location and the level of expertise required. Tips can range from \$10 to \$20 per client, and they can be a significant portion of a tour guide's earnings, especially during peak tourist seasons. Commission: Some tour guides may have the opportunity to earn additional commission on top of their base salary. This usually occurs when they work for tour companies or travel agencies that offer commission-based incentives for bringing in new clients or selling specific tour packages. Bonuses: Tour guides may receive performance-based bonuses for meeting certain targets or providing exceptional service. These bonuses can be in the form of monetary rewards or non-monetary incentives such as travel vouchers, accommodations, or special perks. Photography or Language Translation Services: Some tour guides offer additional services such as professional photography or language translation for tourists. By providing these value-added services, tour guides can charge extra fees, increasing their overall compensation. Seasonal Upsells: During peak tourist seasons, tour guides may have the opportunity to offer additional tours or upsell premium packages to tourists. These upsells can result in higher earnings for the tour guide, especially if they are able to provide unique and exclusive experiences. It's important for tour guides to leverage these additional compensation opportunities to maximize their earning potential. Building strong relationships with clients, providing exceptional service, and continuously improving their skills and knowledge can help tour guides increase their chances of receiving tips and earning additional income through commission and bonuses. Now that we have explored additional compensation opportunities for tour guides, let's move on to some tips for increasing tour guide salaries. If you're a tour guide looking to increase your salary, here are some valuable tips to help you maximize your earning potential: Continuously Improve Your Skills: Invest in your professional development by attending training programs, obtaining certifications, and staying updated on the latest industry trends. The more knowledgeable and skilled you are, the more valuable you become as a tour guide, which can lead to higher earnings. Specialize: Focus on a specific niche or type of tour that you are passionate about and have expertise in. Specializing can differentiate you from other tour guides and allow you to command higher rates for your specialized knowledge and unique offerings. Build a Strong Reputation: Provide exceptional service to your clients, go above and beyond to meet their needs, and always strive to exceed their expectations. Positive word-of-mouth recommendations and online reviews can significantly impact your reputation and attract more tourists, allowing you to charge premium rates. Network and Collaborate: Establish connections with other professionals in the travel and tourism industry, including travel agents, hotel managers, and tour operators. Collaborating with them to create bundled packages or referral agreements can help expand your client base and increase your tour bookings. Offer Unique Experiences: Differentiate your tours by offering unique and immersive experiences that can't be found elsewhere. Customize your tours to cater to the specific interests of your clients, whether it's a private chef-prepared dinner, a behind-the-scenes tour of a local landmark, or a personalized itinerary tailored to their preferences. Focus on Customer Satisfaction: Place a high emphasis on providing excellent customer service. Engage with your clients, actively listen to their feedback and preferences, and personalize their experience as much as possible. Satisfied customers are more likely to tip generously and recommend your services to others. Expand Your Language Skills: If possible, learn additional languages or improve your proficiency in languages that are in high demand among tourists. Being able to offer tours in multiple languages can open up new client markets and increase your earning potential. Use Social Media and Online Platforms: Utilize social media platforms and online review websites to showcase your expertise, share testimonials from satisfied clients, and promote your unique tours. Building a strong online presence can help attract more tourists and increase your visibility in the industry. By implementing these tips, you can not only enhance your tour guide skills but also increase your earning potential. Remember, developing a successful tour guide career takes time, dedication, and a commitment to providing exceptional experiences for your clients. Now that we have explored ways to increase tour guide salaries, let's move on to understanding the factors that can affect tour guide salaries. The salary range for tour guides can vary based on factors such as location, experience level, and specialization, there are opportunities to earn a moderate income and even increase your earning potential. Factors such as location, demand, cost of living, and specialized skills all play a role in determining tour guide salaries. Popular tourist destinations and specialized tour guide roles can offer higher earning potential, while niche markets and specialized knowledge can command higher rates. In addition to base salaries, tour guides have opportunities for additional income through tips, commission, bonuses, upselling, and offering additional services such as photography or language translation. Leveraging these additional compensation opportunities can significantly boost overall earnings. To increase tour guide salaries, it is important to continuously improve skills, develop specializations, build a strong reputation, network with industry professionals, offer unique experiences, prioritize customer satisfaction, expand language skills, and utilize online platforms for promotion and visibility. While tour guide salaries may not be the highest in the industry, the rewards of this career go beyond financial compensation. The ability to connect with people, showcase remarkable destinations, and create memorable experiences make this profession invaluable to those with a passion for adventure and travel. In conclusion, being a tour guide offers a stimulating and dynamic career path, with the potential to earn a respectable income. By honing your skills, specializing in niche areas, and providing exceptional service, you can enhance your earning potential and find fulfillment in sharing your love for exploration and discovery with tourists from all walks of life. The average hourly pay for a tour guide in the United States is \$22.55 per hour, with an average of \$85.00 tips per day. In Europe, tour guides can expect to earn around €25,000 to €35,000 per year, while in some global hotspots, they can earn as much as \$18.94 per hour. The base salary for a tour guide in the United States is \$67,108 per year, with an average hourly wage of \$11.32. Tour guides typically earn between \$50 and \$150 per day in base pay, with most guides receiving passenger tips. The average tour guide salary in the United States is \$67196 as of July 29, 2024, with a salary range of \$52660 to \$76240. Tour guides generally earn between \$50 and \$150 per day in base pay, with most guides receiving passenger tips. Entry-level positions start at \$29,120 per year, while most experienced workers earn \$34,152 per year or \$16.42 per hour. In the UK, the average tour guide salary is £13.69 per hour. SalaryExpert offers a salary calculator to compare salaries in different countries, including the United Kingdom, where the average hourly wage is £13.69 per hour. The average annual salary for tour guides in the USA is \$34,980, with entry-level positions starting at \$29,120 per year. How to Become a Tour Guide : How Much Do Tour Guides Get Paid?Pay scale for travel industry. Learn about salaries for a tour guide in this free world travel video from our professional tour director.Is a tour guide a career?A second career as a tourist guide is often pursued by individuals who have previously worked in other fields, such as teaching or acting. Individuals with experience or training in customer service, teaching, or language skills, as well as those who have worked with people in other capacities, are encouraged to apply. In order to obtain a tour guide badge, it is necessary to complete three levels of training.How to become a tour guide in the Netherlands?Tourist guiding in the Netherlands is not regulated or protected, but anyone can become a qualified guide through a 15-month course called the "National Tourist Guide Course" at the ROCvA educational institute. Established in 1957, GUIDOR - The Dutch National Guides Association, headquartered in Amsterdam, aims to deliver high-quality and professional guiding services by matching qualified guides with clients to meet their specific requests and needs.Read also: What Distinguishes Business Travel From Recreational Travel?(Image Source: Pixabay.com)Is it hard to become a tour guide?To become a tour guide, it is essential to have realistic expectations and conduct thorough research to understand the requirements and skills required. The field is competitive and requires people who are good at networking and hardworking. After deciding to become a tour guide, consider your passions and interests, whether you want to work in your hometown or relocate to another tourist destination, and look for tour work that fits into your schedule. There are several types of tour jobs to consider: walking tour leaders, bus city guides, museum guides, and adventure guides. Walking tour leaders work within a specific region, providing an in-depth understanding of the region's history and taking travelers through various tourist sites. Bus city guides, also known as motorcoach guides, narrate stories about the city using microphones as they drive past attractions. Museum guides take tourists through museums, discussing and explaining the history of art and exhibits. Adventure guides accompany tourists on more intense tours, such as hiking or rafting in exotic locations or national parks, if you have a passion for outdoor activities.