

Sensible Shopping Tips for Tourists

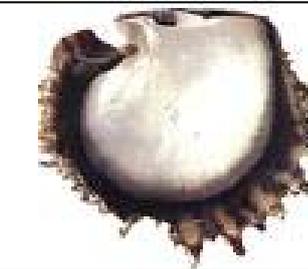
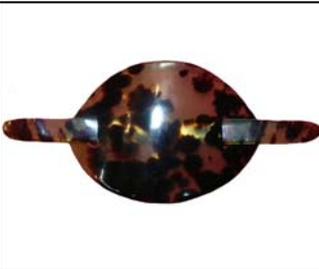
Bula! Welcome to the Fiji Islands!

When shopping during your trip to Fiji, be aware that what you buy could affect the very environment you have come to enjoy. This fact-sheet outlines some of the issues relating to wildlife products and some of the requirements under law.

A region of remarkable beauty, Fiji is home to six of the seven marine turtle species, some of the most diverse coral reefs and the third longest barrier reef in the world! There are species of iguana, reef fish and birds that are found nowhere else on the planet. Fiji protects its native wildlife under both national laws and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Demand by tourists for wildlife can lead to the species becoming endangered or extinct. A pristine shell offered for sale will have been taken alive from the reef and the animal killed to obtain the shell. The collection and sale of wildlife has a serious impact on Fiji's environment.

The products below need a permit to leave Fiji or may not be taken out of Fiji

Triton Trumpet Shell <i>Charonia tritonis</i> "Davui"	Trochus Shell <i>Trochus niloticus</i> "Sici"	Giant Helmet Shell <i>Cassis cornuta</i>	Giant Clam Shell <i>Tridacnidae</i> "Vasua"
			
Whale's Tooth "Tabua"	Pearl Oyster Shell <i>Pinctada margaritifera</i>	Turtle shells & Turtle eggs	Turtle shell products
			
Coral and coral products "Lase"	Crested Iguana <i>Brachylophus vitiensis</i>	Banded Iguana <i>Brachylophus fasciatus</i>	Red Shining Parrot <i>Prosopeia tabuensis</i>
			

Please support the conservation efforts of the Fiji Islands. Understand the laws and requirements: by making informed choices you help Fiji's environment and avoid being fined, having your purchases confiscated when leaving Fiji or when returning home. For enquiries contact the Mamanuca Environment Society (Tel: 672 3433), TRAFFIC, WWF (Tel: 331 5533) and/or the CITES Management Authority (Tel: 331 1699).