

# FINLAND

EUROPE



Travel & Possession Permitted with Limited or No Restrictions



## Summary

- Travelers cannot generally bring medical marijuana into Finland. While medical cannabis is legal under specific conditions, it is highly regulated and only available with a prescription from a Finnish doctor, dispensed through specialized pharmacies. Importing medical cannabis from abroad is illegal, even for personal use, as it often exceeds the permitted THC levels under Finnish law. A permit from the local authority can be obtained.
- Travelers may bring medical cannabis only under strict conditions: valid prescription, Schengen certificate, original packaging, minimal quantity, and should coordinate with the Finnish embassy in advance.
- Medical cannabis is legal in Finland, but under very strict conditions. It is legal for medicinal purposes, but not for recreational use. Patients need a special permit from the Finnish Medicines Agency - FIMEA to use medical cannabis.
- Only a handful of medical cannabis products are available: the oral spray Sativex (with marketing authorization) and, in rare cases, herbal products such as Bedrocan, Bediol, or Bedica, but only via special FIMEA-approved permits and through a very limited number of pharmacies.
- Cannabis oils and capsules are not commonly used or widely available. Dried flower is rare and subject to stricter access and justification requirements.
- Medical cannabis is overseen in Finland by the Finnish Medicines Agency - FIMEA, under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, said entity regulates all medical cannabis matters including approval, prescribing, issuance of special permits, and pharmacy authorization. In addition, the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (VALVIRA) supervises healthcare providers and licensure compliance, but primary authority over cannabis lies with FIMEA.

## Background

Finland legalized the use of cannabis for medical purposes in 2008. As such, the use of medical marijuana is theoretically legal, but in a very limited form. In order to use cannabis for medical purposes, permission must first be obtained from a qualifying physician for a medical marijuana treatment program. This is not easy, as the use of



cannabis for medical purposes is possible as a last treatment option after all pharmacological measures have already been tried.

In this regard, Finnish law is quite restrictive. The number of people allowed to be treated with medical cannabis in Finland is very small, at around 500. They only have a choice of pharmaceuticals containing THC or CBD in their composition, for example, Sativex, Bedrocan, Bediol or Bedica.

The decriminalization or even legalization of the use of cannabis for recreational purposes is the subject of heated debate in Finland. Initiating the discussion in this regard is the Green League Party, which is a proponent of changing marijuana regulations in Finland. They have launched an initiative to decriminalize recreational use of cannabis. It includes regulating cannabis like other legal stimulants such as alcohol, as well as amnesty for those sentenced to serve jail time for cannabis possession. In contrast, another party, the National Coalition Party, wants to introduce the complete legalization of cannabis use in Finland.

If you are a tourist planning to visit Finland, you can bring prescription and self-administered medicines for personal use to Finland from abroad with certain restrictions.

You can bring prescription and self-administered medicines for personal use to Finland from abroad, such as:

- A quantity equivalent to a year's supply from an EEA country.
- A quantity equivalent to three months' supply from a non-EEA country.

The EEA countries include Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, the United Kingdom's Northern Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Sweden.

You can bring medication to Finland if:

- The product is licensed for sale in the country where you purchased it.
- You have purchased the product from a provider that is licensed to sell medicines.
- You can, when necessary, present a prescription or doctor's certificate to demonstrate that the medication is intended for your personal use.

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## Non-Medical Cannabis

Recreational cannabis is completely illegal. Possession, production, and trafficking are strictly prohibited and punishable by penalties from the criminal code. A person who possesses cannabis for personal use is subject to a fine.

Possession of cannabis during border control can result in inadmissibility to enter the country, deportation, and a criminal case for smuggling, if no documents or prior authorization are presented.



- Consumption:  
The criminal code prohibits consumption anywhere, including public areas or private properties.  
  
Public consumption is treated similarly to public drinking, it is disallowed in built-up areas and vehicles, though it is not cannabis-specific but aligns with general public order laws.
- Possession:  
Possession is criminalized, even for small amounts, but Finland follows a system of summary fines rather than prosecution for personal use:
  - Up to 15 g marijuana (or 10 g hashish) is typically fined (10–20 day-fines, ~€60-80 depending on income) rather than prosecuted.
  - Larger quantities escalate, with fines or imprisonment depending on amount (up to months in jail) and whether intent to distribute is inferred
- Sale & Distribution:  
All sale, distribution, cultivation (even personal), import/export, transport of cannabis for non-medical use is illegal.  
  
