

Recreational drug and alcohol use

Although recreational drugs may be readily available in some countries, their purchase, consumption, import and export are prohibited virtually everywhere. If you break the law in another country, you are subject to that country's judicial system. So don't agree to transport, hold, buy or use illegal drugs under any circumstances.

Recreational drug use can also lead to serious safety risks, as well as physical and mental health problems. Drug dealers may not know (or reveal) exactly what they are selling; drugs laced with other substances or chemicals or contaminated by fungi or moulds can be harmful, resulting in bad drug reactions, including fatal overdoses.

The Government of Canada does not, and cannot, authorize Canadians to use marijuana for medical purposes in other countries. Canadians are subject to the laws and judicial systems of the country in which they are travelling.

Alcohol strengths vary, and the alcohol available on your travels might be stronger than what you're used to. Don't accept drinks from strangers – drugs may be present in the beverages and put you at risk of sexual assault and robbery. Also be mindful that local laws may not tolerate drinking, especially binge drinking. In Saudi Arabia, for example, the importation, possession and use of alcohol is strictly forbidden. To find out if alcohol is permitted at your destination, contact the country's embassy or consulate in Canada before you travel.