

China Travel: What Not to Buy

Prohibition on Purchasing and Exporting Cultural Relics

The client undertakes not to purchase any cultural relics of unknown or suspected unearthed origin (e.g., antiques, Buddha statues, calligraphy and paintings). If a purchase is necessary, the client must ensure the item is not prohibited from sale or export and obtain proof of legal provenance.

Cultural Relics Export Requires a Permit

No cultural relic (especially artworks, manuscripts, and fossils dating from before 1949) may be taken out of China without first being examined by a designated state body and obtaining a valid **“Exit Permit for Cultural Relics.”**

Prohibition on Purchasing Products Made from Endangered Flora and Fauna

The client undertakes not to purchase, accept as a gift, or carry any souvenirs or handicrafts made from materials derived from endangered species, such as ivory, rhino horn, tiger bone, pangolin scales, Tridacna, hawksbill turtle shell, coral, rare bird feathers, or tortoise shell.

Endangered Products Export Requires a Permit

If the client possesses legally sourced products made from endangered flora or fauna and intends to take them out of China, they must first obtain the required **“Import/Export Permit for Endangered Species”** in accordance with the law. Otherwise, such conduct will be deemed illegal.

Related Laws and Regulations:

Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics
Administrative Measures for the Examination and Approval of the Entry and Exit of Cultural Relics
Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on the Import and Export of Endangered Wild Animals and Plants
Measures for the Administration of Import and Export Certificates for Wild Animals and Plants