**Europe & Region**

**United Kingdom**

The world’s biggest exporter of cannabis bud, it still prosecutes users - cannabis is a Class B, Schedule 1 drug and you can be fined or even thrown in jail for possession. Saying that the government happily sells it to anyone overseas with the money (as it does weapons to Saudi Arabia to bomb the daylights out of Yemen).   
  
However thanks to a 2018 media frenzy it does now permit CBD oil, (GW Pharmaceuticals CBD / THC mixture) Sativex and (artificial THC) Nabilone to be prescribed to certain patients by a senior specialist doctor, although this is extremely difficult to obtain (just like bombs).

**Greece**

While the country legalised all forms of cannabis for medical use in June 2017, as of February 2019 no patients have been prescribed it yet. Possession of small quantities (a joint’s worth) has been decriminalised.

**Macedonia**

It is legal to grow, process and distribute cannabis for medical use, though you have to get a license from the Ministry of Health. Illegal for recreational use.

**Ireland**

New medical use legislation is expected in 2019 but with a ‘special circumstances license’ it is possible to have a prescription for certain pharmaceutical preparations today.

**Czech Republic**

Recreational use: possession of 5 plants or fewer or 15 grams of bud is considered a misdemeanour in law.

Legal as a prescribed medication.

**Belgium**

Decriminalised for recreational use.

A specialist doctor can prescribe for medical use. Thanks to a legislative vacuum on the matter, this is usually done through a medical organisation called Medcan.

**Austria**

Recreational: decriminalised for personal use.

Medical: No legislation on the matter so doctors cannot prescribe it. Patients make use of recreational decriminalisation to treat themselves.

**Malta**

Recreational use: small quantities decriminalised.

Medical: On prescription from a doctor, legal. Grows are permitted with a government license.

**Luxembourg**

Expected to be fully legalised by 2023.

Currently medical prescriptions being piloted across the country.

**Norway**

Medical use: only by a specialist doctor and then only if the specialist can prove all other treatments have failed.

**Finland**

Medical use: If a specialist doctor recommends medical use, a doctor can prescribe it. Unlike many other countries the Finnish government leaves it to the specialist’s own view as to what condition the prescription can be given for - not some arbitrary list of medical conditions.

Recreational: Illegal

**Sweden**

Bediol legalised for medical use. Currently only 2 (two) patients have been prescribed it. Sativex (GW Pharmaceuticals CBD / THC preparation) legal too.

Illegal for recreational use

**Croatia**

Medical use: MS, cancer, epilepsy and AIDS amongst a small list of conditions for which permitted.

Recreational use: possession of bud decriminalised. You can be prosecuted for a grow or dealing.

**Slovenia**

Recreational: decriminalised.

Medical: illegal.

**Lithuania**

Medical: only for multiple sclerosis, cancer and autoimmune diseases

Illegal for recreational use.

## Middle East, Caucuses and Africa

**Israel**

Israel is a world research leader in medical cannabis and as of 2018 the country became an exporter.

Recreational use: 2 grams or less will result in a small fine and a police warning (hardly loads of weed), but above 2 grams you can get a criminal record.

Medical use: legal on prescription as of 2018.

**Turkey**

The country has just legalised for medical use on prescription from a doctor. The cannabis must come from a fully licensed domestic supply chain from seed to sale.

Recreational use or dealing / smuggling can result in very tough punishments. If you’re considering it, watch the movie Midnight Express first!

**Republic of Georgia**

Recreational: Like many of its ex-Communist bedfellows Georgia has traditionally had tough drugs laws. Josef Stalin’s home country has recently decriminalised it for possession or use through its Constitutional Courts.

No medical laws as yet but this is set to change.

**Zimbabwe**

Perhaps an opportunity to mellow out opposition from its democracy activists, Zimbabwe has just legalised cannabis for medical purposes on prescription. The former ‘Breadbasket of Africa’ has a great climate for growing so watch out for exports coming from there in the near future.

**Lesotho**

This micro state in the heart of South Africa allows grows for medical use with a license. Government is in talks to consider exporting.

**South Africa**

In 2018 its highest court legalised cannabis for recreational use by adults in private dwellings.

## Asia

**Australia**

Medical use now permitted for chronic pain, Multiple Sclerosis muscle spasms, epilepsy, anorexia brought about by illnesses like cancer and HIV, nausea from chemotherapy and palliative care. It can be supplied in any form to the patient.

Moves are underway to fully legalise for recreational use, the government having seen the economic boom from it in Canada.

**New Zealand**

Medical use permitted for end of life care.

In 2020 should the Labor Party be elected into government there will be a referendum on recreational use.

**Nepal**

Recreational: Cannabis is legal during the Maha Shivaratri religious festival but the police won’t bother with you the rest of the time. This isn’t formal decriminalisation so be nice to policemen if you do stink of weed as they may shake you down if you’re uncivil.

**Sri Lanka**

Medical: If used in Ayurvedic medicine.

