

## Know BEFORE YOU GO

Belize is home to three of the world's seven sea turtles, five wild cat species, and the second longest coral reef system in the world. When travelling in Belize, you'll encounter wildlife and plant products for sale. Commonly encountered products include live wildlife and jewellery products made from wildlife bones and teeth. The sale of these products does not guarantee legal acquisition of the products, therefore making its purchase illegal.

Belize's wildlife is protected by the Wildlife Protection Act and the Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Act. In Belize, all wildlife parts, eggs, and nests are protected by national legislation.

Support Belize's conservation efforts: learn the facts and ask questions before making a purchase. By making informed choices, you support wildlife conservation in Belize. These guidelines apply to wildlife items in checked and personal luggage, which must be declared to the Customs Officer. Stricter prohibitions may apply if purchases are shipped or mailed home.

# Remember:

WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T BUY!



## Before YOU BUY:

Is this purchase legal and properly sourced?

### ASK THE SELLER:

- What is this product made of?
- Where did this product come from?
- Does Belize allow the sale and export of this product?
- Do I need a permit or other documents, to bring this item home?

### NOT SURE ABOUT A PURCHASE?

Contact the **BELIZE FOREST DEPARTMENT** at +501-822-1524 or via email at [wildlife.manager@forest.gov.bz](mailto:wildlife.manager@forest.gov.bz)  
📱 @Belize Forest Department

### OTHER RESOURCES:

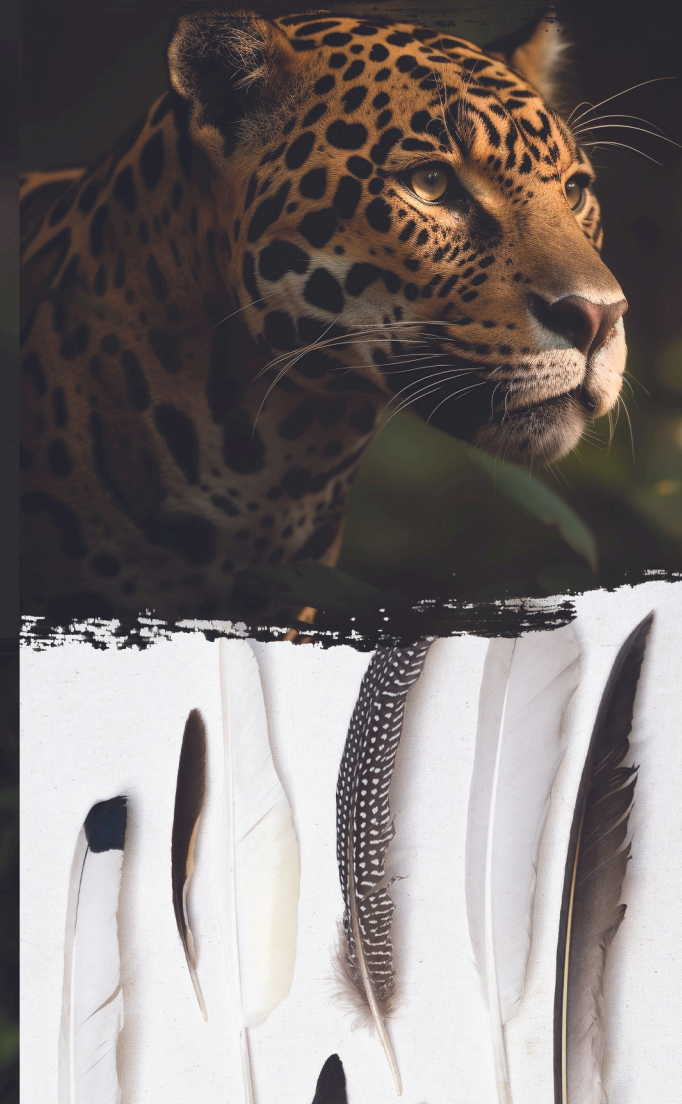
[www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)  
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[www.selvamaya.info](http://www.selvamaya.info)



[www.forest.gov.bz](http://www.forest.gov.bz)

## Belize Traveler's Guide

# END ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING



# Buyers BEWARE LIST:

Avoid having your souvenir confiscated or paying a fine.

## DO NOT PURCHASE THESE PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- All sea turtle products
- Live primates
- Live birds including parrots, finches and other live wildlife
- Wild bird feathers
- Mounted birds
- Products made from wild cats (Belize is home to 5 wild cat species including the jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay and jaguarundi)
- Live snakes and reptiles and any parts and products of any crocodilian species or any other reptile
- Crocodilian, lizard or snake leathers
- Orchids, cacti, and cycads
- Mounted beetles



Photo by Victoria Chi.



Photo by Didier Chaco. Avoid products made from turtle shell

## SEA TURTLES

International trade in all sea turtle products is prohibited. Belize has imposed a ban on domestic sales yet poaching remains a threat. Do not purchase jewellery, sea turtle meat, facial creams and shells, leather, handbags, and other products derived from sea turtles. The purchase and export of all sea turtle products is illegal.

## BIRDS

In Belize, all wild bird species and their products are protected by national legislation. Do not purchase live birds, mounted birds, their eggs, nests and other parts. Although some countries may allow the importation of feathers without a permit, Belize has imposed a domestic ban on these products, therefore, purchase and export is illegal.



Photos by Victoria Chi. Avoid products made from birds and specific plants

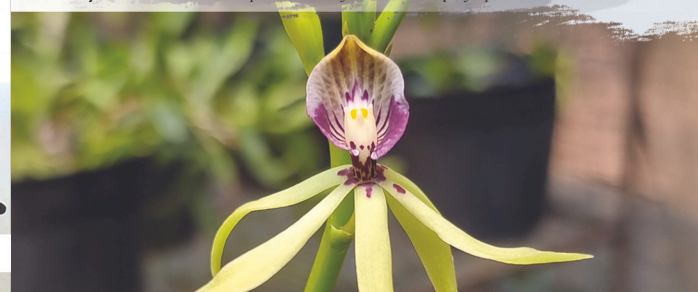


Photo by Victoria Chi. Avoid products made from jaguar teeth or claws

## LEATHERS

Presently, Belize has no legal manufacturer of crocodilian, lizard and snake leathers. As a result, the export of these products is prohibited. Although, some finished leather products may be considered as personal effects and exempted, some finished leather products may require an import permit from the Forest Department, prior to importation.

## MOUNTED BUTTERFLIES

Mounted butterflies can be encountered across Belize. An export permit is required for the export of four or more mounted butterflies outside of Belize. The export of three or fewer mounted butterflies does not require a permit. Mounted butterflies must be declared to the Customs Officer. Failure to do so will result in confiscation of the product.

## PLANTS

Plants such as cacti, orchids and cycads are subject to national and international conservation laws as well as pest regulations. Imported and exported plants require phytosanitary documentation. Before you collect seeds, or buy live plants to bring home, remember that plants may become invasive, endangering native plants. The importation of plants is regulated by the Belize Forest Department.

