



Tourists Helping Illegal Tortoise Trade

British holiday makers are helping to support a very cruel and illegal trade in rare tortoises in countries such as Tunisia and Morocco.

The market for live tortoises taken from the wild is causing widespread suffering and is threatening some species to extinction. It is an endangered species that cannot be imported legally without documents from CITES into the EU, but the street traders are saying to holiday makers there would be no problem bringing them into the UK.



Many British holiday makers make the mistake of buying tortoises from these street traders and smuggle them into the country in their luggage. They can be bought for as little as £15 each in Tunisia for example. Many holiday makers do not realise that tortoises are difficult to keep and require special conditions to avoid suffering or death. Tortoises do not make good pets and like all reptiles can carry Salmonella.

The majority of these tortoises die within a couple of years of being captured. Buying these animals, holiday makers are encouraging a growing trade that threatens the survival of the species in the wild such as the Tunisian Tortoise and sadly many more.



This Tunisian Tortoise was smuggled into the UK in December 2008, sadly it died!

Passengers caught in possession of prohibited tortoises could face fines or imprisonment if caught by Customs & Excise Officers.

Your Ignorance Breeds Misery!

Please Don't Do It.

All Rights Reserved. www.reptilerescueden.co.uk

