

SOUVENIR ALERT LEAFLET

You may be tempted to buy wildlife souvenirs on holiday, but remember that trade in many animals, plants and products made from them is controlled internationally to safeguard wild species.

Almost 900 species of animals and plants are currently banned from international trade and a further 33,000 are strictly controlled by CITES (Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species) and European Union legislation. Those banned from international trade include tigers, rhinos, elephants, whales and marine turtles, and trade is controlled for many corals, reptiles, orchids and cacti.

So **think before you buy**- you may be breaking the law and your souvenirs could be confiscated by customs on your return.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE FOLLOWING IS PROHIBITED:

It is not easy to know which souvenirs or gifts to avoid buying, so here's a brief guide to some you're most likely to come across. International trade is banned altogether. Remember trade exists to protect these animals and plants. Your decisions can help them survive.

Elephant ivory, despite the sanctioning of some legal ivory sales globally, illegal trade in ivory continues and you cannot bring any ivory back to the UK. Watch out for stalls selling ivory carvings and jewellery outside hotels and shops, this occurs particularly in Africa and Asia.

Traditional Asian Medicine containing endangered species. Trade in any medicines claiming to contain species such as tiger, leopard, musk, rhino, bear and plants, such as *Saussurea costus*, *Gastrodia* orchid or *dendrobium* orchid, are prohibited.

Sea turtle shells

All jewellery, hair combs and sunglasses made from endangered sea turtles and often found in the Caribbean and tropical beach resorts are banned.

Big cat furs- Clothing and curios made from the skins and products of the jaguar, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah and tiger are banned.

Shahtoosh- the wool of the endangered Tibetan Antelope used to make shawls, have become increasingly popular with fashion conscious tourists. However, these products are totally illegal.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE FOLLOWING REQUIRES A SPECIAL PERMIT:

Trade in many plants and animals is controlled so that it does not threaten their survival in the wild. You may bring back souvenirs made from certain species where international trade is allowed, provided they are for your personal use and you have a CITES permit from the country of export.

Live animals and birds- regardless of species, all must have health certificates from Defra and go through a quarantine period, before they can legally enter the UK. New legislation means no wild birds can be brought into the UK, with trade only allowed in captive-bred birds from approved countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Israel, New Zealand and the USA).

Coral- nearly a million species depend on coral reefs but coral is sold in various forms, such as jewellery and ornaments.

Queen conch shells - these large pink and white shells can be found in the Caribbean Sea, but require a permit for import to the UK.

Orchids and Cacti- the demand for protected specimens of plants continues. These all require permits for import into the UK.

Reptile skin products- Bags, shoes, watch-straps and belts made from the skins of snake, lizard, alligator and crocodile require permits to import. Some live snakes and lizards are also illegally traded as pets!

Caviar- all species of sturgeon and their caviar (unfertilised eggs) are covered by controls. You may however bring up to 125 grams of caviar into the EU for personal consumption.

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REMEMBER- If you are unsure about whether you need a permit to import wildlife souvenirs from abroad, check with Animal Health's Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service before you buy. Call +44 (0) 117 372 8774 or e-mail: wildlife.licensing@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk.

WORKING TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES

CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, is an international treaty, which was signed in 1973 to protect animals and plants from over-exploitation. 173 countries have now joined CITES.

The **Souvenir Alert Campaign** is a joint initiative between the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and WWF.

Become the **Eyes and Ears** of WWF.

WWF needs your help to crack illegal wildlife trade. You can play a critical role in curbing illegal and non-sustainable trade. If you have any information about wildlife smuggling call 01483 426111 and ask for an Eyes & Ears Action Pack to report your findings or visit our website: www.wwf.org.uk