Those supplying or distributing risk criminal prosecution, potential jail terms up to several years, depending on scale and aggravating circumstances.

## Traveling to Finland with Medical Cannabis

Bringing medical cannabis into Finland is technically permitted, under strict restrictions and guidelines.

If you hold a valid prescription and permit issued in another country, especially EU/EEA, you may need a Schengen certificate ("Certificate for the carriage of narcotics in the context of medical treatment") to enter Finland legally with medical cannabis.

Finland permits import of prescribed medicines, not necessarily medical cannabis, for personal use:

- From EU/EEA: up to 1 year's supply allowed, with prescription.
- From outside EEA: up to 3 months' supply, with prescriptions and stricter controls on narcotic substances.

You can bring pharmaceutical products classified as narcotics, such as medical cannabis, to Finland for personal use as follows:

- A quantity equivalent to 30 days' supply from a Schengen country.
- A quantity equivalent to no more than 14 days' supply from a non-Schengen country.



The Schengen Area includes Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Germany, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Austria, Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Malta, Romania, Bulgaria, and Switzerland.

A Schengen certificate is required if you travel in the Schengen area and are carrying medicines that are classified as narcotics – primarily medicines that affect the central nervous system or psychotropic medicines. The certificate is to demonstrate the necessity of the medication. You can get a Schengen certificate at a pharmacy.

If you bring the same medicinal product, or a corresponding product, classified as a narcotic to Finland for the second time, a period at least equivalent to the appropriate administration period for the previously-imported quantity of medication must have elapsed. You may not simultaneously import medicinal products containing narcotic substances that, according to the product specification, cause a clinically significant and hazardous combined effect when used together.

Applying for a FIMEA-issued permit is encouraged.

Medical cannabis is a narcotic-controlled medicine, so stricter rules apply. You must:

- Carry original packaging, prescription, and patient information leaflet.
- Provide translated documentation (Finnish or Swedish; English may be acceptable if explained).
- Potentially apply for a Schengen narcotics certificate via a Finnish pharmacy or FIMEA, especially when arriving from other Schengen countries.

Ordering or importing illegal medicines is considered a pharmaceutical offence. In the case of medicines that are classified as narcotics, the crime is regarded as a drug offence.

### **Steps to Take Before Departure:**

1. If you are not a Finnish resident, you must obtain prior approval from FIMEA (Finnish Medicines Agency) to take medical cannabis, which is typically challenging and granted only in rare, justified medical cases. Contact FIMEA well in advance to ensure approval before the trip.
2. If you travelling from non-Schengen countries: only a 14-day supply is permitted, and a Schengen certificate will most likely be required
3. Carry the following in your hand luggage:
  - Official prescription or medical certificate, preferably in Finnish or English.
  - A doctor's letter explaining your diagnosis, necessity of treatment, type, and dosage of medication.
  - Any prior authorization or permit from FIMEA, if applicable.
4. Ensure medications are in original, clearly labeled packaging, this facilitates recognition and avoids confiscation.
5. Keep all documentation accessible, such as doctor's prescription and purchase receipt, for customs or security inspection.
6. Since bringing medical cannabis, even with documentation, remains legally complex and scarce:
  - Ask if alternative treatments are available in Finland.



- Be prepared to consult a Finnish doctor for potential locally approved therapies.
- Always remain informed, flexible, and respectful of local law enforcement and customs authorities.

### **FIMEA (Finnish Medicines Agency) Contact Information**

- Address: Hallituskatu 12–14, 70100 Kuopio, Finland
- Phone: +358 29 522 3341 and +358 29 522 3602
- General Email: [kirjaamo@fimea.fi](mailto:kirjaamo@fimea.fi)

### **Practical Tips**

- It is suggested to contact the Finish embassy or consulate in your country in advance for official confirmation.
- Travelers to Finland should bring a prescription and Doctor's letter, as well as have their documentation vetted, else customs may confiscate or deny entry.
- When bringing medicine to Finland, you must, if required, demonstrate that the product is intended for your own personal use. In the case of prescription medication, this can be done by presenting a prescription or doctor's certificate.
- Before traveling, verify prior eligibility: You cannot rely on a prescription issued outside Finland, foreign prescriptions (e.g., from US) are generally not valid for Finnish authorities. You will need to see a Finnish doctor and/or apply for FIMEA-issued permit.
- If you want to verify whether a product is classified as a medicine, you can check the matter with FIMEA at: [Contact us - Fimea](#)

*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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