

SOUVENIR TIPS

FOR STRESS-FREE TRIPS



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
**Federal Food Safety and
Veterinary Office FSVO**

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN BRINGING HOME SOUVENIRS

Souvenirs hold special holiday memories. But unfortunately many products of plant and animal origin, including handicrafts, are not safe to bring home. This leaflet gives an overview of the types of souvenir that should be treated with caution. However, it cannot list every single case, so please consult www.fsvo.admin.ch or the Swiss Customs app before you travel.

Under the CITES (or “Washington”) Convention, over 180 countries have committed to strict international controls on trade to protect more than 30,000 species of animals and plants. Special permits are required for the import and export of protected species.



EXAMPLES OF SOUVENIRS IN WHICH TRADE IS PROHIBITED

- Ivory and other elephant products
- Rhinoceros horn
- Wool from the Tibetan antelope (shahtoosh)
- Wildcat skins
- Sea turtles and tortoiseshell products
- Mementos made of Brazilian rosewood





EXAMPLES OF SOUVENIRS WHICH SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CAUTION

PRODUCTS OF PLANT OR ANIMAL ORIGIN SUCH AS

- Objects made of bird feathers
- Certain essential oils such as sandalwood and rosewood oil
- Incense sticks made of certain species of wood
- Shells
- Products made of reptile leather
- Caviar
- Pieces of coral, coral jewellery and stony corals
- Living plants such as orchids and cacti



EXAMPLES OF SAFE SOUVENIRS

- Fabrics made of wild silk or plant fibres
- Stone sculptures
- Basketwork
- Books, drawings, paintings
- Souvenirs made of FSC-certified wood
- Jewellery made of glass or stones
- Handicrafts made of wire or sheet metal



FOOD

The import of many food items is prohibited. In the case of foods of animal origin, different requirements apply depending on the product and the country of origin. The regulations that apply depend on the epidemic status of the country in question. To be on the safe side, consult www.fsvo.admin.ch before bringing foods into Switzerland.

GENERAL

Imported foods must be for personal use only, i.e. solely for consumption by family or invited friends. In the event of a disease outbreak, find out about any import bans that may have been imposed.

ENTRY FROM THE EU

Foods of animal origin may be imported for personal use without any forms or controls. However, their origin must be clearly identifiable (documented).

(The requirements for Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino and the Vatican are the same as for the EU.)

ENTRY FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRY



PROHIBITED IMPORTS



Food
containing
meat



Food
containing
dairy
products



IMPORTS PERMITTED SUBJECT TO MAXIMUM QUANTITIES PER PERSON



Fish and seafood,
20 kg**



Honey, 2 kg**



Caviar, 125 g**
(note: comply with
CITES regulations!)

** Maximum quantity per person



IMPORTS PERMITTED WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS

- Bread, cakes, biscuits, chocolate and confectionery
- Pasta not containing any form of meat
- Meat extracts/concentrates and packaged soup flavourings



For detailed information about other permitted foods,
please visit www.fsvo.admin.ch.

CERAMIC TABLEWARE

Glazes can contain toxic heavy metals. Foods or beverages coming into contact with glazed items can cause poisoning in users. Handmade ceramic tableware of unknown origin should therefore be used with caution in contact with food. This recommendation also applies to metal items (e.g. teapots, pots, cutlery and jewellery).

LIVE ANIMALS

There are many requirements to bear in mind when reimporting pets into Switzerland. Please consult www.fsvo.admin.ch. Think carefully if you are tempted to bring an animal home with you from holiday. Street dogs, for example, are not accustomed to living in human households and run a risk of developing behavioural problems. Never take on a pet based purely on pity or a moment of holiday madness. The entry of dogs and cats from countries where there is a risk of rabies is subject to strict regulations and a permit is required for direct import into Switzerland. If the conditions are not met, the animals will either be sent back or put to sleep.





Think about species conservation. Many birds, reptiles, etc. are protected by CITES and require permits for import into Switzerland.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- WWF advice app “WWF Ratgeber”
- Swiss Customs app “Travel & Goods”
- FSVO brochure “Before you travel”



CUSTOMS



WWF



Download both apps free of charge.

The brochure is available on the FSVO website at www.fsvo.admin.ch.

CONTACT

CONTACT INFORMATION

FSVO

Tel. +41 (0)58 463 30 33

www.fsvo.admin.ch

E-mail: info@blv.admin.ch

CITES

Tel. +41 (0)58 462 25 41

www.cites.ch

E-mail: cites@blv.admin.ch

PUBLISHED BY Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO,
Schwarzenburgstrasse 155, 3003 Bern, Switzerland

PICTURE CREDITS Getty Images, iStockphoto

DISTRIBUTION BBL, Vertrieb Bundespublikationen,
3003 Bern, Switzerland

www.bundespublikationen.admin.ch, order no: 341.505.ENG

October 2019