

# IRAN

ASIA



Travel & Possession Not Permitted Under Any Circumstance



## Summary

- Cannabis, including CBD, medical, industrial, and recreational forms, is strictly illegal in Iran, with no legal exceptions.
- Penalties vary by offense type and quantity: from fines to imprisonment, and flogging.
- Traveling to Iran with any form of cannabis, even with a prescription from abroad, is still strictly prohibited and carries severe legal consequences.

## Background

There is no legal medical cannabis program in the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, it is worth noting that cannabis has been used for medical purposes in the Middle Eastern nation. Some Iranian Muslim scholars point out that cannabis is not expressly forbidden in the Koran. Nonetheless, cannabis remains illegal in Iran, with clear penalties in place for those who transgress Iranian law. Iran once had one of the most rigid anti-drug stances in the world. Harsh penalties were instated for drug-related crimes following the 1979 revolution, including capital punishment for drug trafficking.

Following substantial debate, however, Iran updated its penal law code pertaining to narcotic drugs and softened its stance in 2018. The death penalty for cannabis possession and trafficking has now been eliminated.

Nowadays, in contemporary Iran, those caught with weed receive a penalty proportionate to the quantity they possess. Penalties can include flogging (corporal punishment), fines, or prison time.

## Non-Medical Cannabis

- Consumption: it can result in lengthy prison sentences and heavy fines.
- Possession: First-time offenders typically face fines or short-term imprisonment; repeat offenders may face significant prison terms.
- Sale & Distribution: Severe penalties including long-term imprisonment.



## Traveling to Iran with Medical Cannabis

Transporting any form of cannabis, including CBD or hemp-derived products, whether prescribed or not, is strictly forbidden.

Foreigners caught with such substances risk arrest, imprisonment, deportation, and other legal repercussions. Foreign prescriptions are not accepted under Iranian law.

### 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 Iranian authorities do not acknowledge them.

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### 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 Iran.

*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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