

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRAVELING WITH CANNABIS





Traveling with Cannabis: Everything You Need to Know

Cannabis legality is constantly evolving, and each year governments across the world are loosening the reins on cannabis prohibition. However, some states and countries are legalizing cannabis at a slower pace, and do not consider cannabis to be medicine or a product for recreational enjoyment, but as a dangerous drug. Before assuming that your next travel destination is cannabis-friendly, it is crucial to do your research so you know exactly what to expect during your trip.

In this guide, we will outline everything you need to know, from cannabis-friendly destinations—and the ones you should avoid—to the most secure ways to transport your cannabis products from point A to point B.

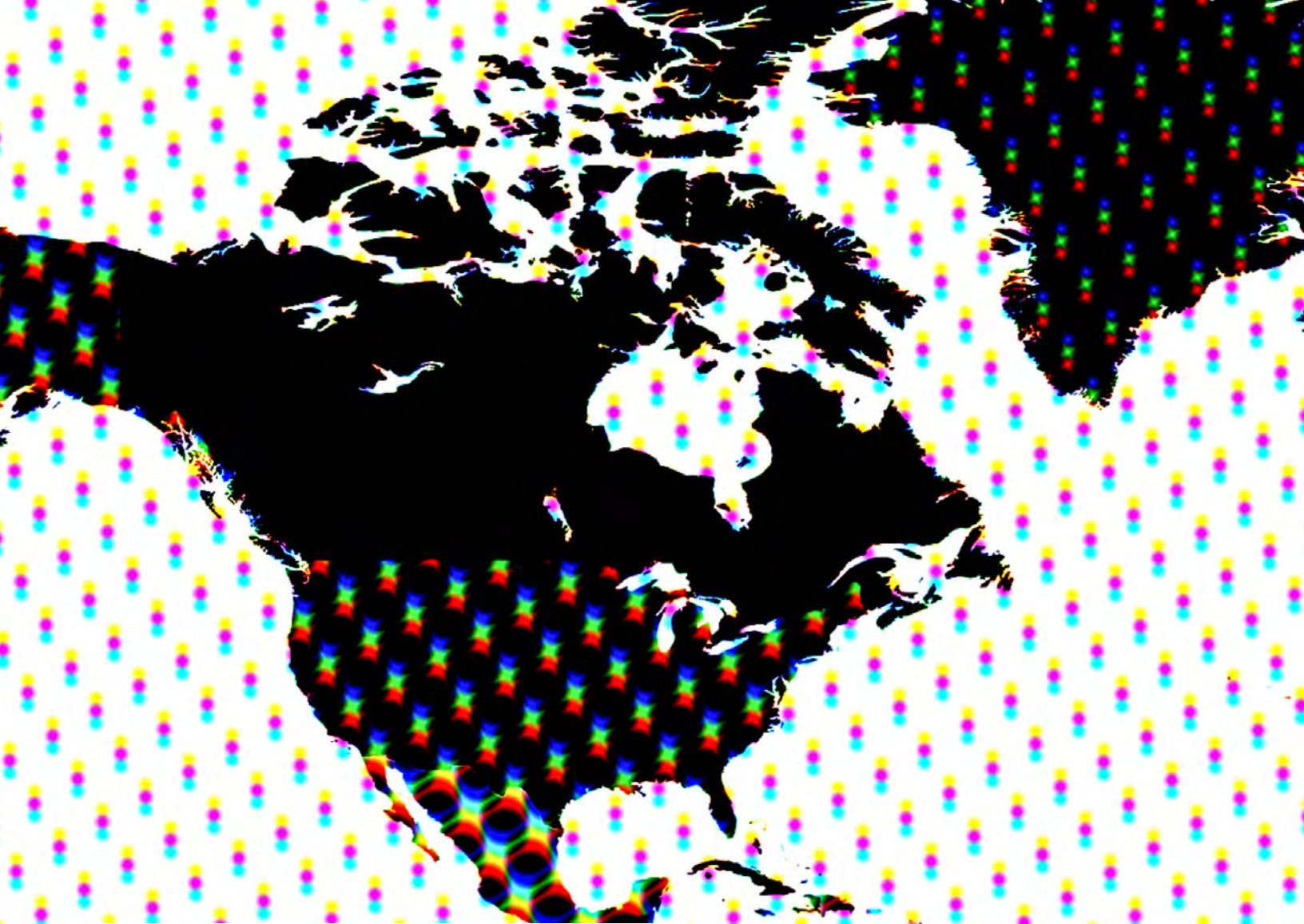




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**CANNABIS
LEGALITY AROUND
THE WORLD**

1





CANNABIS LEGALITY AROUND THE WORLD

The laws of cannabis around the world cover a wide spectrum. Some territories have made cannabis fully legal for adult use while others enforce strict prohibition laws, often with severe legal consequences. In the United States, neighboring states can all be on different sides of the spectrum. In the states on the Pacific coast—Washington, Oregon, and California—cannabis is legal for adult use (recreational). But go next door to Idaho and cannabis is entirely illegal, and you will have to take special precautions with how you are consuming and transporting cannabis products in different states. One state over, Montana allows the consumption of cannabis, but only with a medical card. These nuances in cannabis legality takes place across city, county, state, and country borders.

