

AUSTRIA

EUROPE



Travel & Possession Permitted with Limited or No Restrictions



Summary

- Austria does not permit recreational cannabis though possession of small amounts for personal use has been decriminalized.
- Medical cannabis is available only through prescribed pharmaceutical preparations such as dronabinol or Sativex. Raw cannabis flower is not legally prescribable.
- Tourists and non-residents may bring cannabinoid-containing medications for personal use for up to 5 days without documentation, or up to 30 days with a valid prescription and supporting medical certificate in German or English.
- Larger quantities or longer stays may require prior coordination with Austrian customs authorities.

Background

The system is regulated by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

Key points about the system:

- Medical cannabis is legal in Austria, but limited strictly to prescription-based pharmaceutical products (e.g. Dronabinol, Nabilone, and Sativex).
- Cannabis flowers (raw plant material) are not authorized for medical use and cannot be prescribed or legally consumed, even by patients.
- Only licensed Austrian physicians may prescribe medical cannabis, and dispensation occurs through registered pharmacies.
- There is no patient ID card system; prescriptions are handled like any other controlled medication.
- Tourists and non-residents may carry a personal supply of prescribed cannabis-based medication for up to 5 days without formal authorization, provided the medication is:
 - For personal therapeutic use.
 - Accompanied by a doctor's prescription, ideally translated into German or English.



- In its original packaging with clear labeling.
- For stays longer than 5 days or for larger quantities (e.g. a 30-day supply), travelers should request prior approval from Austrian customs or health authorities.

Non-Medical Cannabis

- Illegal to use, possess (beyond personal quantity), cultivate, or distribute.
- Possession of small amounts for personal use has been decriminalized since 2016 is punishable by administrative sanctions rather than criminal penalties.
- Sale, trafficking, or cultivation of THC-rich cannabis remains a criminal offense and can result in up to 3 years in prison, or more in severe cases.
- Cultivation of CBD-dominant cannabis (<0.3% THC) is permitted for industrial or ornamental purposes, but consumption is prohibited if the plant exceeds THC limits.
- Border enforcement has been tightened recently, especially along the German border, due to Germany's legalization of recreational cannabis.

Traveling to Austria with Medical Cannabis

What is Permitted:

- Travelers may bring cannabis-based medications for personal therapeutic use for: Up to 5 days, without formal declaration or certificate.
- Up to 30 days, with a valid prescription and a doctor's certificate in German or English, showing:
 - Name of medication
 - Patient's details
 - Dosage and frequency
 - Duration of treatment
 - Medication must be:
 - In its original packaging
 - Clearly labeled
- Consistent with personal therapeutic use only
- No "extra" quantities are permitted; customs may inspect and verify medication at borders or airports.

What is Not Permitted:

- Recreational cannabis or CBD products exceeding legal THC limits.
- Raw cannabis flower or unregistered cannabis-based products.
- Importing cannabis for anyone other than the traveler (even family members).
- Medications without clearly labeled prescriptions or translated documentation.



Steps to Take Before Departure:

1. Obtain a valid prescription from your physician, clearly stating the use of cannabis-based medication.
2. Ensure the prescription includes the doctor's license number, clinic address, or contact details, preferably translated into German or English.
3. Bring only the quantity necessary for up to 5 days of personal use.
4. Carry printed copies of:
 - o The prescription
 - o A letter from your physician explaining the treatment (optional but strongly recommended)
 - o Original pharmacy-labeled packaging showing your name, dosage, and product details
5. If staying longer than 5 days or carrying a larger supply, it is strongly advised to contact Austrian customs or the Federal Ministry of Health in advance to request approval and ensure compliance.

Bundesamt für Sicherheit im Gesundheitswesen (BASG) (Federal Office for Safety in Health Care) Contact Information:

- **Address:** Schnirchgasse 9, 1030 Wien (Vienna), Austria
- **Phone:** +43 50 555 555
- **Email (General Inquiries):** office@basg.gv.at
- **Medical Cannabis Unit Email:** rezepturarzneimittel@ages.at (for cannabis extracts)
- **Website:** <https://www.basg.gv.at>

Practical Tips

1. For travel beyond 5 days, bring a translated doctor's certificate and valid prescription.
2. Pack medication in original labeled containers in your carry-on bag.
3. Consider contacting Austrian customs ahead of travel if you're unsure about your product.
4. Be prepared to explain your treatment and documentation clearly to authorities.
5. Do not attempt to bring recreational cannabis, raw flower, or unlabeled CBD products into Austria.

The information provided reflects the most current data available; however, as cannabis laws are continually evolving, this content should not be interpreted as legal advice.

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