

# SOMALIA

AFRICA



Travel & Possession Not Permitted Under Any Circumstance



## Summary

- Cannabis is strictly prohibited in Somalia. The laws do not differentiate between recreational and medical use, and any form of possession, cultivation, or distribution is illegal.
- Marijuana use, growth, and possession are illegal in Somalia. Not only is recreational marijuana against the law, but medical cannabis is also outlawed.
- Although it is not impossible, it appears unlikely that the Somalian government will start the marijuana legalization process anytime soon, even for medicinal purposes.

## Background

With cannabis being entirely against the law, there are no legally recognized forms of medical marijuana in Somalia.

Cannabis use has been somewhat common throughout the country in recent years, but its legal status remains unchanged.

Although Somalia's cannabis laws outlaw cannabis for recreational and medical use, there is not a complete and total ban on every substance.

The most commonly used drug in Somalia is khat. While khat is a Schedule 1 drug in the United States, it is legal in Somalia. Khat is a shrub that can be consumed in various ways but is commonly used, like chewing tobacco.

Long-term khat use is physically damaging, specifically to the liver and heart. As it is a stimulant that induces effects similar to cocaine or methamphetamine, it is not recommended that anyone who feels they would benefit from medical marijuana try khat instead.



## Non-Medical Cannabis

- Consumption: Recreational cannabis is strictly prohibited in Somalia. Use, consumption, cultivation, sale, or distribution can lead to severe legal consequences.
  - Possession: Possession of cannabis is illegal in Somalia and will lead to serious punishment. In a country that might give you the death penalty for drug trafficking, you might want to just stay away from any drugs.
  - Sale & Distribution: The cultivation, sale, and possession of cannabis for recreational purposes are illegal in Somalia.
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## Traveling to Somalia with Medical Cannabis

If you are travelling to or residing in Somalia, it is essential to avoid all cannabis-related activities, even personal or minor medical use could lead to serious penalties.

### Steps to Take Before Departure:

1. Leave behind all cannabis-derived products, including:
  - Flower, edibles, vape cartridges.
  - THC or CBD oils, tinctures, or creams.
  - Cannabis-based prescription medicines (even with documentation).
  - CBD is also illegal in Somalia.
2. Request a treatment plan with non-cannabis alternatives to your local Doctor.
3. Ensure you have enough legal medication to manage your condition during the trip.
4. Some prescription drugs (even non-cannabis) may be controlled in Somalia.  
Always carry:
  - Medications in original packaging.
  - A doctor's letter describing your diagnosis and treatment.
  - Copies of your prescription.
5. Prepare for limited medical infrastructure. Identify hospitals and clinics near your stay location, note that outside Mogadishu facilities are basic.

## Interim National Medicines Regulatory Authority (INMRA) Contact Information

- Address: Ministry of Health, Corso Somalia Street, Shangani District, Mogadishu, Somalia; P.O. Box 22
  - Phone: (+252) 611 875 939
  - General Email: [info@nmra.gov.so](mailto:info@nmra.gov.so)
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## Practical Tips

- Do not attempt to bring cannabis or cannabis-derived products into Somalia.



- It is suggested to contact the Somalian embassy or consulate in your country for official confirmation.
- Arrange comprehensive travel insurance. Include medical evacuation coverage in case treatment is unavailable locally.

*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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