Forbidden Souvenirs in Albania

Albania2Go | Travelife Criterion 9.4 | Guest, guide and supplier reference

Albania2Go does not allow the purchase or promotion of forbidden souvenirs during its tours and activities. This guidance supports protection of wildlife, cultural heritage and local communities, and should be shared with guests and direct service providers.

1 Protected wildlife and animal products

- Souvenirs made from protected or threatened animals: skins, fur, bones, teeth, claws, horns or feathers.
- Taxidermy, trophies or other items derived from protected birds, mammals or reptiles.
- Sea turtle shells and products; ivory; protected coral and other protected marine wildlife products.
- Live protected animals or specimens taken unlawfully from the wild.
- Any animal product from species protected under CITES or applicable Albanian law, including threatened species identified by the IUCN Red List.

2 Protected plants and natural materials

- Wild orchids and other protected, rare or threatened native plants; their seeds, bulbs, roots or cuttings.
- Wild-collected medicinal or aromatic plants where collection or trade is prohibited or unauthorized.
- Products made from illegally harvested protected trees or plants.
- Rocks, fossils, minerals or other natural objects removed unlawfully from protected areas or heritage sites.

3 Historical and archaeological artefacts

- Illegally excavated or obtained ancient coins, pottery, figurines, jewellery, tools and weapons.
- Mosaic pieces, carved stones, architectural fragments or objects removed from archaeological sites.
- Historical manuscripts, religious artefacts or other heritage objects obtained or exported without required authorization.

Note: Legally made modern replicas are acceptable. Authentic heritage objects may require proof of lawful ownership and official export documentation.

4 Drugs, alcohol and other substances

- Illegal narcotics and psychotropic substances, including unauthorized cannabis products.
- Controlled medicines or ingredients without required authorization.
- Alcoholic drinks (including raki, wine and spirits) are not promoted or purchased as souvenirs through Albania2Go-organized activities under this stricter company guidance.

Important distinction: Alcohol is not generally an illegal souvenir in Albania. This is a company-level restriction for this programme. Guests must also respect destination, transit and home-country rules.

5 Responsibilities of guides and suppliers

- Do not sell, promote, recommend or facilitate purchases of the items above.
- Inform guests of restrictions before shopping visits and refer doubtful items to qualified authorities.
- Avoid suppliers known to traffic in protected wildlife or unlawfully obtained cultural objects.
- Communicate these requirements to staff, local guides, excursion providers and retail partners.

6 Responsible alternatives

- Locally crafted embroidery, textiles, modern pottery, artwork and handicrafts.
- Woodwork and jewellery made from lawfully sourced materials; modern historical reproductions.
- Olive oil, honey, jams and other locally produced foods, subject to destination-country import rules.

Albania2Go commitment

We do not allow the purchase of souvenirs containing threatened flora and fauna species, any illegally obtained historic or archaeological artefacts, drugs or illegal substances, and we abide by local and international laws in place to prevent this.