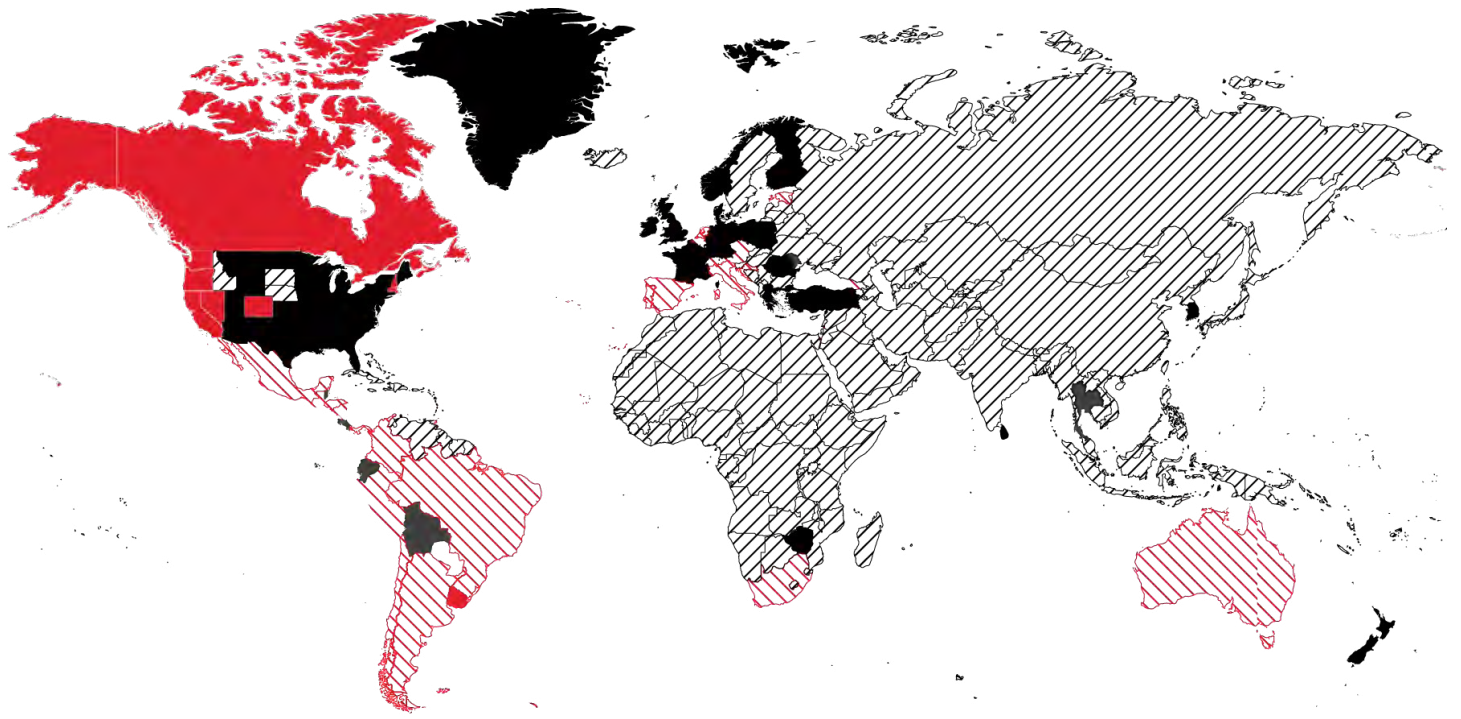
This is why it is crucial for you to know the cannabis laws of each place you will be traveling, even if you are just passing through.










CANNABIS LEGALITY BY COUNTRY

With such contradictory laws from place to place, you need to be familiar with the legality of cannabis before transporting or consuming any products. If your travel plans involve cannabis, the following maps will show you the places you can—and cannot—expect cannabis tolerance.



-  Cannabis for adult use is legalized (recreational)
-  Cannabis for adult use is legal in certain locations/circumstances
-  There is some legality for recreational cannabis or it is decriminalized, but medical cannabis is not legal
-  Medical cannabis is legal, cannabis for adult-use is illegal
-  Cannabis is illegal

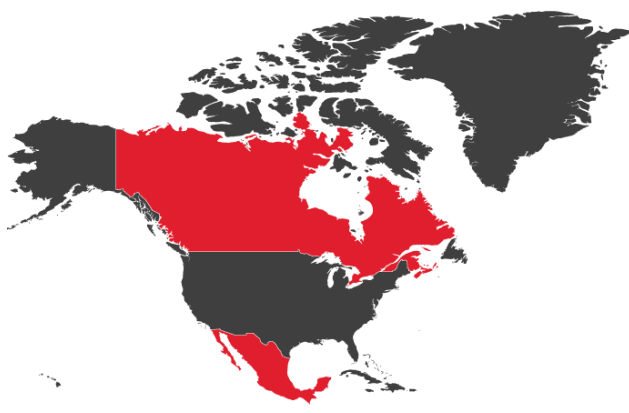
Source: [Edison Investment Research, April 2019](#)



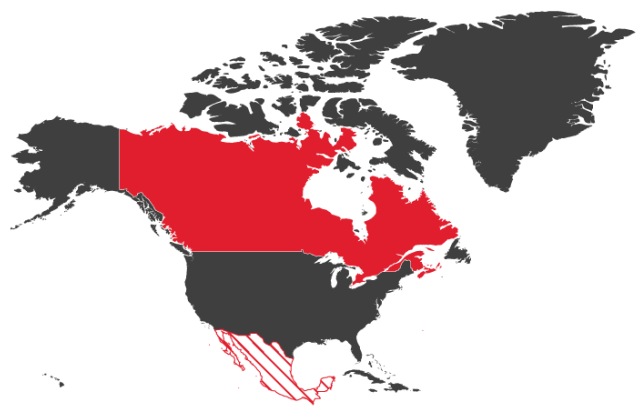
NORTH AMERICA

In 2018, [Canada legalized both medical and recreational cannabis](#) across the entire country. In Mexico, recreational cannabis is legalized, while medical cannabis is partially legal, but is expected to be fully legalized by the end of 2020. Cannabis is still fully illegal in Greenland and Cuba.

