

2 don't over-pack

What you pack in your luggage has a direct impact on the environment. The more bags you take and the more you put in them, the more you pay and the more jet fuel will be used. Be a light traveller. You don't have to take everything. Research your destination and know the weather to avoid taking unnecessary items. Not all countries or destinations have sophisticated waste management or recycling facilities, so avoid disposable items and substitute biodegradable products in your toiletries (especially eco-friendly soap) and take clothes that don't require heavy laundering.

- **excess baggage can cost you and the environment**



Photo: Corbis Australia

12 be a low-carbon tourist

Being on holiday isn't an excuse to take a break from being true green! Whether you are a guest or a host, don't forget to be green and energy efficient. Help your guests reduce their luggage by supplying fresh towels and even some eco-friendly toiletries. When you're abroad, help your accommodation providers become greener – do you really need to have your sheets and towels changed every day? Unplug appliances you're not using and switch lights off in your hotel room while you're out exploring. Take your own toiletries and have short showers. And don't forget the rechargeable batteries for your digital camera equipment too.

- **reduce your impact at home and abroad**

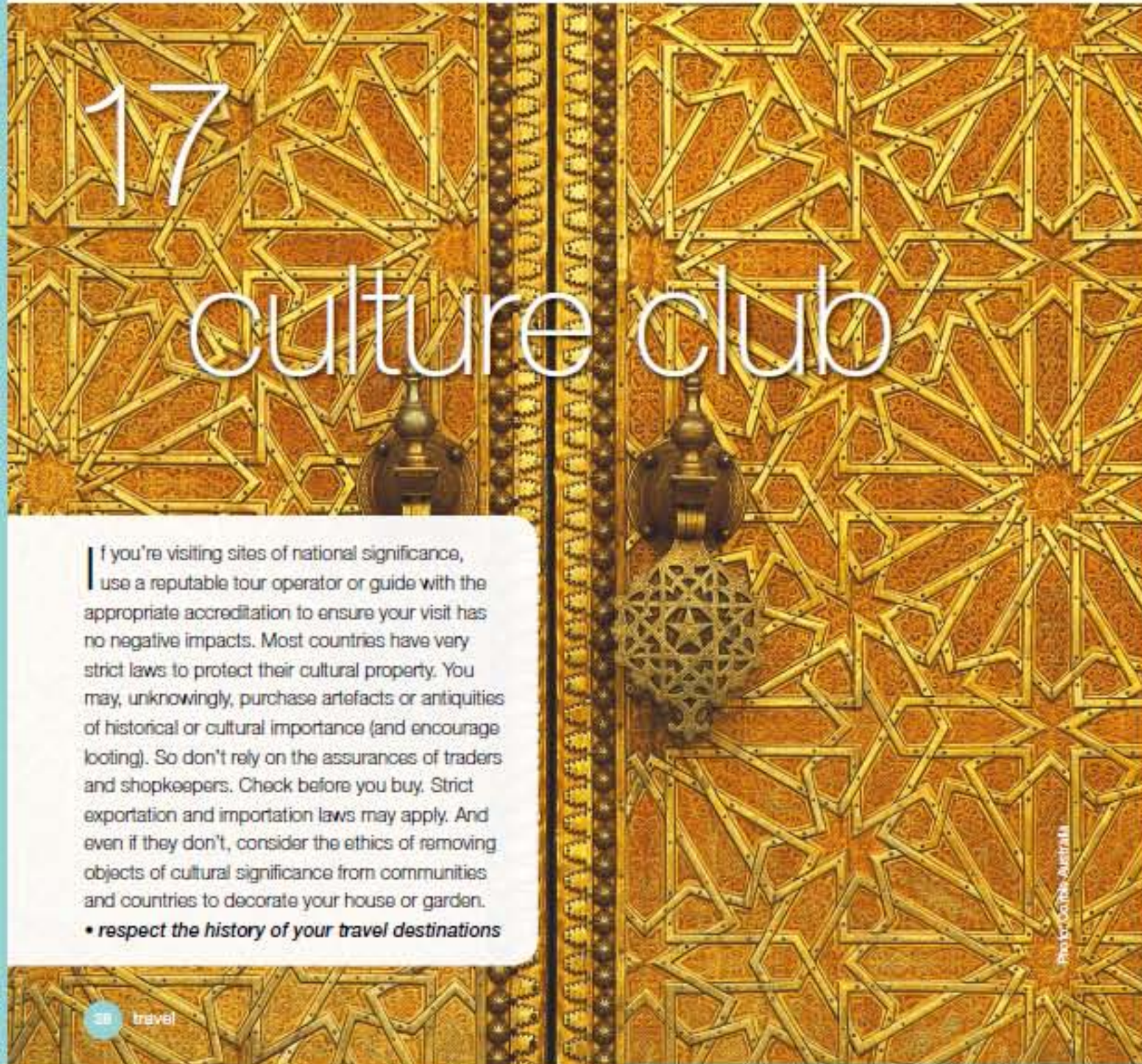


Photo: Corbis Australia

17 culture club

If you're visiting sites of national significance, use a reputable tour operator or guide with the appropriate accreditation to ensure your visit has no negative impacts. Most countries have very strict laws to protect their cultural property. You may, unknowingly, purchase artefacts or antiquities of historical or cultural importance (and encourage looting). So don't rely on the assurances of traders and shopkeepers. Check before you buy. Strict exportation and importation laws may apply. And even if they don't, consider the ethics of removing objects of cultural significance from communities and countries to decorate your house or garden.

- **respect the history of your travel destinations**



travel

18 declare it

Be aware of the rules before bringing items back from abroad. On arrival in Australia, you must declare for inspection all food, plant material and animal products to protect our unique environment. Your gifts and souvenirs purchased overseas, particularly those made from animal by-products, could introduce some of the world's most serious pests and diseases into Australia. This could cause serious devastation to our valuable agriculture and tourism industries and our unique flora and fauna. Many of these items may also be prohibited under wildlife legislation and require import permits.

- **respect and comply with customs and quarantine regulations**



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