(Image Source: Pixabay.com)What are the disadvantages of being a tour guide?Freelance tour guides offer various benefits such as flexibility in work hours, exposure to diverse groups and cultures, and potential for higher income through various gigs. However, they also face drawbacks such as lack of job security, variable income based on seasons or demand, and the responsibility for personal marketing and client acquisition. They must also manage administrative tasks and may face competition in popular tourist areas.The benefits of freelance tour guides include flexibility, variety, independence, and networking opportunities. However, they also face drawbacks such as financial instability, fixed benefits, managing multiple contracts, and the responsibility for self-promotion and personal marketing.(Image Source: Pixabay.com)How do you charge for a tour?Cost-oriented pricing is a method where tour operators calculate the cost of a tour and add a percentage markup to determine the final price. There are several ways to calculate this pricing method: cost-plus pricing, mark-up pricing, break-even pricing, and target return pricing. Cost-plus pricing involves adding a percentage to the cost to fix the price, while mark-up pricing increases the tour cost before offering a significant discount, making travelers feel like they are getting a deal and allowing travel companies to earn more profits.Mark-down pricing offers products at a discounted rate to increase bookings, break-even pricing covers all fixed and variable costs, and target return pricing sets prices to achieve a certain level of return or investment (ROI).(Image Source: Pixabay.com)How much does a Tour Guide make in Paris?The average monthly salary for a Tour Guide in Paris is €2,410, with an average of €1,800. This is the median salary, based on Glassdoor's proprietary Total Pay Estimate model. Additional pay is estimated at €610 per month, which could include cash bonuses, commission, tips, and profit sharing. The "Most Likely Range" reflects values within the 25th and 75th percentile of all pay data available for this role.Read also: What Is Like A Kayak But Not A Canoe?Glassdoor's proprietary machine learning model uses salaries collected from users and the latest government data to make pay predictions. The total pay range for a Tour Guide in Paris is approximately €2K-€23K per month.(Image Source: Pixabay.com)Are private tour guides worth it?Travels with Audrey offers guided tours to provide a comprehensive understanding of a destination, including its history, culture, quirks, and traditions. Local expert guides, also known as "local insiders", are essential for small group tours and custom tours. They have earned licenses that grant them special privileges and valuable access, such as access to museums, palaces, and special venues.Private tour guides are also beneficial for travelers who prefer to explore a location independently. They offer a unique perspective and connection to the local culture, allowing them to provide fresh and unique insights about a location. Private guides meet clients in hotel lobby, know the city and monuments inside out, and can respond to requests for unscheduled stops. They can point out landmarks and suggest places to visit at your leisure.As a private tour, you can dictate the focus and pace, ask questions, and even stop at a promptu drinks or tapas. Local guides can easily obtain tickets on the spot for almost all attractions without waiting in line. They allows you to fully appreciate the culture, heritage and diversity of a destination.How much do tour guides get paid in Italy?The average tour guide gross salary in Italy is 21,756 €, with an average hourly wage of 10 €. They earn an average bonus of 311 €. Entry-level tour guides earn 16,851 €, while senior-level guides earn 25,696 €. The average salary ranges from 16,851 € for entry-level guides to 25,696 € for senior-level guides. This information is based on salary survey data from employers and anonymous employees in Italy.How much should you pay a tour guide?The gratuity rate for guides should be around 10-20% of the total trip cost, with an appropriate tip for a guide between \$50 and \$100. If you're paying \$500 for a day or two of guided rock climbing, it's important to tip even on pricey trips. Canadian guide Holly Walker suggests factoring in a 10-20% tip based on the total trip price into your initial budget to reduce the shock factor. For example, for a \$5,000 trip, you'd tip \$500 to \$1,000 to be split among the guides. This helps to ensure a smoother and more enjoyable experience for all involved.(Image Source: Pixabay.com)How much do local tour guides make?The mean annual salary for a seasonal tour guide in Los Angeles, California is \$41,451, with the highest earners receiving an average of \$61,956. How Tour Guides Earn MoneyIf you want to be a tour manager you need to watch this! It discusses how Tour Guides earn their money - namely wages, ...