

## GUIDELINE - FORBIDDEN SOUVENIRS

### In general, forbidden souvenirs include:

- Ivory (Raw & Carved)
- Animal skins such as Reptile Leather Products & Furs
- Stuffed & Mounted Animals
- Wild Bird Feathers
- Corals, Shells, Starfish & other items made from Marine Life
- Sea Turtle Products & Shark Fins
- Traditional Asian Medicine made from Tigers, Sharks, Birds, Rhinos etc.
- Caged Primates, Birds, Cats etc.
- Protected Domestic Flora; Cacti, Orchids & Cycads
- Decoration, Ornaments, Instruments etc. made from Illegally Harvest Wood such as Rosewood & Teak
- Wildlife Photos: We do not encourage photo opportunities such as taking a Selfie with a tropical endangered animal
- Food & Beverages that contain endangered animals such as Snake Wine & Shark Fin Soup
- Rare Cultural artefacts & Relics (generally protected by their country of origin)

### Remember: When in doubt, DON'T BUY IT!

Instead ask yourself:

1. What is this product made of?
2. Where did this product come from?
3. Does the country I'm visiting allow the sale & export of this product?
4. Do I need permits or other documents from the visiting country states to bring this item home?



### Thailand

- Disrespectful images of Buddha

Thailand is a Buddhist country where Buddha images are held sacred. It is advised:

- not to purchase any t-shirts and jeans printed or embroidered with Buddha
- not to purchase what is considered to be vulgar memorabilia such as Buddha plant pots or alarm clocks.
- not to get Tattoos of Buddha
- not to collect and purchase antique fragments from Buddhist monuments. This will be charged against the Thai regulation.

The small trinkets normally sold in tourist shops do not require prior permission and can be made of any substance such as gold, silver, bronze, marble, or wood, but there is a maximum of five images allowed per shipment/person.

- Endangered orchids/species

Some orchid species are endangered and international trade in all orchids is regulated. You will need a permit to bring home cut orchid flowers or orchid seedlings in a flask and live orchid plants grown in nurseries.

Numbers of endangered species are sold as Tourist ornaments. Refrain from purchasing such ornaments, as this will directly threaten the survival of many species.

- Endangered animal skin/bones

Wildlife goods offered for sale may include products made of marine turtles, ivory carvings and crocodile skin, tiger skin and bones many of which are either illegal or require a permit for international trade.

Do not purchase belts, purses or wallets that are made from snake or crocodile skin; Be sceptical of vendors claiming the skin comes from farming.

- Purchasing large corals

Avoid buying curios made with the dead remains of marine creatures such as shells, dried seahorses or dead corals.



## **Indonesia**

- Endangered animal skin/bones

- Not to buy souvenirs made from tiger skin, as the Sumatra-tiger is endangered with only 500 specimens left
- Avoid souvenirs made out of stuffed animals, snakeskins, coral decorations and sea turtles. You will require a permit for bringing home snakeskins and coral decorations.

- Sulphur souvenirs, from jen crater in East Java

Each day several men collect yellow lumps of sulphur that solidify beside its acidic crater lake. Once processed, the sulphur is used to bleach sugar, make matches and fertiliser, and vulcanise rubber in factories at home and abroad. Sulphur miners of East Java bear the scars of their labour - poisoned lungs and skin criss-crossed with burns and scars. The miners carry 90kg loads up 200 metres out of the crater and back down the volcano's outer slopes to a weighing station - a journey they make several times a day. The miners have little in the way of protective gear beyond a damp cloth to cover the nose and mouth. In the past 40 years, 74 miners have died after being overpowered

by fumes that can suddenly swirl from fissures in the rock. The poisonous clouds are not steam, but hydrogen sulphide and sulphur dioxide gases so concentrated they burn the eyes and throat, and can eventually dissolve the miners' teeth.

From the above paragraphs, considering the poor working standards of the workers, it is recommended to avoid purchasing Sulphur souvenirs and instead raise awareness about their poor working conditions.

---



## Myanmar

To maintain Myanmar's unique heritage, do not buy antiques. Buy arts and crafts instead.

Help protect Myanmar wildlife by refusing to purchase wildlife products: The illegal selling of wildlife endangers the species native to Myanmar.

---



## Vietnam

- Sea turtle products
  - Snake wine/liquor: Snake wine is produced by infusing whole snakes in a bottle of rice wine. Other animals include dead scorpions, sea horses, or lizards. Locals believe that by drinking this concoction, one's virility and health will significantly improve, although these claims are yet to be verified by the medical profession.
  - Elephant ivory products: Vietnam is a big chain in the elephant ivory trading market.
  - Wild animal skins and furs: Do not purchase belts, purses or wallets that are made from snake or crocodile skin. Be sceptical of vendors claiming the skin comes from farming.
  - Do not buy souvenirs made and/or sold by children under labour age, on the streets.
- 



## Cambodia

- sculptures made of elephant ivory and/or rhinoceros horns and all forms of trade involving wild animals. Selling, importing and exporting of such items is a criminal offence.
  - Do not buy souvenirs made and/or sold by children under labour age, on the streets.
- 



**Laos**

- Sculptures made of elephant ivory
  - Snake wine/liquor
  - You can also find pictures of Buddha painted on the backs of possibly endangered turtles, and pangolin and bear paws and cobra and python skins and peacock feathers — a treasure trove of endangered species body parts. Refrain from buying any of the above.
- 



**Sri Lanka**

There are many souvenirs you can bring back from Sri Lanka, but refrain from buying anything that remotely looks like it is made from turtle shells or any other endangered species of Sri Lanka.

Purchase and export without licence of any wild animal, bird or reptile, dead or alive is prohibited.

Also the export of parts of animals, birds or reptiles, such as skins, horns, scales and feathers is prohibited.

Do not try to bring home any artefacts from the historical sites of Sri Lanka. It is illegal, and immoral.