

<b>Administrative institution</b>	<b>Type of objects/ cultural artefacts</b>
Norwegian Armed Forces Museum Tel. +47 23 09 35 82 www.mil.no/felles/fmu	military cultural objects, weapons, aircraft
Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo Tel. +47 22 85 19 00 www.khm.uio.no	archaeological and ethnographic materials, pre-Reformation (1537) artefacts, coins and banknotes
National Library of Norway Tel. +47 81 00 13 00 www.nb.no	books, leaflets/posters, maps, manuscripts, sound and film archives
National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design Tel. +47 21 98 20 00 www.nasjonalmuseet.no	paintings, drawings, sculptures, original art prints and other visual art, crafts, design, furniture and other domestic items
Norwegian Museum of Cultural History Tel. +47 22 12 37 00 www.norskfolkemuseum.no	folk art, rural antiquities, home craft products, folk costumes, buildings and other materials relating to post-Reformation (1537) working life and lifestyles
Norwegian Maritime Museum Tel. +47 24 11 41 50 www.norsk-sjofartsmuseum.no	maritime objects
Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology Tel. +47 22 79 60 00 www.tekniskmuseum.no	motor vehicles and other technical objects
Preus Museum Tel. +47 33 03 16 30 www.preusmuseum.no	photography, cameras and other photographic equipment
Directorate for Cultural Heritage Tel. +47 22 94 04 00 www.ra.no	boats
National Archives of Norway Tel. + 4722 02 26 00 www.riksarkivet.no	archival materials, seals and signets
Ringve. A Section of the Museums in Sør-Trøndelag Tel. +47 73 87 02 80 www.ringve.no	musical instruments and other music-historical objects
RiddoDuottarMuseat Tel. +47 78 46 99 50 www.rdm.no	Sami art and other Sami cultural objects

**More information:**

**ABM-utvikling**  
The Norwegian Archive, Library and  
Museum Authority  
Box 8145 Dep  
0033 Oslo

Telephone: 23 11 75 00  
Telefax: 23 11 75 01  
post@abm-utvikling.no  
www.abm-utvikling.no

**Other useful addresses:**

**Directorate of Customs and Excise**  
www.toll.no

**Customs Information Centre**  
Telephone: +47 03012

**Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs  
and Ministry of the Environment**  
Telephone: +47 22 24 90 90

**Sámi Parliament**  
Telephone: +47 78 47 40 00

**UNESCO**  
www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws

**Norwegian Police Authorities**  
www.okokrim.no

**ABM**   
**-utvikling**  
Statens senter for arkiv, bibliotek og museum

**Export and import of art  
and other cultural objects**

**What is allowed?**



# Export and import of art and other cultural objects. What is allowed?

The purpose of the Cultural Heritage Act (Kulturminneloven) is to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy and benefit from Norway's cultural heritage.

## Export

The purpose of the legislation concerning the export of cultural objects (in § 23 of the Cultural Heritage Act) is to protect movable and immovable cultural objects that form an important part of Norway's cultural heritage and history. The Regulations Relating to a Prohibition against the Export of Cultural Objects are intended to safeguard cultural property against illegal export and import. They also ensure that documentation and information is provided on those cultural objects for which export permits are granted.

An export permit is required in order to export the following artistic and cultural objects from Norway:

- Cultural objects and artefacts that are automatically protected under the Cultural Heritage Act. Archaeological and fixed articles of cultural heritage and all standing structures known to originate prior to 1649 are automatically protected under the Act.
- Cultural objects relating to prominent or important historic persons, activities and events of significance to Norwegian art, culture and history of whatever age.
- Buildings or parts thereof, ethnographic materials, archival items, manuscripts, seals and signets, furniture and other domestic items, costumes, weapons and the like, of artistic or cultural significance or that are associated with historic persons from earlier than 1900.
- Sámi cultural objects from earlier than 1970. For books, leaflets and maps printed in Sámi, the limiting year is 1930. An export permit is required for all Sámi archives or any elements thereof irrespective of their age.

- Norwegian coins dating from before 1537, and coins, banknotes, medals and orders of more recent date, where these are of national significance; see the summary of regulations.
- Paintings, sculptures and other works of visual art, crafts and prototypes for design products from earlier than 1950.
- Motor cars, aircraft and rolling stock or parts thereof from earlier than 1950, and boats or parts thereof that are more than 50 years old.

See Regulations Relating to a Prohibition against the Export of Cultural Objects at [www.abm-utvikling.no](http://www.abm-utvikling.no) for a comprehensive list.

## How do you apply?

The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs has appointed twelve institutions that may issue export permits (see accompanying list). A permit application form can be found at [www.abm-utvikling.no](http://www.abm-utvikling.no). The application including photographs of the object in question must be sent well in advance to the relevant institution, which, given a favourable decision, will issue an export permit. This permit must accompany the object as it crosses the border.

## Questions

Questions can be sent to the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABM-utvikling): [post@abm-utvikling.no](mailto:post@abm-utvikling.no), tel. +47 23 11 75 00 or to the closest relevant institution.

## Export permit normally granted

As a general rule, an export permit will be granted unless the cultural object in question is of major importance for research or for the preservation of or dissemination of information concerning Norway's cultural heritage. An export permit may be permanent or for a limited period of time.

## Import

Import of a cultural object requires a valid export permit from the exporting country, where required. This documentation is to be presented during customs processing.

See [www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws](http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws) for information on the rules for the exporting country.

## Customs

The Customs and Excise Authorities are responsible for ensuring that cultural objects are not exported from or imported into the country in contravention of the Regulations Relating to a Prohibition against the Export of Cultural Objects (Act of 21 December 2007, no. 119, on Customs Duties and the Movement of Goods (Customs Act) §§ 1-5). See relevant regulations: [www.toll.no](http://www.toll.no).

## Penalties

Anyone who deliberately or through negligence contravenes the export regulations may face a fine or imprisonment of up to one year. Under aggravating circumstances, imprisonment of up to two years may apply. The aiding and abetting of illegal export, or attempted illegal export, is punishable in the same way (cf. Cultural Heritage Act § 27 and the Customs Act chapter 16).

## Administrative appeals

The Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABM-utvikling) is the appeals body for cases involving prohibition against the export of cultural objects. The exceptions are cases decided by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, where the Ministry of the Environment is the appeals body, and cases concerning Sámi cultural property, where the Sámediggi (Sámi Parliament) is the appeals body.