(Image Source: Pixabay.com) \$19.47Avg. Base Hourly Rate (USD)(The average hourly pay for a Tour Guide is \$19.47 in 2025EXPLORE BY:An entry-level Tour Guide with less than 1 year experience can expect to earn an average total compensation (includes tips, bonus, and overtime pay) of \$12.38 based on 9 salaries. An early career Tour Guide with 1-4 years of experience earns an average total compensation of \$14.93 based on 36 salaries. A mid-career Tour Guide ...Read moreA tour guide works for a tour company or a specific tourist attraction to provide tours of various travel destinations. They may work at a specific destination or, if working for a travel agency, travel with a party from one destination to another and perform guide duties through the whole travel process. The tour guide may escort a group on a bus or by air, and some positions require international travel, therefore, the ability to travel may be essential. The ability to carry out public ...Read more3.2 out of 5 Satisfied9ReviewsWe need at least 5 ratings before we can calculate a satisfaction score. Are you a Tour Guide? Take our survey to help us meet this goal.Our data indicates that the highest pay for a Tour Guide is \$28.53 / hourWhat is the lowest pay for Tour Guides?Our data indicates that the lowest pay for a Tour Guide is \$13.50 / hourHow can Tour Guides increase their salary? Increasing your pay as a Tour Guide is possible in different ways. Change of employer: Consider a career move to a new employer that is willing to pay higher for your skills. Level of Education: Gaining advanced degrees may allow this role to increase their income potential and qualify for promotions. Managing Experience: If you are a Tour Guide that oversees more junior Tour Guides, this experience can increase the likelihood to earn more. So let's get down to the nitty gritty of what land tour guides and tour directors earn. This industry is by far catered to those who have a passion for travel as opposed to becoming rich, but there are some exciting benefits for those who work hard and acquire various skills over the years, including learning new languages, receiving advanced training, and learning some sporting skills for adventure tours. Generally speaking, tour guides can earn between \$50 and \$150 per day taking a lot of factors into consideration such as experience, locations, training, type of tour, and others. Aside from this, many tour companies encourage their passengers to tip the tour guides, so this can bump up your salary dramatically. Some of the more experienced tour guides earn anywhere between \$30,000 and \$60,000 per year. A regular tipping policy offered is explained by this tour operator: "Tipping is a big part of the job - the pay anyway. Our policies differ depending on the tour, and we've got two types. The first is the all inclusive tour, where the company gives the guide extra pay as tips and the guests are not expected to pay any form of gratuities, as it is added into the price of the tour. The tips are normally \$20 per day as a minimum, but you do get benefits, and these types of tours offer a salaried pay. The other type of tour is the one where guides get paid per day instead of a monthly salary, but then the guests will tip you at the end of every day according to how good you were. Customers almost always tip, and this is a great incentive to keep them happy the entire day of the tour. The last tour I worked, I made over \$350 in just 5 days!" Pay and Benefits Receptor Service: This is where you meet tour groups at the airports or assist them at the train depot. This job normally pays around \$10 to \$15 per hour. Tour Guide: An entry-level tour guide or tour director without training will make about \$8 to \$15 per hour depending on the type of tour, and you get a free trip somewhere for the day. The more experienced tour guides will earn about \$20 to \$25 per hour with extra pay being offered after 8 hours. Tour Directors/Managers: Trained and experienced tour directors normally earn between \$250 and \$350 per day and you also get paid time and a half if you lead overnight tour groups. These can last anywhere from 7 days to 27 days, so you are earning a good salary at the end of the tour. DMC Tour Guides: The experienced highly skilled tour managers working for incentive houses and DMC's can earn anywhere from \$300 to over \$400 per day. Tips are then added to these payments, so the larger the group, the more money you will make. Take note that there are very generalized figures as the pay varies quite a bit depending on where you work, the company you work for, what benefits you get, how the tipping works, and how much experience and training you have. Benefits: These include travel opportunities, meeting new people, paid board and meals on long tours, free lunch or dinner on long tours, days off. Let's look at these benefits in more detail: Travel opportunities exist for all tour guides. Whether you are leading domestic tours around your home city, or managing long distance or international tours, you still get the opportunity to travel and see new places. Visiting attractions, beautiful villages, restaurants that you wouldn't normally go to, attending shows and more can be realized as a tour guide. It can be hard, however to juggle the responsibilities of finding lost luggage, keeping the group happy, organizing accommodation, booking shows and making restaurant reservations, while trying to find the time to travel, but you have to think that you will be doing all of these tasks while in Hawaii or Bali, India or Australia, so both can be accomplished at the same time in many instances. Meeting people is an exciting part of being a tour guide for many people. They enjoy hearing traveler's stories and networking with people from all over the world, whether they are CEO's, students, families, or