

NEPAL

ASIA



Travel & Possession Not Permitted Under Any Circumstance



Summary

- Cannabis is illegal in Nepal for both recreational and medical use.
- The Narcotic Drugs Control Act of 1976 prohibits the cultivation, production, sale, and consumption of cannabis.
- There is no legal framework for medical cannabis.
- Tourists cannot legally obtain cannabis, and importing any cannabis or CBD products is prohibited.

Background

Cannabis has a long history in Nepal, historically used in religious rituals and traditional medicine. However, in 1976, under pressure from international bodies, Nepal enacted the Narcotic Drugs Control Act, which criminalized all forms of cannabis use, including for medicinal purposes. The law does allow the government to make cannabis available for medicinal use if deemed necessary, but this provision has not been implemented in practice.

In May 2024, Finance Minister Barsha Man Pun announced plans to legalize cannabis cultivation and consumption for medicinal purposes, with necessary laws to be framed for commercial production. However, as of now, no such laws have been enacted, and cannabis remains illegal for all purposes in Nepal.

Non-Medical Cannabis

- Consumption: Illegal. Use can result in criminal charges and imprisonment.
- Possession Illegal; penalties vary by quantity.
- Sale & Distribution: Illegal; trafficking is treated as a serious offense.

Traveling to Nepal with Medical Cannabis

Nepal does not recognize foreign medical cannabis prescriptions. Bringing cannabis products, including CBD, oils, edibles, or hemp-derived items, into the country is prohibited. Travelers found in possession may face arrest, prosecution, and severe penalties.



Steps to Take Before Departure:

1. Do not carry any cannabis product.
2. Carry only non-cannabis medications that are legal.
3. Obtain pharmacy-labeled packaging with valid prescription for all legal medications.
4. Do not rely on foreign prescriptions for cannabis. The Nepali authorities do not acknowledge them.

Practical Tips

- If you are taking other medications, carry them in original packaging with prescriptions and clinic letters, best to verify legality via embassy.
- Speak to your embassy or consulate regarding your medical needs before planning travel.
- Use alternative, legal permitted medicines during your stay in Nepal.

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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