

# COLOMBIA

SOUTH AMERICA



Travel & Possession Permitted with Limited or No Restrictions



## Summary

- Travel to Colombia with prescribed medical cannabis is discouraged as foreign prescriptions are not officially recognized and there is risk of confiscation or delays at customs.
- Marijuana has been legal in Colombia since 2016 under Law 1787 for medical use.
- Only patients with a prescription from a licensed Colombian physician can access medical cannabis.
- Allowable product types include: Oils, tinctures, and, capsules (dispensed via licensed clinics/pharmacies). Dried flower is rare and more restricted.
- Medical cannabis is overseen in Colombia by INVIMA (Instituto Nacional de Vigilancia de Medicamentos y Alimentos - National Institute for Drug and Food Surveillance), entity that regulates medical cannabis products and authorizations. Additionally, the Ministry of Health oversees health-related policies and prescription protocols; while the Ministry of Justice issues cultivation and processing licenses.

## Background

Medical cannabis is legal in Colombia if you have a valid prescription from a licensed doctor.

Recreational cannabis is still illegal, even though the law allows people to carry small amounts. That means if you are stopped by the police, having a prescription is the best way to avoid trouble. Make sure you carry it with you if you are taking your medicine outside your home.

If you are a tourist planning to visit Colombia and already have a prescription from your home country, you should know that foreign prescriptions are not always accepted in Colombia. The safest choice is to meet with a Colombian doctor, either in person or online, and get a local prescription.



Also, it is recommended to not bring your cannabis products into Colombia. The law does not allow you to import them unless you have special government permission, which is very rare and hard to get. Instead, plan to get your medicine from licensed clinics or pharmacies in Colombia once you arrive.

If you live in Colombia, double-check that your documents are up to date before traveling to other cities. Some pharmacies or clinics might ask to see a prescription before giving refills, even if you already have a patient card.

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## Non-Medical Cannabis

Recreational cannabis is only partially legal. While individuals are allowed to possess and consume cannabis in Colombia, selling cannabis for recreational purposes remains illegal. Being a product with a very sensitive background in Colombia, and strong enforcement against recreational use, any breach that attempts to profit from commercialization of recreational use will be sanctioned as a criminal offence.

- Consumption:

Private consumption is decriminalized but not legal. Colombian Constitutional Court rulings allow adults to consume cannabis in private spaces without facing criminal charges.

Public consumption is restricted. A 2018 presidential decree banned public consumption of drugs (including cannabis), especially near schools, parks, and public buildings. Enforcement is inconsistent—some areas tolerate it; others enforce fines or police intervention. Use near minors or in public places may result in administrative sanctions, even for small amounts.

- Possession:

Small-scale possession is decriminalized. There is a limit to how much recreational cannabis can be found in your possession. Anything more than 20 grams is considered illegal under Colombia's cannabis laws. Possession beyond 20 grams is considered potential trafficking and may lead to criminal investigation or arrest.

Self-cultivation of cannabis for recreational purposes in Colombia is restricted to 20 plants per individual.

- Sale & Distribution:

Commercialization of recreational cannabis is illegal in Colombia. Sale, distribution, trafficking, or gifting of cannabis is a serious criminal offense. Penalties include long prison sentences (5–20+ years), depending on quantity and circumstances. No legal recreational market exists—no dispensaries, clubs, or licensed sellers for non-medical use.

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## Traveling to Colombia with Medical Cannabis

Bringing medical cannabis into Colombia is not permitted, even with a foreign prescription. There is no formal process to declare or get authorization for personal medical cannabis imports. Colombian customs may confiscate the product, and travelers could face delays or questioning at entry points.

When travelling within the country, keep your cannabis products in their original packaging and store them in a secure, smell-proof case. This helps prove that they are for medical use and that you are not hiding anything illegal. Always carry a copy of your prescription or medical ID, and if possible, have it in Spanish in case someone asks.

### Steps to Take Before Departure:

1. Do Not Bring Cannabis
  - Importing medical cannabis is illegal, even with a prescription.
  - Foreign prescriptions are not accepted.
2. Use Legal CBD Products
  - CBD is legal if it contains 0.2% THC or less.
  - Must be in original packaging with labels.
3. Consult Your Doctor
  - Ask about temporary alternatives or switching to CBD.
  - Bring a doctor's letter for reference if needed.
4. Need Medical Care in Colombia?
  - You may consult a Colombian doctor for a local prescription. However, access is not guaranteed during short visits.
5. Avoid Recreational Use
  - Possession under 20 g is decriminalized, but sale and public use are still illegal.

### INVIMA Contact Information

- Address: Carrera 10 # 64-28, Bogotá, Colombia
- Phone: +57 1 742 2121
- General Email: [contactenos@invima.gov.co](mailto:contactenos@invima.gov.co) and [consultascannabismedicamentos@invima.gov.co](mailto:consultascannabismedicamentos@invima.gov.co)

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### Practical Tips

- It is suggested to contact the Colombian embassy or consulate in your country for official confirmation.
- Colombia does not recognize medical cannabis prescriptions from abroad. To use cannabis legally in Colombia, you must:
  - See a Colombian-licensed physician.
  - Get a local medical prescription.
  - Purchase from licensed dispensaries or clinics within the country.



- Even though cannabis is legal for medical use, not everyone knows the details of the law. Do not assume police, hotel staff, or locals will recognize medical use at a glance.
- Local assistance to obtain a prescription can be requested at: [Los mejores especialistas en Marihuana Medicinal \(Cannabis Medicinal\)](#) and [Dr. Ricardo Urbina: Especialista en cannabis medicinal en Colombia](#)

*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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