



# WALRUS IVORY

LEGAL. SUSTAINABLE. ETHICAL. TRADITIONAL.

Alaska Natives rely on hunting for food, clothing and cultural traditions.

In coastal communities, their lifestyles – and livelihoods – depend on walrus harvests.

By following the waste-not spirit of their cultures, subsistence harvests allow communities to survive - and thrive. Alaska Natives have been preserving the land and its resources for thousands of years, and walrus has always been an important and appreciated resource.

Artists who use walrus ivory are an example of the interconnectedness among Alaska Native culture, natural resources and economic viability.

When harvested, the entire animal is used, bringing great value to communities. The ivory is also put to use by making art pieces that help share Alaska Native stories and experiences. This is at the heart of the cultures and traditions of the people.

Unfortunately, this way of life is in danger, an unintended consequence of walrus harvests being associated with illegal poaching for ivory.

WALRUS  
IVORY

## THE FACTS:

To stop the poaching of African elephants, the United States implemented a near-total ban on the commercial trade of African elephant ivory.

Several U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use and possession of all ivory, including walrus.

Elephant ivory and walrus ivory are not the same.

Alaska Native people have been responsibly and respectfully harvesting walrus for centuries. The walrus population remains healthy today.

Walrus ivory continues to be a source of pride, tradition and artistic production.

## WHY IT MATTERS

- Blanket bans are criminalizing possession of legally, sustainably and ethically harvested walrus ivory handicrafts.
- These broad bans on commercial ivory are causing uncertainty for visitors over whether they are allowed to buy, own or bring home legally acquired walrus ivory from Alaska. This creates confusion and prevents purchases, which is hurting Alaska Native artists and their small communities.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Visit Alaska and celebrate Alaska Natives' living tradition.
- Support Alaska Native artists, their communities and their cultures by purchasing ivory artwork.
- Learn more about the responsible, traditional and legal use of walrus ivory by visiting [walrusivory.org](http://walrusivory.org).



[WALRUSIVORY.ORG](http://WALRUSIVORY.ORG)

## WALRUS IVORY IS MORE THAN A PIECE OF ART.

THE PURCHASE OF WALRUS IVORY SUPPORTS ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE, TRADITIONS, ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIES.