

CYPRUS

EUROPE



Travel & Possession Permitted with Limited or No Restrictions



Summary

- Travel to Cyprus with prescribed medical cannabis is authorized but with strict official permission. Under Cypriot law, the importation of any cannabis (even trace THC) is illegal unless you hold a permit from the Minister of Health issued prior to travel.
- Medical cannabis/marijuana is legal in principle (since Feb. 2019); recreational use remains illegal (Class B drug). In Cyprus, cannabis is a controlled drug under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Law 1977 and the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Regulations 1979.
- International travelers can bring medical cannabis into Cyprus, after receiving approval from the Ministry of Health.
- Travelers from Poland, the UK, and other EU nations report successfully entering Cyprus with medical cannabis, provided they obtained and carried the official permit from the Cypriot Ministry of Health.
- Allowable product types include: Cannabis oils, tinctures, and capsules (dispensed via licensed pharmacies with specialist prescription and Ministry of Health approval). CBD products with $\leq 0.2\%$ THC are also permitted as pharmaceuticals. Dried flower is not available through legal medical channels.
- Medical cannabis is overseen in Cyprus by the Pharmaceutical Services division via the Drugs Council, operating under the Ministry of Health. The Pharmaceutical Services, through the Drugs Council, is the competent regulatory body for licensing, monitoring, and ensuring the safety, quality, and efficacy of medical cannabis products in Cyprus.

Background

Cyprus has legalized medical cannabis: first in a very limited form in early 2017 and more expansively in February 2019, permitting prescription, cultivation, import/export, and use for certain chronic conditions.

However, actual access to medical cannabis products in Cyprus remains highly limited. Supply chain infrastructure is under development, and most patients still cannot access prescribed cannabis products domestically.



Cypriot law does permit medical cannabis, but only under tight governmental control, and legally importing or using it as a non-resident requires formal permission. Without that permit, possessing or bringing cannabis, even for medical reasons, can lead to serious penalties, including fines, arrest, or deportation.

Non-Medical Cannabis

All recreational cannabis use is illegal in Cyprus, regardless of location (public or private). Cannabis is classified as a Class B controlled substance under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Consumption: Consumption, even in small amounts, can lead to criminal charges, especially for repeat offenders or those caught with larger quantities.

There is no legal tolerance for personal/recreational use.

Possession: Simple possession (even a small amount) is considered a criminal offense.

First-time offenders may be offered a diversion program: psychological evaluation, counseling, or mandatory drug treatment, especially for minors or students. Otherwise, criminal prosecution may apply, with penalties ranging from fines to imprisonment.

Quantities above “personal use” thresholds (unspecified, but judged case-by-case) may lead to charges for intent to supply.

Cultivation, whether personal or small-scale, is treated as a serious criminal offense often prosecuted as trafficking if more than minimal plants are found (e.g. over 3 plants or over 30 g cannabis).

Sale & Distribution: Selling, sharing, or trafficking cannabis is a serious criminal offense in Cyprus. Punishments are severe and include long prison sentences (up to 8 years or more) depending on the quantity and aggravating circumstances.

Operating any kind of unlicensed cannabis distribution system, retail, social clubs, or gifting, is completely illegal.

Repeat or large-scale trafficking offenses may result in life imprisonment, especially if linked to organized crime.

Traveling to Cyprus with Medical Cannabis

If you are visiting Cyprus and wish to bring with you your medicinal cannabis, you must first obtain a permit from the Minister of Health. In order to obtain this permit, you must submit the following:

- A completed and signed application form ([APPLICATION FORM FOR PATIENTS WHO CARRY CONTROLLED DRUGS DURING THEIR HOLIDAY IN CYPRUS.pdf](#))

- A report from your doctor declaring the preparation you are taking and the medical condition for which you are taking it.
- An official translation of your permit from the local authorities permitting you to possess and use medicinal cannabis.
- A copy of your prescription.
- A photograph of the product you are taking clearly showing its name, composition, and pack size.
- A copy of your current passport.

Please note that requests for bringing medicinal cannabis in to Cyprus are approved by the Minister of Health and this process can take up to 2 weeks. Therefore, to ensure your request is approved please provide the documentation requested as soon as possible before your travel to Cyprus.

All document must be sent by fax to +357 22 608 793 or by email to jstelliou@phs.moh.gov.cy, with copy to mpapaioannou@phs.moh.gov.cy and apaphitou@phs.moh.gov.cy.

Steps to Take Before Departure:

1. Obtain a Valid Medical Prescription:
 - Must be issued by a licensed medical practitioner in your country.
 - It should clearly state your full name, diagnosis, dosage, and treatment duration.
2. Prepare a Medical Certificate:
 - A physician-signed document explaining your medical condition and treatment necessity.
 - Should be translated into English or Greek.
3. Contact the Cyprus Pharmaceutical Services (Ministry of Health):
 - Request prior authorization to bring medical cannabis into Cyprus.
 - Include:
 1. Copy of prescription and medical certificate,
 2. Details of the cannabis product (type, quantity, THC/CBD content),
 3. Your ID/passport copy,
 4. Flight details and stay duration.
4. Wait for Written Approval
 - Do not travel with cannabis without receiving written approval from Cypriot authorities.
5. Carry All Documents During Travel
 - Bring printed copies of:
 1. Approval letter from Cyprus.
 2. Prescription.
 3. Doctor's certificate.
 4. Product packaging/label (in original container).
6. Declare at Customs (Red Channel)
 - Upon arrival, go through the Red Channel at customs and declare your medication.

Cyprus Ministry of Health (Pharmaceutical Services) Contact Information

- Address: Pharmaceutical Services Ministry of Health, 1 475, Nicosia, Cyprus
 - Phone: +357 22 608620
 - General Email: phscentral@phs.moh.gov.cy
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Practical Tips

- It is suggested to contact the Cyprus embassy or consulate in your country for official confirmation.
- Request approval to bring medicinal cannabis in to Cyprus before the local Ministry of Health at least two-weeks in advance from travel date, as approvals can take 2–3 weeks depending on ministerial schedules.
- After approval from the Ministry of Health, carry printed hard copies of the permit and prescription when traveling, especially at airport security.
- Expect strict enforcement: declaring it, presenting documentation in hand luggage, and using it only in private. Avoid public use entirely.
- Carry products in hand luggage, clearly labelled, together with printed permit and prescription, separate tray at security if needed.

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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