



All the rage

What to keep in mind when buying souvenirs.

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We all like to bring home mementos, photos and souvenirs from an unforgettable holiday. But you need to be careful if the souvenirs originate from protected animals or plants! If you import illegal souvenirs, you could even face hefty fines.

About 30 per cent of the species assessed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are threatened with extinction. Illegal wildlife trafficking, estimated to be worth billions of dollars each year, is one reason. As an organised crime, it also makes money from tourists who unwittingly buy souvenirs that seem harmless, but are in fact a crime against nature. And each purchase fuels demand for problematic products.

Find out which animal and plant species are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and national laws, which can be even stricter. E.g. this brochure follows the respective EU regulations. Import and/or export permits are required to import products of protected animal or plant species to the EU. Without these documents, import is illegal!

✖ **Hands off!**

Strictly protected species.
Import is generally illegal.

⚠ **Careful!**

Species endangered by trade.
Valid permits required.

✔ **Recommended!**

Unproblematic souvenirs that
support the local market.

Draped in animal fashion

✖ **Shahtoosh wool** Scarves and shawls made of the wool of the Tibetan antelope (chiru) that is killed specifically for its coat

✖ **Furs and skins** of e.g. wolf², brown bear, red panda and many species of otter²

✖ **Pelts of wild cats**² coats, hats, bags, wall decoration and rugs made of tiger, leopard, snow leopard, clouded leopard, jaguar, ocelot, Eurasian lynx and many other cat species

⚠ **Wild cat pelts**² of all other cat species

⚠ **Furs and skins**² of e.g. black and polar bear, some zebra, seal and antelope species

⚠ **Reptile skins**² handbags, briefcases, belts, bracelets, shoes and purses made of snake, lizard and crocodile skin¹

⚠ **Vicugna and guanaco wool**² Scarves, coats, blankets, etc.

✔ **Fabrics from wild silk or plant fibres**



Decorative animal parts

✖ **Carvings and whole horns or tusks/teeth** of rhinos and elephants² – for sculptures, stamps, bracelets, necklaces, chess pieces, chopsticks, etc.

✖ **Musical instruments and masks** made of the shells of all sea turtles, many other turtle and tortoise species² and the giant armadillo

✖ **Pendants with the teeth or claws** of e.g. tigers or jaguars

⚠ **Carvings made from teeth and horns** e.g. of hippopotamus, walrus and various antelope, wild sheep and wild goat species²

✔ **Pottery and stone sculptures**

✔ **Carvings from the Tagua nut or other plant-based "ivory"**



Jewellery and decoration from the sea

✖ **Products from tortoiseshell** (made from sea turtles) such as bowls, jewellery, glasses, hair clips, combs

✖ **"Saws"** of all sawfish

✖ **Carvings from bones and teeth of whales**²

⚠ **Keyring pendants** with embedded seahorses¹

⚠ **Teeth, jaws and fins** of some shark species²

⚠ **Coral jewellery** from all black, blue, organ pipe and stony corals

Don't forget: corals are living animals, not stones!

⚠ **Mussels, snails and nautilus** e.g. all giant clams¹, queen conch¹



Be careful! Even something you find on a beach can be a protected species.

✔ **Jewellery made of glass, stone or artificial beads**

✔ **Jewellery and bowls made of coconut shells**



Would you like to find out more about other souvenirs and travel activities?

The WWF souvenir guide is also available in German as a free app – with a lot more information, the top souvenirs made of protected species you should be aware of in your holiday region as well as good alternatives. **wwf.de/souvenirs (in German)**

If you want to order copies of the German brochure to inform friends and acquaintances, send an e-mail to info@wwf.de.

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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Exotic nature for home and table

Even if some local products are sold legally, they can still endanger species and their import may be illegal. If in doubt, do not buy these products.

