



STOP PRESS

Shopping

More Than You Bargained For

Sometimes a little overseas purchase can lead to big trouble. *Sallie Brady* explains the complicated international laws that govern what you can and cannot buy abroad

The International Fund for Animal Welfare reports that U.S. Customs officers seize thousands of foreign purchases each year, many of them souvenirs crafted from endangered species and, surprisingly, bought at airports and resorts. “Take the road out of Santo Domingo and you’ll see stall after stall selling jewelry and souvenirs made of tortoiseshell, coral, and other endangered species,” says Jake Kheel, director of the Dominican Republic’s Puntacana Ecological Foundation. “Tourists will buy and not realize that this is encouraging poaching and the destruction of our reefs.” Not to mention that it might be illegal to bring what they are buying into the United States.