



Nepal Souvenir Export Policy

Nepal offers a rich selection of souvenirs, from intricate handicrafts to religious artifacts, but travelers should be aware of the country's strict regulations on the export of certain items. Below are some key points regarding what is prohibited or restricted when purchasing and exporting souvenirs from Nepal.

Prohibited and Restricted Items:

1. **Antiques and Cultural Artifacts:**
 - The export of antiques and cultural artifacts older than 100 years is strictly prohibited.
 - Any antique or religious artifact must be approved by the **Department of Archaeology** before export.
 - Ensure that any artwork or sculpture purchased comes with an authenticity certificate if it is meant for export.
2. **Wildlife Products and Endangered Species:**
 - Items made from animal parts, such as ivory, rhino horns, tiger skins, and bones, are strictly illegal under **Nepal's National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act**.
 - Feathers, furs, and products derived from protected species are also banned.
3. **Fossils and Geological Materials:**
 - The sale and export of **fossils, gemstones, and minerals** found in Nepal's natural landscape without proper permits is illegal.
 - **Shaligrams**, sacred black fossils found in the Kali Gandaki River, are often mistaken as permissible but require export clearance.
4. **Religious Artifacts and Sacred Items:**
 - Many Buddhist and Hindu religious artifacts hold significant cultural and spiritual value.
 - Items such as **ancient manuscripts, prayer wheels, and religious statues** may require government clearance before they can be exported.
5. **Flora and Plant Products:**
 - Certain plant species, including **orchids and rare herbs**, are protected, and their export is controlled to prevent over-harvesting.
 - Be cautious when purchasing herbal medicines or incense made from endangered plant species.
6. **Illegal Drugs and Narcotics:**
 - The possession or sale of **cannabis, opium, or any other narcotic substances** is illegal in Nepal.
 - Even though cannabis is found in certain areas, its trade and export are strictly controlled.

Export Guidelines & Tips:

- Always **purchase souvenirs from reputable vendors or government-licensed shops** to ensure legality.
- Request **receipts, invoices, and export permits** when purchasing items that might be subject to restrictions.
- If in doubt, **consult with Nepal's Department of Archaeology or the customs office** before attempting to export any item.
- Any questionable souvenir may be **seized at the airport**, and the traveler may face legal consequences.

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