

Fossil Souvenirs Policy

What fossils can we keep?

You can think of fossils as being in one of the following categories: Common Fossils, Non-Articulated Fossils, and Scientifically Significant Fossils.

Common Fossils: Generally common fossils you can keep. These include: shed Edmontosaurus and Triceratops teeth, unidentifiable dinosaur bone fragments or chunks of common dinosaur bone, crocodile teeth and scutes, isolated turtle shell pieces, most plant fossils, rock and mineral samples, etc. Basically, if it's not unusual, rare, or scientifically important you can likely keep it. Your guide will determine what can be kept and what needs to be retained by us. Some finds may need to be examined in the lab before their significance can be assessed.

Non-Articulated Fossils (isolated bones): In this case we define fossils in this category as being identifiable but isolated from any other fossil/bone of the same organism in a locality. In many cases these are bones you can keep so long as they are NOT considered scientifically significant or exceed a value of \$1000 which is the souvenir limit for individuals on most ranches. Most isolated partial or smaller herbivorous dinosaur bones and teeth as well as Tyrannosaur teeth under 1 inch would be something you could keep. Many other fossils that fall into this category and are not scientifically significant but do exceed the \$1000 per person limit, can be purchased for an additional fee. If you find something of greater value that you would like to take home, you can inform one of our staff and they will see that it is appraised for you. Generally, Edmontosaurus bones are valued between \$50-\$100/inch and Triceratops bones valued between \$75-\$200/inch depending on bone type, condition, and quality. Tyrannosaur rex teeth tend to be valued between \$500-\$2,500/inch depending on condition, and quality. There may be a holding period for some fossils in this category.

Scientifically Significant Fossils: These are fossils that need to be studied as they may be rare, show evidence of an event, show evidence of a behavior, or associated with a greater area of research. All articulated fossils are to be considered scientifically significant. Fossils such as these are reserved for museums and universities only. Most theropod bones and teeth would fall into this category as well as many others depending on the circumstances.