retired couples. This is an integral part of being a tour guide and if you don't get along with people, then this job is not for you. One tour guide explains: "Let's face it. You go to a destination once and you're nervous and excited, twice and you love it, but three times and you're already getting bored. That's why it's important to really get along well with the passengers and enjoy their company. ... Did You Know? Some companies do not allow tipping, so make sure you find out this information when you apply for jobs. Land Tour Guide Salary Details The following table highlights the hourly wage and annual earnings for tour guides and escorts in the U.S. per state according to the U.S. Department of Labor: State Average Hourly Wage Average Annual Salary Florida \$15.43/hr \$32,080 Oklahoma \$15.03/hr \$31,260 Tennessee \$14.81/hr \$30,810 Alaska \$14.64/hr \$30,450 Hawaii \$14.5/hr \$30,170 Connecticut \$13.39/hr \$27,850 Colorado \$13.3/hr \$27,660 Missouri \$13.07/hr \$27,190 Alabama \$12.78/hr \$26,580 New Jersey \$12.72/hr \$26,460 Montana \$12.7/hr \$26,420 Guam \$12.5/hr \$26,010 Iowa \$12.45/hr \$25,890 North Carolina \$12.34/hr \$25,670 Arkansas \$12.19/hr \$25,360 Nebraska \$12.15/hr \$25,280 Nevada \$12.13/hr \$25,240 North Dakota \$12.09/hr \$25,150 Indiana \$12.01/hr \$24,990 Utah \$11.94/hr \$24,830 District of Columbia \$11.8/hr \$24,540 Virginia \$11.76/hr \$24,470 Ohio \$11.65/hr \$24,230 New York \$11.53/hr \$23,990 California \$11.5/hr \$23,920 Idaho \$11.36/hr \$23,620 Mississippi \$11.2/hr \$23,290 New Hampshire \$11.16/hr \$23,210 South Dakota \$11.09/hr \$23,070 Michigan \$10.93/hr \$22,740 Massachusetts \$10.91/hr \$22,690 Wisconsin \$10.86/hr \$22,580 Maryland \$10.86/hr \$22,590 Puerto Rico \$10.84/hr \$22,550 South Carolina \$10.77/hr \$22,390 Washington \$10.47/hr \$21,770 Louisiana \$10.42/hr \$21,680 Maine \$10.37/hr \$21,570 Wyoming \$10.34/hr \$21,500 Kentucky \$10.02/hr \$20,840 Delaware \$9.94/hr \$20,670 West Virginia \$9.67/hr \$20,120 Pennsylvania \$9.43/hr \$19,610 Oregon \$9.3/hr \$19,340 New Mexico \$8.74/hr \$18,180 The average hourly wage in the U.S for a land tour guide is \$13 per hour, while the average annual salary for a tour guide is \$23,000 in America. Although the pay might seem low, there is a huge incentive to travel to exotic locations and although you're working long hours, sometimes 12 to 15 per day, you have very few out of pocket expenses. Your meals are free, your transport on the tour, whether by bus, train or ship, is free, and your accommodation, if required, is also paid for. Quick Summary: Entry level land tour guide pay starts at \$8 per hour Tour Managers earn up to \$400 per day Is Touring For You (NEXT PAGE) The average tour guide salary in the United States is \$32,323. Tour guide salaries typically range between \$18,000 and \$55,000 yearly. The average hourly rate for tour guides is \$15.54 per hour. Tour guide salary is impacted by location, education, and experience. Tour guides earn the highest average salary in Alaska.Advance your career for \$10/monthBased on the latest salary information compiled by Zippia, Salary.com, Indeed, Glassdoor and Ziprecruiter, the average salary for a tour guide typically falls between \$32,323 and \$54,000.\$54,000yearly\$49,949yearly\$39,256yearlyThe highest-paying states for tour guides are Alaska, California, and Connecticut. The lowest average tour guide salary states are Louisiana, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.The highest-paying cities for tour guides are San Francisco, CA, Juneau, AK, and Fredericksburg, VA.We can show you what you'd be great atA tour guide's salary ranges from \$18,000 a year at the 10th percentile to \$55,000 at the 90th percentile.Average Tour Guide Salary Graph, Trends, and SummaryThe highest paying types of tour guides are hunting guide, wilderness guide, and fishing guide.Tour guide salaries at Harley-Davidson and Bridgewater State University are the highest-paying according to our most recent salary estimates. In addition, the average tour guide salary at companies like Kohler Co. and Central Lakes College are highly competitive.\$35,000\$34,200\$33,400\$32,600\$31,800\$31,000\$30,200\$29,400\$28,600\$27,800\$27,000\$26,200\$25,400\$24,600\$23,800\$23,000\$22,200\$21,400\$20,600\$19,800\$19,000\$18,200\$17,400\$16,600\$15,800\$15,000\$14,200\$13,400\$12,600\$11,800\$11,000\$10,200\$9,400\$8,600\$7,800\$7,000\$6,200\$5,400\$4,600\$3,800\$3,000\$2,200\$1,400\$600\$0The average tour guide salary in the education industry is \$37,620, the highest of any industry. The average tour guide salary in the finance industry is \$32,465. Tour guides in the professional industry earn an average salary of \$28,761, the lowest of any industry. The average tour guide salary has risen by \$5,940 over the last ten years. In 2014, the average tour guide earned \$26,383 annually, but today, they earn \$32,323 a year. That works out to a 16% change in pay for tour guides over the last decade. Compare tour guide salaries for cities or states with the national average over time.Compare tour guide salaries for individual cities or states with the national average.Show moreSearch for tour guide jobsBrowse personal care and attendants jobs