- ✖ **Tiger wine** made from tiger bones
- ✖ **Exotic meat** like pangolin or salami from whale meat
- 📖 **Snake wine**² alcohol infused with whole protected snakes, lizards or scorpions
- 📖 **Sturgeon caviar**¹ and **shark fin soup**²
- 📖 **Art**² made from butterfly wings and feathers of many wild birds, e.g. dreamcatchers, even single feathers
- 📖 **Stuffed or mounted animals**² like birds, butterflies, snakes, monitor lizards, crocodiles (also their teeth)



- ✔ **Handicrafts made of wire and metal, wickerwork** such as hats, baskets and placemats
- ✔ **Paintings and photographs**
- ✔ **Cooking courses with local chefs** if you make sure that the right ingredients are used

Medicine chest from the wild

Traditional medicine is booming. However, it can be illegal to import medicine of this kind as it often contains ingredients made from protected wild animals and plants.

- ✖ **Medicine** from tiger bones and other tiger parts, rhino horns, pangolin scales, musk deer², bear bile, costus root and many other protected species
- 📖 **Medicine** from dried seahorses¹, snake poison² and protected plants like hoodia², African cherry or aloe (except aloe vera)
- 📖 **Incense, incense sticks and essential oils** made from agarwood¹ and red sandalwood
- ✔ **Essential oils** e.g. of rose, jasmine, ylang-ylang or frankincense
- ✔ **Cultivated medicinal plants or medicinal plants from sustainable and fair wild collections**



No home zoos

Don't buy live animals, even if you feel sorry for them. Because every animal you "rescue" is immediately replaced by a new one. It's better to notify the local authorities or a wildlife sanctuary.

- ✖ **Live animals**² like great apes and many other species of monkeys, many wild cats, birds of prey³ and parrots³
- 📖 **Live animals**² like all other monkeys, birds of prey³ and parrots^{3,4} as well as a number of songbirds, turtles and tortoises, chameleons, geckos, iguanas, monitor lizards, snakes, poison dart frogs and tarantulas
- Be careful! Some species are also strictly protected!**
- 📖 **Eggs**² of turtles and tortoises and other reptiles as well as birds



Wild plants and wood for your living room

Many tropical tree species have become very rare and are protected. Leave wooden figurines, bowls, etc. at the markets where they're sold and wild plants in the places they grow. A plant-health certificate from the country of origin is also usually required to import live plants into the EU.

- ✖ **Guitars and luxury accessories** from Brazilian/Bahia rosewood
- 📖 **Musical instruments, furniture and other wooden products**² from bubinga¹, rosewood species¹, red sandalwood, agarwood¹, ramin and kosso
- 📖 **Rain sticks** (musical instruments) made of cactus wood¹
- 📖 **Plants and plant parts**^{2,3} of e.g. orchids, cacti, aloe (except aloe vera), succulent euphorbias, American and Asian ginseng, pitcher plants, Venus flytraps
- ✔ **Souvenirs made of FSC® wood**



Up close and personal with "wild" animals

Poaching is not just for souvenirs. Posing for a selfie with a sloth or monkey, petting tigers and lions, charming snakes or boxing fights between great apes – many activities with direct contact to wild animals or entertainment shows with wild animals have become established as a tourist attraction. Many of these animals are caught illegally in the wild and are not kept in conditions appropriate to the species.

Do not support these kinds of animal attractions. It only fuels demand. Don't believe pitiful stories of supposedly orphaned and injured animals too easily. Instead find a responsible tour operator to observe animals in their natural habitats!



The right souvenirs

Help to preserve nature in the countries you visit. You can support local communities and artisans by buying environmentally friendly souvenirs and participating in responsible activities. This benefits nature and people.

It is impossible to know every protected animal and plant species. If you're not sure about a souvenir, don't buy it – in the interests of biodiversity as well as your own impunity.

For more information, please contact the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (bfn.de), German customs (zoll.de) or download the WWF souvenir guide as a free app in German (wwf.de/souvenirs).

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- 1 Import is allowed for a small number of exempt specimens or small exempt quantities.
- 2 In some cases, different regulations for individual (sub)species or countries of origin
- 3 A veterinary certificate or a plant-health certificate is required for import into the EU.
- 4 Except rosy-faced lovebirds, budgerigars, cockatiels and rose-ringed parakeets