**Thailand**

Medical: legal as of 2018.

Recreational: unenforced by police but this can be used to get you if you misbehave in other ways.

**Vanuatu**

This tiny Polynesian island has begun to legalise for medical use in 2018.

## Central and South America

**Argentina**

Possession and use of small quantities of cannabis decriminalised

In the states of Chubut and Santa Fe medical use is permitted.

Only CBD products legal for medical use nationally

**Bermuda**

Medical use permitted but only from two (2) doctors on the archipelago.

**Chile**

Decriminalised for recreational private use at home

As of 2017 can be bought from medical dispensaries - the first country in the region to do so.

**Colombia**

Colombia plans to use its old illegal cannabis plantations for export. It could well overtake the UK as the biggest cannabis exporter in the world in the next few years.

Only legal for medical consumption in Colombia currently - buds recently permitted to be sold as well as pharmaceutical preparations.

**Peru**

As of February 2019, in the process of being legalised for medical use. The law permits it but the hows and whys are being ironed out

## North America

## Canada

**Alberta:** Minimum age 18 to consumer, buy, possess and grow. Home grows permitted (4 plants). Same laws for smoking in public as tobacco, though illegal to consume near children

**BC:**  Minimum age 19 for growing, possession, consumption and buying. 4 plant limit. Consumption around children forbidden.

**Manitoba:** Not allowed home grows. 19 year old age limit. Private sales will eventually come online but none at present - only from one of 14 government dispensaries

**NB**  Age limit 19. Can only be consumed in a private residence. 4 plants permitted but only in a secure grow room.

**Newfoundland and Labrador:** Age limit 19. Only to be consumed in a private residence. 4 plants max per household. Private (licensed) and government dispensaries as well as online sales.

**Nova Scotia:** Age limit 19. Can only consume in private residence or designated public spaces. Only supply available from Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation.

**Ontario:** Age limit 19. No consumption in public spaces or in front of children (as with tobacco). Private retail stores to sell as of April 19, but government only until then.

**PEI:** Age limit 19. Consumption only in private residences. 4 plants per household. Only available through the Prince Edward Island Cannabis Management Corporation

**Quebec:** Age limit 18, though this could change to 21 in the next year. No personal grows. Public use permitted away from schools and universities. Sales controlled by Société Québécoise du Cannabis (SQDC)

**Saskatchewan:** Age limit 19. No public consumption. 4 plants per household. Private distribution system & sales as well as private online sales.

## New USA states

**National:** Farm Bill signed into law, permitting commercial of low THC hemp for products including fibres, oils and food products. This reverses the complete ban on cannabis of all varieties in place since the 1940s.

**Delaware:** Recreational decriminalised. No punishment for less than 1oz.

**New Hampshire:** home grows for medical marijuana now permitted as of 2019. Did not extend list of qualifying conditions.

**Maryland:** Recreational possession decriminalised. Possession of fewer than 10 grams fine of $100.

**Michigan:** Recreational legalised for adults over 21. 2.5oz possession and up to 12 plants.

**Minnesota:** Decriminalised. Possession of fewer than 42.5 grams no possibility of jail time. That’s a big bag of weed.

**Mississippi:** Decriminalised. Fewer than 30 grams punishable with a fine up to $250 but not less than $100.

**Missouri:** Medical use legalised in 2018. No medical organisation supports it so very hard to get a prescription. Recreational: Decriminalised for up to 10 grams ($500 fine if caught - no jail time). Moves to legalise afoot in 2019 though attempts to get it on the ballot in 2018 failed.

**Nebraska:** Decriminalised for up to 1oz - a bust of that amount means citation of up to $300 and will be required to attend a drug education course

**New Hampshire:** Recreational decriminalised. Up to 0.75oz of bud, 5 grams of hash or concentrate fine of up to $100.

**New York:** Recreational decriminalised. Up to 25 grams will be punishable with a $100 fine.

**Ohio:** Recreational decriminalised (up to 20 grams).

**Oklahoma:** The freest and easiest medical marijuana system in the US was set up in 2018. Doctors can prescribe for any medical condition. No limit on production or sales licenses means a gold rush to the state in 2019 with the state essentially letting producers and vendors to fight to death. As a result of the huge demand for medical weed, prices are sky high - touching $400/oz in early 2019, double the price of nearby AZ.

**Rhode Island:** Recreational decriminalised. Possession of up to 1oz punishable with $150, no jail time or criminal record.

**Utah:** Medical marijuana cards to be offered by 2020. Possession of marijuana where permitted under the UT Medical Cannabis Act will not be prosecuted by state authorities (though be aware of Federal agencies). Medical dispensaries and the infrastructure of supply currently being set up (as of Feb 2019).

**Vermont:** Legalized recreational use through its state legislature in 2018, the first state to do so without a ballot. From July 2019, possession of up to 1oz and 2 plants will be legal. No legal market for production and sale will be available initially.