

EGYPT

AFRICA



Travel & Possession Not Permitted Under Any Circumstance



Summary

- Cannabis remains illegal for both medical and recreational use.
- There is no legal framework for the cultivation, possession, sale, import, or use of cannabis, including CBD or hemp-derived products.
- Penalties for violations can include imprisonment, fines, and in severe cases, the death penalty.
- Travelers cannot bring any cannabis products (including CBD), as these are treated as controlled substances.

Background

Medical marijuana is illegal in Egypt despite a long history of medical and recreational cannabis use. Ancient Egyptians were some of the first to describe cannabis for medicinal purposes in the Ebers Papyrus, a medical papyrus of herbal knowledge written in 1550 BC. That text and many ancient Egyptian documents describe cannabis's ability to treat various medical conditions, including: inflammation, pain, and sore eyes.

In the late 19th century, Egypt changed its stance, becoming one of the first countries to ban cannabis cultivation. The country's drug policy officially changed again in the 1920s, when organizations, including the Egyptian delegation and League of Nations, requested that the herb be put on the international list of most dangerous narcotics.

In 1925, the Egyptian government signed the League of Nations Geneva International Convention on Narcotic Control, making drugs, including hashish and cannabis, illegal in the country. Production, sale, and possession of medicinal cannabis products are still unlawful in Egypt today.

Egypt's Anti-Narcotics Law is ambiguous regarding the sale or use of cannabidiol (CBD). Although CBD products are non-psychoactive, authorities in the Arab world might still rule them illegal. "Hash" and "hemp" are the same word in Arabic, which can cause confusion surrounding legality, such as when an American faced death penalty charges for importing hemp seed oil in 2010.



Non-Medical Cannabis

- Consumption: Illegal. While small-scale personal use is sometimes tolerated in local cafes, authorities actively clamp down on use in certain settings.
- Possession: Illegal. Possession of small amounts may not always lead to strict enforcement, but legal penalties exist and can include fines, imprisonment, or mandatory rehabilitation.
- Sale & Distribution: Highly illegal. Selling or supplying cannabis is severely punished. Large quantities for distribution can lead to a life sentence (25 years in prison), and amounts over 10 kilos make individuals ineligible for a presidential pardon.

Traveling to Egypt with Medical Cannabis

Egypt does not recognize medical cannabis prescriptions from other countries. Any form of cannabis, including CBD products, oils, or edibles, is illegal to bring into Egypt. There are no legal exceptions for people in transit, entering, or leaving the country.

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 Egyptian 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 Egypt.

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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