

## TÜRKIYE (TURKEY)

EUROPE - ASIA



Travel &amp; Possession Permitted with Limited or No Restrictions



### Summary

- Travelers may be permitted to bring prescribed cannabis (not plant forms) if they follow Turkey's official procedures. Importation is generally prohibited but exceptions exist for medical need with documentation.
- Foreign medical prescriptions are not accepted but a General Practitioner letter and prescription can be submitted to the authorities in advance to apply for admission.
- Recreational cannabis remains illegal, including whole-plant, flowers, vapes, or edibles.
- Medical cannabis in Turkey is legal, but severely restricted: only imported pharmaceutical cannabinoids like Sativex or low-THC prescription oils are permitted via a doctor's prescription.

### Background

Turkey has an extremely conservative drug policy today, where even simple possession can land people in prison. As such, the Republic has no legislation allowing the medical use of any non-pharmaceutical drugs.

However, in 2016, the Ministry of Health approved the limited sale of cannabis-based pharmaceuticals for medical purposes. The approval only applied to sublingual sprays like Sativex, requiring a physician's prescription.

Key points about the system:

- It is illegal to grow cannabis sativa plants to sell or use as a psychoactive drug in Turkey. However, the Republic recently created legislation allowing industrial hemp cultivation.
- Hemp cultivation became legal in 19 provinces in Turkey for industrial production in 2016. Growers who want to participate in the program must get permission from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock. Permits are valid for a maximum of three years.
- To be prescribed cannabis for medical purposes, you must be assessed by a Turkish doctor who is authorized to issue 'red' prescriptions. This type of prescription is allocated to medications that contain narcotics.



- Once a prescription is given, the patient may obtain cannabis-based medicines such as Sativex or CBD oils. Currently, these products are imported. However, in 2016, several cannabis production facilities were established across the country, which means that Turkey should be producing its own medicine in the future.
- Usually, medical cannabis is only prescribed for patients who have tried other forms of treatment and found them to be ineffective.

## Non-Medical Cannabis

- Consumption: Any public or private use is illegal. No decriminalization exists.
- Possession: Possession of cannabis (even small amounts) is considered a criminal offense and may result in arrest, court trial, and drug treatment programs.
- Sale & Distribution: Cannabis trafficking or supply carries heavy prison sentences, up to 20+ years depending on the quantity and intent.

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## Traveling to Turkey with Medical Cannabis

Travelers are not allowed to bring cannabis (raw or processed) into Turkey, even with a valid medical prescription from abroad. However, exceptional approval may be granted for pharmaceutical cannabis medications (e.g., Sativex), if arranged in advance.

### Steps to Take Before Departure:

1. Contact the Turkish embassy or consulate in your country to ask about importing medical cannabis medications.
2. Provide: Your passport information, a copy of your medical prescription (translated into Turkish or English), details of your medication (brand name, formulation, quantity), and doctor's letter explaining why the medication is necessary.
3. Request Ministry of Health approval via diplomatic channels.
4. Wait for written authorization before traveling. Do not attempt to carry medication into Turkey without it.

### Turkish Ministry of Health Contact Information

- Address: Sağlık Bakanlığı, Üniversiteler Mahallesi, Dumlupınar Bulvarı No:600, 06800 Çankaya/Ankara, Türkiye
- Phone: +90 312 585 1000
- General Email: [info@saglik.gov.tr](mailto:info@saglik.gov.tr)

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## Practical Tips

- Do not attempt to bring any cannabis product into Turkey without prior approval. Cannabis use is not tolerated, even if prescribed abroad.
- If traveling with non-cannabis medications, carry them in original packaging with a doctor's letter.
- If in doubt, consult the Turkish Embassy or Ministry of Health well in advance.

*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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