



## Guides & Porters

Your crew consists of a mountain guide, assistant guide, a cook and a waiter, as well as a team of porters. There will be a minimum of 2 porters per person, one of whom will carry your rucksack. Each porter should not be carrying more than 18 kg including their own mountain gear. You are expected to carry your own day pack.

### TIPPING THE CREW

Tipping the crew after your climb is expected. We recommend that at the end of your trip, your group jointly tips each crew member. The going-rates for tips are:

Guide – US\$ 10 - 15 per day

Assistant Guide – US\$ 6-8 per day

Cook – US\$ 6-8 per day

Porters – US\$ 2-4 per day

We encourage tips to be distributed openly and with explanation, and directly to each crew member. They can be divided on the evening of the last dinner while on the mountain. If your group is unable to tip each crew members individually, you can hand over tip money to the Guide who will distribute the money as you have indicated once he has changed the money to lower denomination notes. However, please make a point to inform all crew members what you have left for them. All tips are at your discretion, give as much as you like depending on the service you receive.

### PORTER WELFARE

Porters have an arduous job – they carry your clothing and equipment, your rucksacks, food, water, utensils as well as their own clothing and camping equipment. We are keen to ensure that the porters that work for us are treated fairly by senior crew members as well as by climbers. Please report any mistreatment to our company by emailing us at [info@eyesonafrica.org](mailto:info@eyesonafrica.org).

Here are some useful guidelines put together by the International Mountain Explorers Connection for the Porter Assistance Project, a local project that advocates for porter's welfare and has an equipment and clothing loan scheme for porters:

1. **Ask your guide how much porters are paid, and if it includes food.** Showing that you care that your porter gets paid a fair wage, and that he is well fed will encourage all guides and operators to treat porters fairly.
2. **Make sure your porter is getting proper food and water.** Porters should have proper and water for trips.
3. **Make sure your porter is outfitted properly.** Porters need boots, jackets, pants, gloves, hats, sunglasses etc. Gear for loan is available at the IMEC Mt. Kenya Porters Assistance office.
4. **Count the number of porters each day.** Porters should not be sent down early unnecessarily, as they may not receive full tips, others then carry more weight. Lighter loads due to less food are OK!
5. **Pick up a load yourself.** It won't take long to understand how tremendous these people really are. Don't overload your porter.
6. **Check the weight of porters' loads.** Each camp has a scale, normally used to measure the amount of rubbish groups are carrying; it would only take a few extra minutes to also weigh the porters' loads to ensure that they don't exceed the legal weight limit.
7. **Make sure porters have their own tents and sleeping bags.** Sleeping in caves is uncomfortable and illegal.
8. **Take care of sick porters.** Your porters deserve the same standard of treatment, care and rescue that you expect from yourself. Make sure that sick porters are sent down with someone who speaks their language and understands the problem.
9. **Tip your porter directly.** Collecting group tips and then tipping a porter directly ensures that they receive the proper amount you intended for them.

10. **Get to know your porter and thank them.** Some porters speak English and will appreciate you making an effort to speak to them. The word *Pole* (Polay) – which translates loosely as “I’m sorry for you” – shows respect for porters after a hard day carrying your bags.

You can also donate any unwanted items to porters or leave them with us and we will donate them to the Porters Assistance Project on your behalf. A lottery can also be held to give the crew other presents such as clothes and equipment.