



Bhutan's Export Permit for Non-Antique Artifacts

For those looking to export non-antique artifacts from Bhutan, there are specific regulations in place to safeguard the country's rich cultural heritage.

Export Permit for Non-Antique Artefacts:

- The **Department of Culture in Bhutan** issues export permits for non-antique cultural artifacts.
- This permit ensures that souvenirs purchased by tourists do not include items of historical or cultural significance.
- The **Movable Cultural Property Act of Bhutan (2005)** strictly prohibits the removal of items over **100 years old** from the country.

Prohibited and Restricted Items:

1. **Religious and Cultural Artifacts:**
 - **Statues, thangkas (Buddhist paintings), manuscripts, and prayer wheels** over a century old cannot be exported.
 - Religious objects associated with temples and monasteries are also strictly regulated.
2. **Sacred Objects and Ritual Items:**
 - Stupas, ritual objects, amulets, and ancient Buddhist scriptures are not allowed for export.
3. **Ornaments and Jewelry:**
 - Exporting antique **gold or silver ornaments** of cultural value is restricted.
 - Items made from **animal parts (such as ivory or bones)** are completely banned.
4. **Fossils and Archaeological Materials:**
 - Exporting **geological samples, fossils, and artifacts of historical interest** is prohibited.
5. **Weapons and Armor:**
 - Traditional Bhutanese **swords, daggers, and armor** cannot be taken out of the country.

How to Obtain an Export Permit:

- If a traveler wishes to export a **non-antique cultural artifact**, they must apply for an [Export Clearance Certificate](#) from the Department of Culture.
- The item must be verified to ensure that it does not belong to Bhutan's cultural heritage category.
- Always **purchase artifacts from authorized sellers** who can provide export documentation.

General Tips for Tourists in Bhutan:

- When shopping for souvenirs, stick to **government-certified handicraft stores** to ensure compliance with export regulations.
- If buying religious or cultural items, check with our **local tour guide** for advice on whether the item can be legally exported.
- Keep all receipts and request for **export clearance documents** when necessary.

By following these guidelines, travelers can ensure that they respect the cultural heritage of Bhutan while avoiding any legal complications when bringing home souvenirs.