



**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network



**Man's best friend  
and friend to endangered species**

**What you should look out for when buying souvenirs**

# CITES- the treaty that protects species in trade

## What you should look out for when buying souvenirs

✘ **Hands off!** Threatened with extinction.  
Trade is strictly regulated.

📄 **Only with permit!** A valid import and export  
CITES permit is required.

✔ **Recommended!** Souvenirs that are not  
problematic and that  
support local trade.



Wildlife detector dogs get their noses into everything. They are on the trail of smugglers of protected wildlife species: animals or plants and their parts and products. Some souvenir gains are nature's loss—and could be yours, too, if you import such goods. Illegal imports of wildlife souvenirs are punishable in the UK by up to seven years in prison and unlimited fines.

Before you travel, check which items you are allowed to bring home and which are protected under CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Valid CITES export and import permits from the relevant national CITES Management Authorities (in both country of origin and destination) are required even for “permitted” souvenirs. You must apply for these before going on your trip or at the latest before you return home.

**<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/cites/> | [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)**

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# Dressing up in animal clothing

✘ **Shahtoosh wool:** made into scarves or blankets—three to four Tibetan antelope, or chiru, are killed to make a single shawl

✘ **Cat skins:** coats, bags and rugs made from Leopard, Snow Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Tiger, Jaguar, Ocelot and Cheetah

📄 **Cat skins** from most other species

📄 **Furs and skins**<sup>2</sup> of wolves, bears, otters, seals, zebras and antelopes

📄 **Vicuña and guanaco wool:** coats and blankets

📄 **Reptile skins:** handbags, briefcases, belts, shoes and purses made from snake, lizard and crocodile skin<sup>1</sup>

✔ **Fabric made with wild silk or plant fibres**



## Old bones and teeth for ornaments?

❌ **Carvings or whole teeth** from elephants and some whale species (such as Narwhals and Sperm Whales) and carvings or whole horns from rhinoceroses—in the form of statues, figures, seals, bracelets, necklaces,

❌ chess pieces, cutlery and so on

**Carvings from whale bones** are generally forbidden; however some aboriginal-worked souvenirs are allowed with permits

📄 **Carvings made from the teeth** of hippopotamuses, walrus and toothwhales<sup>2</sup> or from horns of Asiatic wild sheep

✅ Pottery

✅ Stone sculptures



# Wild Medicine Cabinet

Traditional medicine is booming worldwide. Importing traditional medicines can be illegal, however, if they contain extracts of protected animal and plant species.

✘ **Medicines** made with Tiger bone, rhinoceros horn, musk or bear bile.

If in doubt, don't buy!



## Don't turn your home into an animal house!

Do not buy live exotic animals, even if you feel sorry for them. For every animal that you “rescue”, another is found to take its place. Many species are protected and also require documents for import.

📄 **Live animals** such as tortoises, chameleons, geckos, lizards, snakes, parrots, birds of prey, monkeys.



# When exotic loses its charm...

✘ **Musical instruments and jewellery** made from turtle shells.

📄 **Snake wine:** alcohol with “pickled” protected species such as snakes or lizards.

📄 **Key rings** with seahorse fobs<sup>1</sup>

📄 **Items made from wild bird feathers**

📄 **Stuffed animals** such as birds, monkeys, monitor lizards, crocodiles (and their teeth), snakes



✔ **Handmade products made from wire and metal**

✔ **Woven items such as baskets or table sets**



# Wild plants grow best in the wild

It is best to leave wild plants where they grow: orchids, cacti, aloes (except Aloe vera), succulent euphorbia and American ginseng and Asiatic ginseng from Russia are protected species and require CITES permits for international trade. When importing live plants, an additional health certificate from the country of origin is required. The abundance of wooden carvings on the market is deceiving: a lot of tropical tree species have become very rare and are now protected.

✘ **Guitars and luxury items** made from Brazilian Rosewood

📄 **Incense sticks** made from agarwood, sandalwood and rosewood

📄 **Rainsticks** (music instruments) from cacti<sup>1</sup>

📄 **Essential oils** from sandalwood and rosewood

✔ **Souvenirs from FSC®-wood**



# Keep the ocean out of your bath!

✖ **Products made from tortoiseshell**, or bekko as it is known in Japan, including jewellery, cups, glasses, hair clips and combs

📄 **Jewellery** made from black, blue, and stony coral species

📄 **Sea shells:** Giant Clams, Queen Conch<sup>1</sup> (also their meat). Warning! Items found on the beach could also be protected.

📄 **Sharks:** teeth, jaws and fins from certain species

📄 **Sturgeon caviar**<sup>1</sup>

✔ **Jewellery made from glass or stones**

✔ **Jewellery and cups made from coconut shells**



# Souvenirs that bring happiness

Please help to conserve nature in your holiday destination. Purchasing the right kind of souvenir can help support the local economy—serving both nature and human well-being. It is impossible to identify all protected animal and plant species. Therefore, don't buy a souvenir if you are in any doubt. Anyone importing illegal souvenirs will be liable for severe fines. For more information, please go to: Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) <http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/cites/>, UK Border Agency [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk), WWF-UK [www.wwf.org.uk/wildlifetrade](http://www.wwf.org.uk/wildlifetrade) or TRAFFIC [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org)

<sup>1</sup> Import of a small number of specimens is permitted for "personal use"

<sup>2</sup> Different regulations are in place for certain species/populations

## Support WWF's and TRAFFIC's work:

More information at [www.wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk) and [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org)

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