

HOW TO IDENTIFY & AVOID HAWKSBILL TURTLE SHELL SOUVENIRS IN CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



As a traveler, it's important you be able to identify and avoid 'tortoise shell' souvenirs made from the shell of the critically endangered hawksbill sea turtle, not only because it is illegal to buy and bring home, but because you can help save the hawksbill from extinction.

SEA TURTLE SHELL

- Spanish name: Carey
- Dark brown with orange/amber
- Transparent in light areas
- Flexible



TIP: 'ES TORTUGA?' MEANS 'IS IT TURTLE?'

COW HORN

- Spanish name: Cacho
- Black, grey, white, creamy yellow
- Fine linear grain throughout
- Semi-transparent, NOT flexible



TIP: 'ES CUERNO' MEANS 'IS IT HORN?'

COCONUT SHELL

- Spanish Name: Coco
- Brown with light tan nicks
- Bumpy texture on back
- NOT transparent, NOT flexible



TIP: YOUR MOST SUSTAINABLE CHOICE

SEASHELL

- Spanish name: Concha
- White with black spots
- NOT transparent
- NOT flexible



TIP: CALLED CONCHA NACAR IN NICARAGUA

PLASTIC

- Spanish name: Plastico
- Very difficult to tell good plastic tortoise shell from sea turtle shell
- In most cases it IS turtle shell, not plastic



TIP: NEVER BUY IF IT LOOKS LIKE TURTLE SHELL!



HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLES are **TOO RARE TO WEAR**

For more information visit TooRareToWear.org

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