

Greenlandic handicraft – more than mere souvenirs

CITES (Washington Convention)

CITES is the acronym for “Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna”.

The Washington Convention makes it possible to track the degree of trade in certain endangered or threatened animal species. With your CITES permit you are therefore contributing to securing a sustainable future for the respective animal populations.

The Washington Convention is, among other things, known from campaigns against trade in tigers, turtles, other exotic animal species and ivory.

The Convention has been signed by more than 170 countries and protects the world’s many threatened and endangered plant and animal species by regulating the international trade in wildlife species. There are more than 4,800 animal species and 25,000 plant species listed in CITES. About 30 of these animal species and a few of the plant species occur in Greenland.



The CITES certificate is more than simply a customs document. It is also a guarantee that the goods originate from species that can legally be hunted in Greenland.

Notice that the CITES rules differ for tourists and for citizens of Greenland. Find more information on www.naalakkersuisut.gl/cites

Contact information

Government of Greenland
Greenland CITES Management Authority
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Greenland

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Homepage: www.naalakkersuisut.gl/cites

Internet information:

www.cites.dk gives general information about CITES and the regulations currently in force in Denmark.

www.cites.org gives information about international regulations. The current CITES lists will be found here, showing the level of protection enjoyed by the various species.

www.eu-wildlifetrade.org gives information about CITES and trading in wild plants and animals in most EU languages.

NB: If in doubt, contact the Greenland CITES M.A.

Species not allowed for export by tourists:

Fin whale, Bowhead whale, Sperm whale, Humpback whale, Minke whale from East Greenland, Narwhal, Killer Whale, Pilot Whale, Porpoise, Polar bear and all prey birds are not allowed to be exported by tourists.



Rules for tourists



Government of Greenland
Greenland CITES Management Authority



Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Revised in November 2017

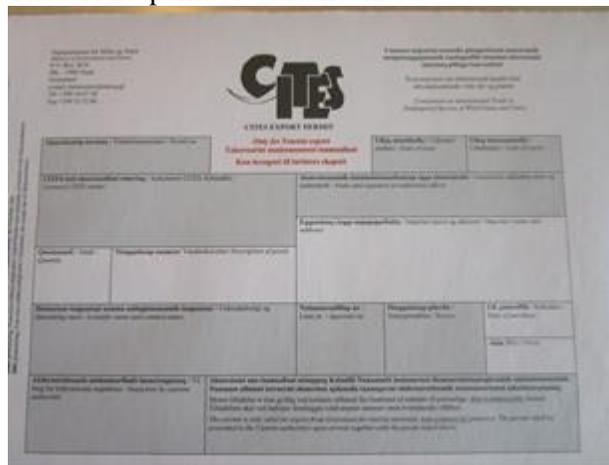
Export regulations for species regulated through CITES	CITES Export permit required	May not be exported	No CITES restrictions
List I species			
Fin whale		X	
Bowhead whale		X	
White-tailed eagle		X	
Sperm whale		X	
Humpback whale		X	
Minke whale from East Greenland		X	
List II species			
Beluga	X		
Polar bear (temporary ban)		X	
Narwhal (temporary ban)		X	
Killer whale (temporary ban)		X	
Minke whale from West Greenland	X		
List III species			
Walrus	X		
Not covered by CITES			
Seal			X
Reindeer			X
Musk oxen			X
Sheep/lamb			X

As a tourist you are allowed to export products of the following animals if you have a CITES permit for your purchase:

- Walrus
- Beluga Whale
- Minke Whale from West Greenland

About the CITES permit

The CITES permit looks like this:



It is important that you receive the front page, the red copy and the blue copy.

The CITES permit is only valid for exporting items for *personal use*. The items must be transported in your personal luggage.

If the shop itself does not complete and issue you with the CITES permit, request one in the shop.

The front page	Show the front page to the customs of your home country
The red copy	Keep the red copy
The blue copy	Show the blue copy to the Greenland Customs
The yellow copy	The shop will send the yellow copy to the CITES M.A.

No permit

If you haven't received a CITES permit for the handicraft items you have bought on the street or in a shop, you can contact the Greenland CITES Management Authority and ask for a permit.

Export of walrus products

Please note that it's not allowed to send items of walrus to countries in the EU by mail. Items of walrus can only be imported to the EU as personal items carried on the body or in the luggage.

REMEMBER that illegal export or failure to obtain a permit can result in confiscation of goods and a fine.

