What to keep in mind when buying souvenirs.

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 and/or plant species: 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. 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.

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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. It is doubt, do not buy these products.

**Tiger** wine made from tiger bones

**Exotic** meat like pangolin or saurischi from white meat

**Snake wine** made from whole protected snakes, lizards or scorpions

**Stuffed** or **mounted** animals

**Art** paintings and photographs

**Handicrafts** made of wire and metal, wickerwork such as dreamcatchers, even single feathers, feathers of many wild birds, e.g. like pangolin or salami from whale meat

**Paintings** and **photographs**

**Incense**, **incense sticks and essential oils** from dried seahorses and snake poison and **Medicine** from tiger bones and other tiger parts, many wild cats, birds of prey and parrots

**Essential** oils, e.g. rose, jasmine, ylang-ylang or frankincense

**Souvenirs** made of FSC® wood

**Cultivated** medicinal plants or medicinal plants from sustainable and fair wild collections

**Guitars and luxury accessories**

**Bahia** rosewood

**Asian** ginseng, pitcher plants, Venus flytraps (except aloe vera), succulent euphorbias, American red sandalwood, agarwood, ramin and kosso

**Eggs** of turtles and tortoises and other reptiles as well as birds

**Insects**, **insect larvae** and **essential oils** from chalcididae and **Essential** oils, e.g. rose, jasmine, ylang-ylang or frankincense

**Guitars and luxury accessories**

**Cultivated** medicinal plants or medicinal plants from sustainable and fair wild collections

**Rain sticks**

**Plants and plant parts** like orchids, cacti, aloe (except aloe vera), succulent euphorbias, American red sandalwood, agarwood, ramin and kosso

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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.

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