The United States region of this map is gray because cannabis is still classified as illegal under United States federal law; however, individual states have been given the autonomy to decide how they regulate cannabis. Below is a map showing where the individual states stand.



RECREATIONAL CANNABIS



MEDICAL CANNABIS

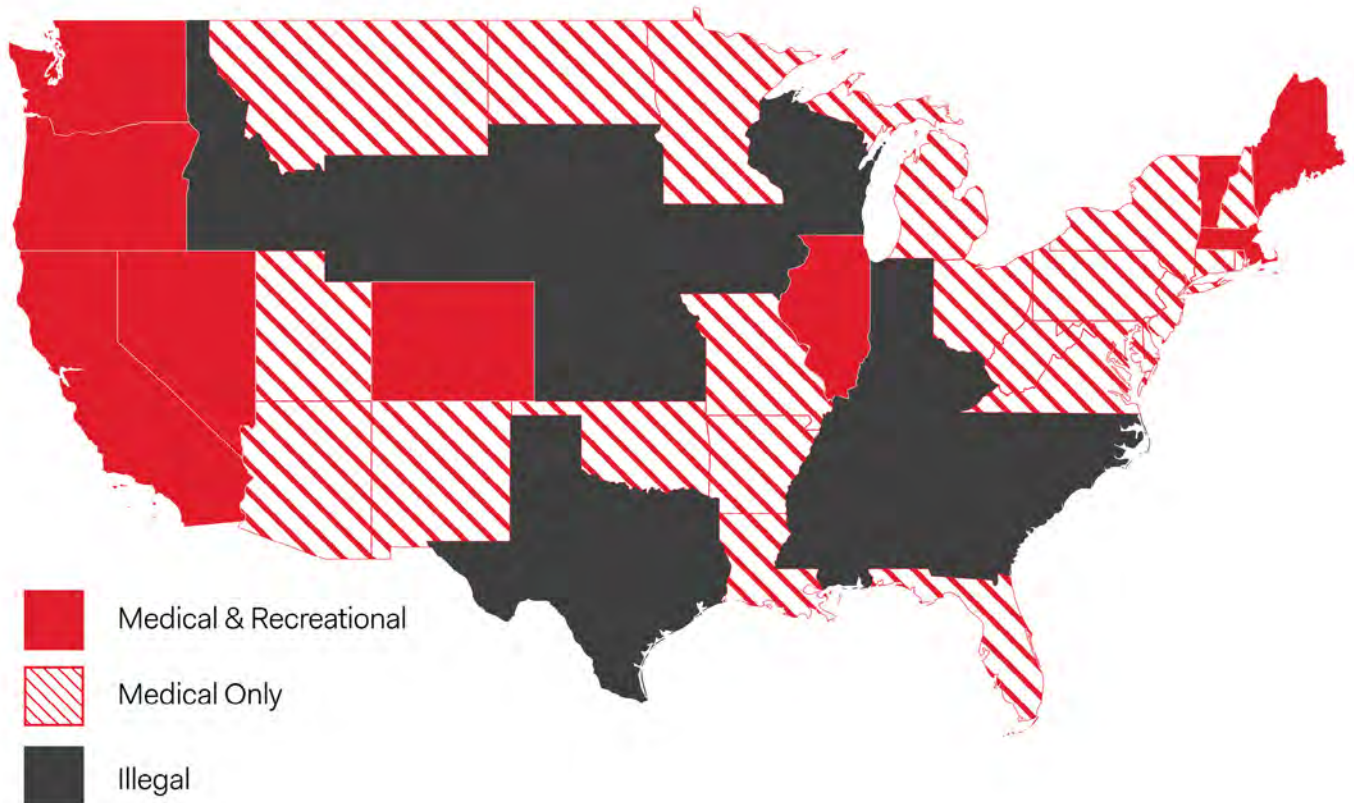
Source: [The Cannigma, October 2019](#)



UNITED STATES

Currently, medical cannabis is legal in 33 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. Cannabis for adult use is legalized in 11 states and D.C., plus the U.S. territories of Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

Although individual states and territories have established their own cannabis laws, cannabis is still illegal on a federal level. So when it comes to traveling by air in the U.S.—which is managed by TSA, a federal agency—bringing cannabis is a tremendous risk, and could ruin your travel plans.



Source: [The Cannigma, October 2019](#)



CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

The majority of Central and South America are very tolerant of cannabis, both medicinally and for adult-use, with Uruguay being the first country in the world to fully legalize cannabis in 2013. However, cannabis travelers may want to avoid El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as those countries have the strictest laws of all. Getting caught with even a small amount of cannabis could result in jail time in these countries.



Legal Decriminalized

RECREATIONAL CANNABIS



Legal Partial

MEDICAL CANNABIS

Source: [The Cannigma, October 2019](#)



EUROPE

At a glance, Europe is tolerant of cannabis. 29 out of 44 countries in Europe have legalized its use in some form. Most Western European countries have decriminalized adult-use cannabis or legalized medical cannabis, while the Eastern European country of Georgia is the only place in the European Union* with full cannabis legality.

*Note: Georgia is sometimes considered part of the EU and sometimes considered part of Asia.

European countries that do not tolerate cannabis include Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, and Vatican City. If you're planning to visit any of these places, do not bring or use cannabis products.

29/44

COUNTRIES IN EUROPE
HAVE LEGALIZED ITS USE
IN SOME FORM



LEGAL CANNABIS IN EUROPE

29 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
HAVE LEGALIZED MEDICAL CANNABIS IN SOME FORM



COUNTRIES WITH SOME FORM OF LEGALIZATION

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| ■ Austria | ■ Denmark | ■ Gibraltar | ■ Netherlands | ■ Slovenia |
| ■ Belgium | ■ Faroe Islands | ■ Greece | ■ Norway | ■ Spain |
| ■ Channel Islands | ■ Finland | ■ Italy | ■ Poland | ■ Switzerland |
| ■ Croatia | ■ France | ■ Luxembourg | ■ Portugal | ■ Turkey |
| ■ Cyprus | ▨ Georgia | ■ Macedonia, FYR | ■ Romania | ■ United Kingdom |
| ■ Czech Republic | ■ Germany | ■ Malta | ■ San Marino | |

Source: [New Frontier Data, 2019](#)



OCEANIA

There are 14 countries in the Oceanic region, and official laws in the majority of Oceanic countries still classify cannabis for adult-use as illegal. Australia, New Zealand, and Vanuatu all have medical cannabis programs in place.

Cannabis travelers should absolutely avoid Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu, as these destinations carry extremely harsh punishments for cannabis possession.



Legal Decriminalized

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MEDICAL CANNABIS

Source: [The Cannigma, October 2019](#)





ASIA

While there are a few places in the Asian region that do not heavily criminalize cannabis, the majority of Asian countries have very low tolerance for its use. For cannabis-loving travelers, however, Sri Lanka and Thailand are the most tolerant. Also, while cannabis is illegal in Tajikistan, the police are often more concerned with the opioid problem, and foreigners are reportedly less targeted by law enforcement.

For cannabis enthusiasts traveling to Asia, the places to avoid include Hong Kong, Japan, Laos, North Korea, Russia, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam, as you could face fines or jail time. In extreme cases, cannabis trafficking is punishable by the death penalty in Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan.

Despite its strict cannabis laws in Laos, cannabis-related offenses often go unpunished and products infused with cannabis are sold openly and in high volumes.

While Mongolia's stance on cannabis is full criminalization, the cannabis plant grows naturally throughout most of the country, making enforcement a challenge.



Legal Decriminalized

RECREATIONAL CANNABIS



Legal Partial

MEDICAL CANNABIS

Source: [The Cannigma, October 2019](#)



AFRICA

Outside of South Africa, the entire African continent is strict about cannabis. We recommend that you stay in the southernmost region if you plan to consume or you could find yourself in big trouble, up to and including jail time.



Legal Decriminalized

RECREATIONAL CANNABIS



Legal Partial

MEDICAL CANNABIS

Source: [The Cannigma, October 2019](#)



MIDDLE EAST

The only Middle Eastern country that is officially relaxed about cannabis is Israel, which makes sense, as it is the birthplace of cannabis research. Other countries that are somewhat lenient about cannabis—despite classifying it as illegal—are Egypt, Lebanon, and the northern areas of Pakistan. Other than those few places, cannabis possession is a highly punishable offense in the Middle East, so you should plan your travel accordingly.



Legal Decriminalized

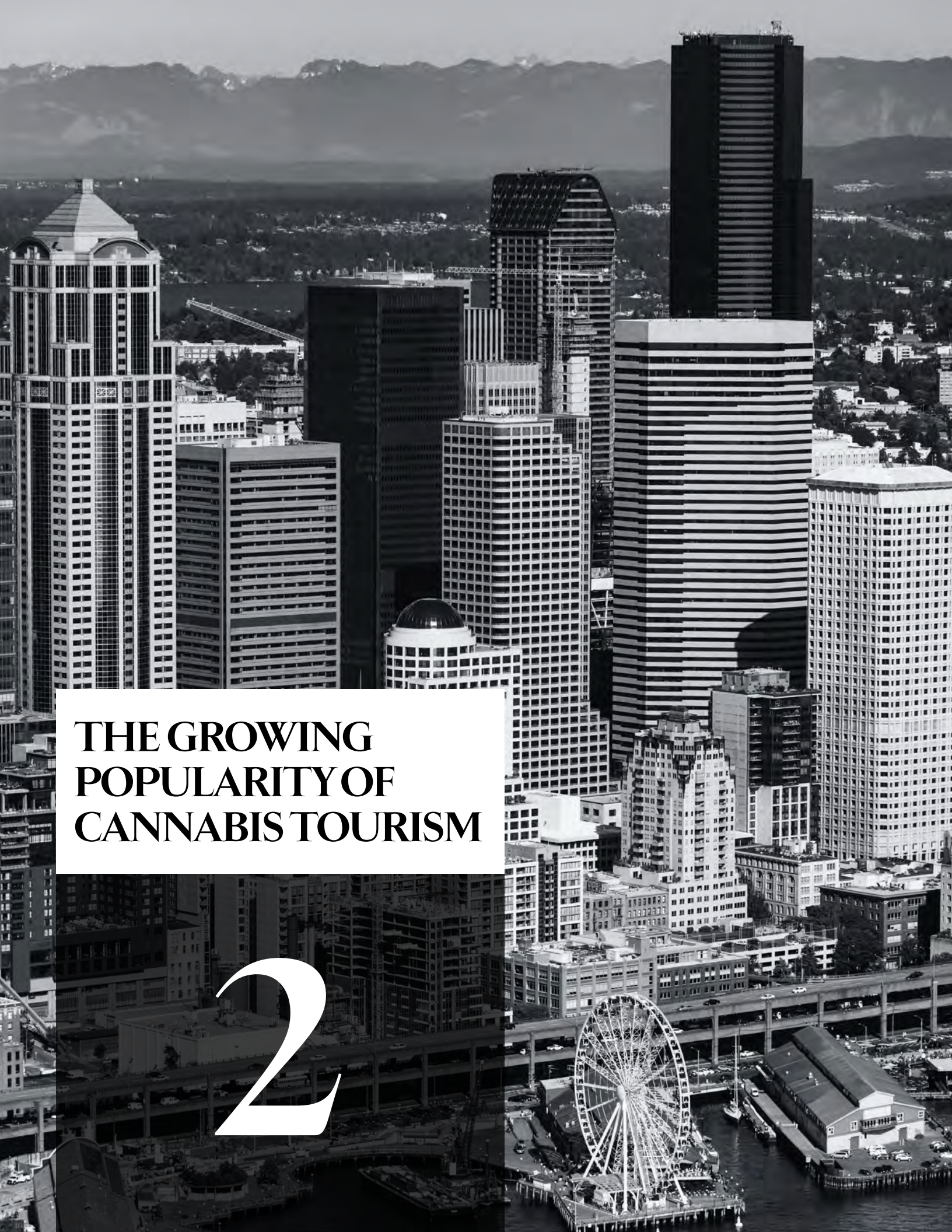
RECREATIONAL CANNABIS



Legal Partial

MEDICAL CANNABIS

Source: [The Cannigma, October 2019](#)



**THE GROWING
POPULARITY OF
CANNABIS TOURISM**

2



THE GROWING POPULARITY OF CANNABIS TOURISM

There are cannabis enthusiasts who want to bring cannabis along on all their adventures, and then there are travelers who want to immerse themselves in cannabis activities. If you are in the latter group, you are in luck: cannabis tourism is becoming increasingly mainstream.

Cannabis-Friendly Destinations

With the popularity of cannabis tourism growing at such a fast pace, there are more than just a couple of cannabis-centric destinations for you to choose from.



Monroe, Washington—USA

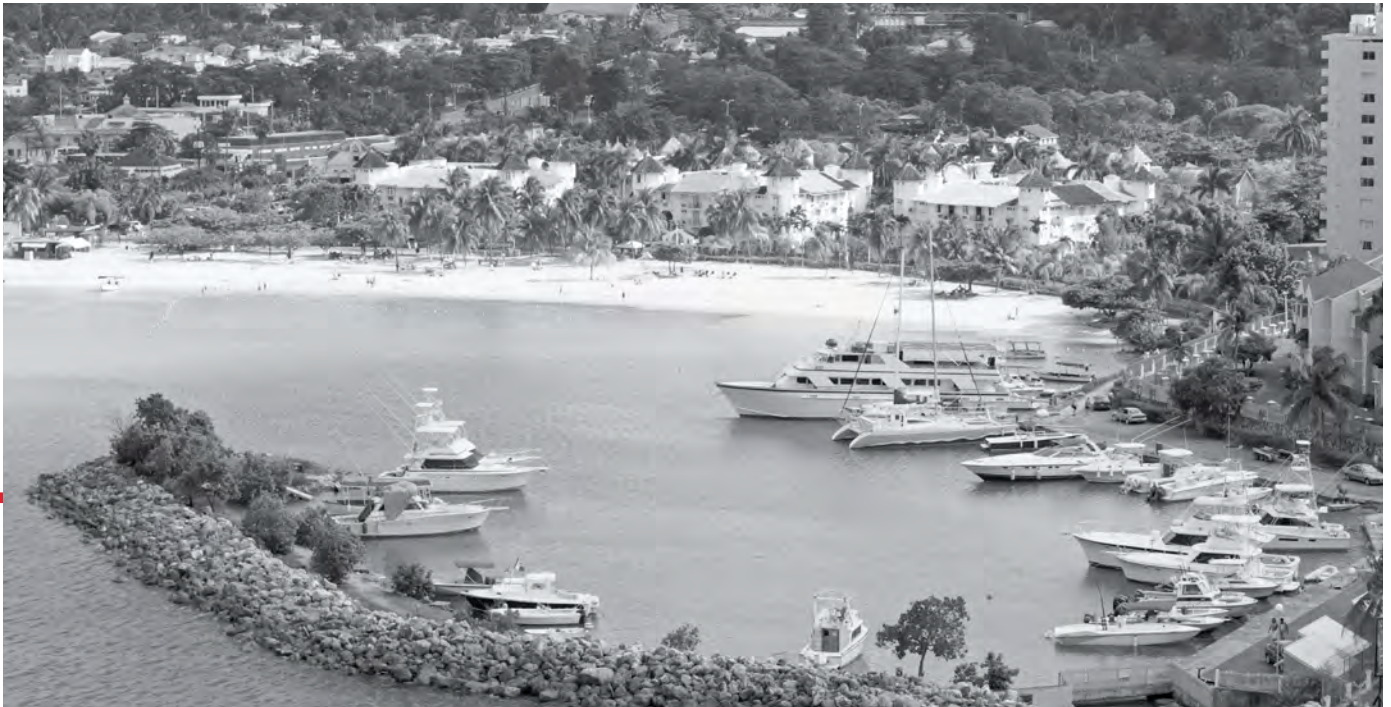
In the state of Washington, cannabis for adult use has been legal since 2012, and cannabis activities are all over. In the small city of Monroe, you can smoke cannabis and sleep in a tree house at [Mountain Views Tree House Joint](#). On the property, there are three tree houses—all very cannabis friendly, they encourage it. You can openly consume cannabis at the Tree House Joint because it is private property. It is otherwise illegal to consume cannabis in public in Washington.



Amsterdam, Netherlands—EU

For years, travelers have been visiting Amsterdam “coffee shops” to experience what it is like to enjoy cannabis in a public setting. You can now consume cannabis in more places than just Amsterdam, but tourists still make the trip for the Amsterdam-quality cannabis. If you don’t mind large crowds, plan to visit during the fall season to attend the annual [High Times Cannabis Cup](#).





Westmoreland, Jamaica

If you are craving a tropical cannabis getaway, [Coral Cove Cannabis Resort](#) is a wonderful destination. Coral Cove is a cannabis-friendly oceanfront property bordering a farming village. At the resort, cannabis is grown in cooperation with the island's Bobo Shanti Rastafarian sect, who have a religious exemption for cannabis cultivation from the Jamaican government. Elsewhere in Jamaica, cannabis is decriminalized and laws are very relaxed.

These are only a few of the dozens of prime cannabis-tourism destinations in the world, so do some more digging and see what is out there. Barcelona, Christchurch, and Alberta are cannabis-friendly.



**STORING
CANNABIS
FOR TRAVEL**

3



STORING CANNABIS FOR TRAVEL



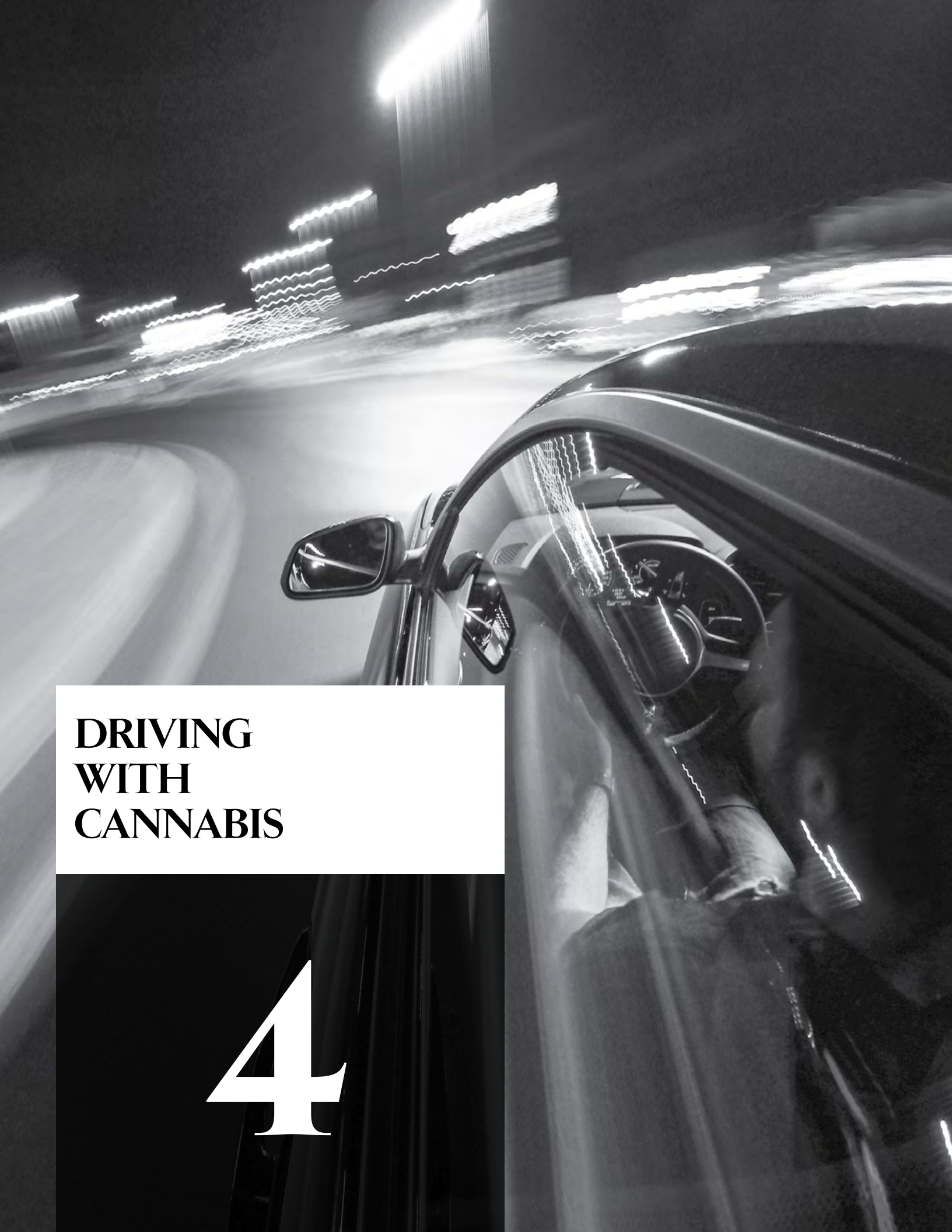
No matter where you are headed or how you are getting there, you need compact and secure accessories for transporting your stash.

The Best Cannabis Storage Options

If you are bringing flower, the most important thing you need is a smell-proof container. Glass is not practical if you are going to be bouncing from place to place—one wrong move with your bag and you will be struck cleaning up cannabis and bits of glass. We suggest a smell-proof stash bag—ideally with a lock—that also has a carbon lining, as this helps conceal smell and will also keep your buds fresh. If you need something smaller, an airtight and vacuum-sealed container is your next best option.

Once you have your cannabis in the right container, make sure it is secured inside a bag, in mild conditions. Light degrades THC, so store it in a relatively cool, dark place and keep it away from warm appliances, as heat and humidity can cause mold. Similarly, near-freezing conditions can cause the crystals on your flower to fall off and make your buds less potent.

To read more about storing cannabis, check out our article [How to Safely Store Cannabis](#).



**DRIVING
WITH
CANNABIS**

4



DRIVING WITH CANNABIS

Since cannabis is still federally illegal in the United States, even if you purchase and possess lawfully, crossing state lines with cannabis is illegal. So to safely transport cannabis in your car, you need to follow some very simple rules. If you're not in the United States, the same rules apply, as it's a good idea to be cautious when driving with cannabis no matter where you are at or where you're going.

How to Drive with Cannabis

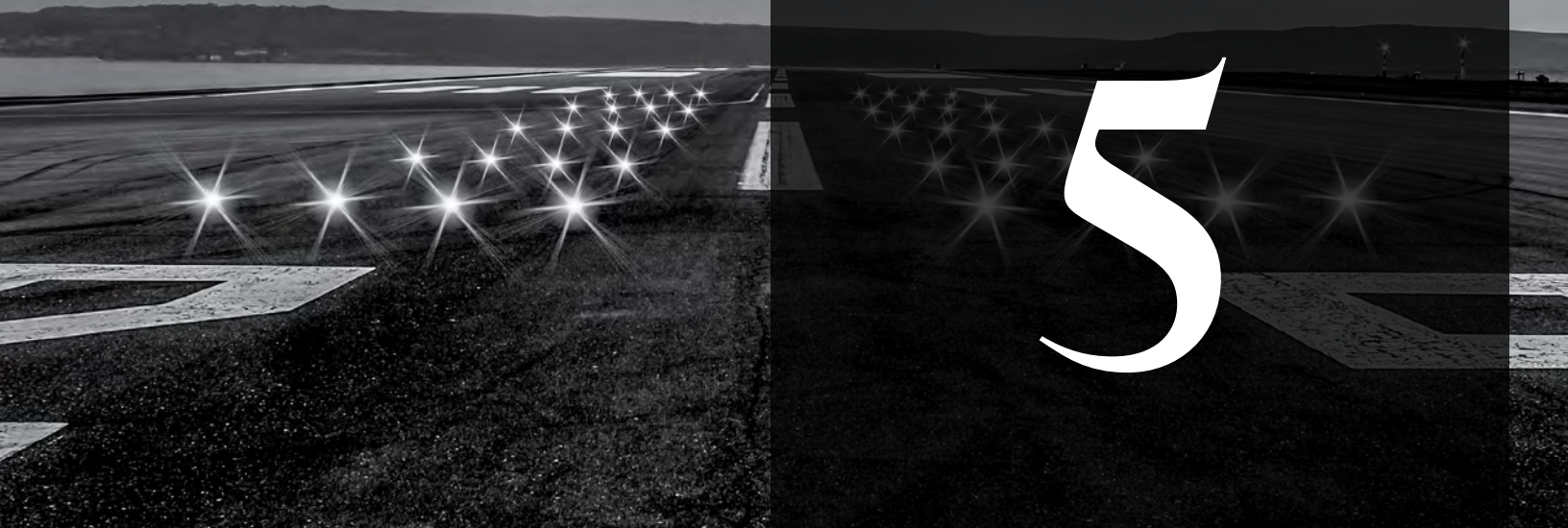
- DO store all of your products and supplies in a smell-proof container.
- DO store the smell-proof container in another bag with other items—such as a duffel bag or suitcase.
- DO store these bags in the trunk of your car and leave them in the trunk for the entirety of your drive.
- DON'T smoke or consume in your car at all.
- DON'T open your smell-proof bag while you're in the car for any reason.
- DON'T store your cannabis in the cab of the car, as having it within arm's reach could complicate a traffic stop.
- DON'T consume cannabis and then operate the vehicle.

For more information, read our article [Everything You Need to Know About Driving with Cannabis in Massachusetts](#).



**FLYING
WITH
CANNABIS**

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FLYING WITH CANNABIS

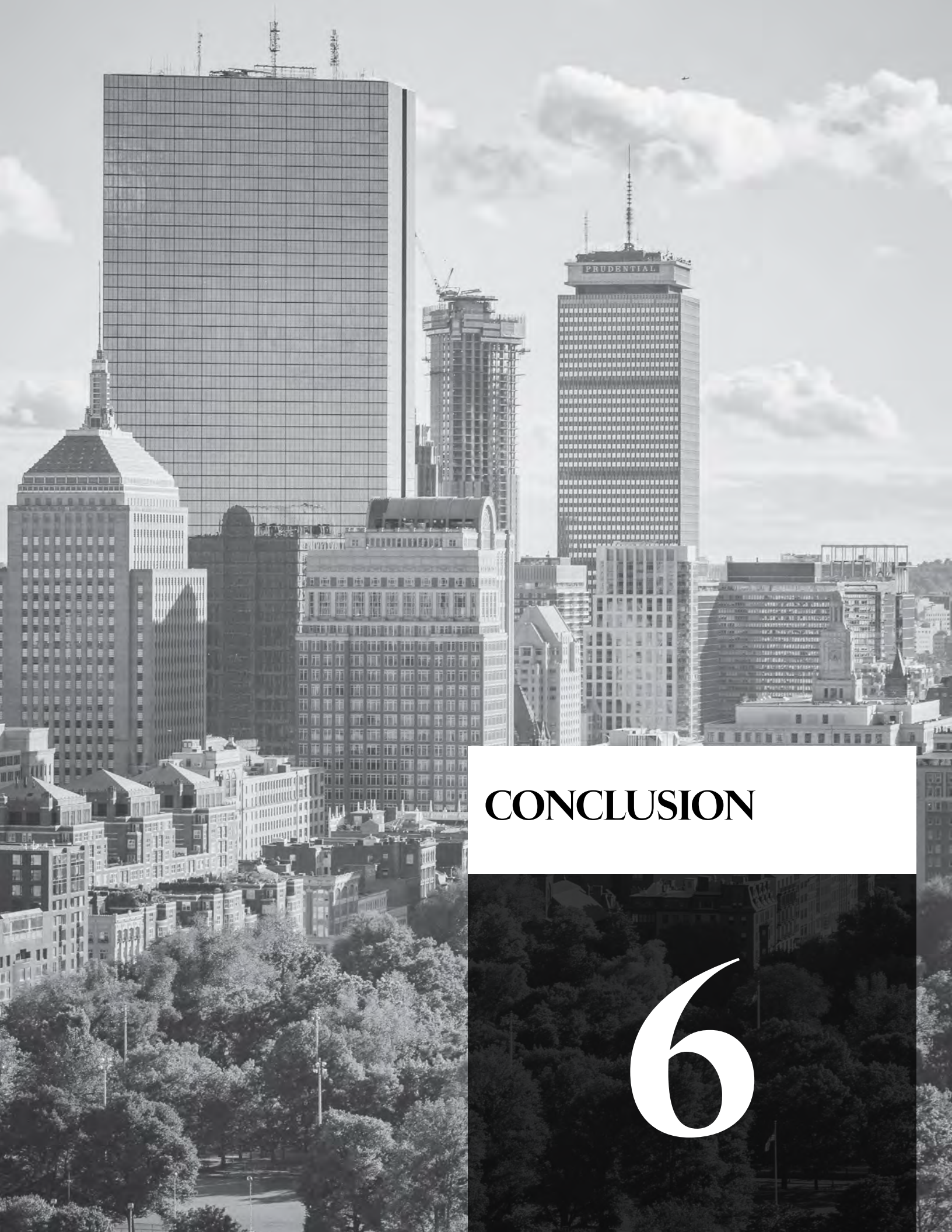


Airports are some of the most closely watched environments you can find yourself in—and an airport is certainly not the place you want to get caught doing something you should not be doing. Flying with cannabis is incredibly risky.

Realistically, TSA is more concerned with someone attempting to bring a weapon onto a plane than they are with the joint you have stowed in your carry-on. That said, the risks of flying with cannabis outweigh the benefits of traveling with cannabis. Your best bet is to purchase cannabis products once you have arrived at your destination.

One thing that is very important to note: In the event that you get to the airport with your stash and decide you don't want to risk it, some airports have amnesty boxes where you can dispose of it without penalty. If there is no amnesty box, the next best place is flushed down from an airport bathroom.

Read more about flying with cannabis in our article [Can You Bring Edibles on a Plane? Everything You Need to Know About Flying With Edibles.](#)



CONCLUSION

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CONCLUSION



Now that you've got a long list of cannabis-friendly destinations for your upcoming travels—and the places NOT to go—plus tips for how to transport your goods by car and by plane, you should be all set to plan your next adventure and safely bring your cannabis along. If you still have questions about traveling with cannabis, there is a wealth of information available online from [Happy Valley's Resource Center](#).

If you find yourself in Massachusetts, we would love for you to stop into our Happy Valley Gloucester or Boston retail stores and say hello. Wishing you safe and happy travels!

To keep up with the recent developments at Happy Valley, subscribe to our email list and become a [Happy Valley Insider](#).

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