

E-CIGARETTES GUIDELINES FOR TRAVELLERS

India



Bhutan



Sri Lanka



Maldives



Nepal



INDIA

Travelers planning to visit India should be aware of the country's strict regulations regarding electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and vaping devices. In 2019, the Indian government implemented a nationwide ban on the production, import, sale, and advertisement of e-cigarettes and related products, primarily due to public health concerns and the rising popularity of vaping among young people.

Key Points for Tourists

- **Importation Prohibited:** Bringing e-cigarettes, including disposable vapes, into India is not allowed. Customs officials have the authority to confiscate such devices upon arrival.
- **Personal Use:** While the law specifically targets the sale and distribution of vaping products, it also affects travelers intending to bring their own devices for personal use. There have been instances where travelers carried disposable vapes without facing significant issues; however, this is risky, and the safest approach is to avoid bringing any vape products into India.
- **Airport Security:** If you choose to travel with a disposable vape despite the risks, be aware that such devices should be placed in your carry-on luggage, not in checked baggage, due to safety regulations concerning lithium-ion batteries. However, carrying e-liquids in hand luggage is not advisable.

Recommendations

- **Avoid Bringing Vapes:** To prevent potential legal complications and ensure a hassle-free journey, it is advisable not to bring any vaping devices or related products when traveling to India.
- **Stay Informed:** Always check the latest regulations regarding vaping and tobacco products in your destination country before traveling.

BHUTAN

Importation and Possession

As of July 2, 2021, the sale, distribution, buying, possession, and transportation of tobacco products are permitted within the country.

However, the importation of vaping devices and e-liquids is subject to specific conditions:

- Declaration and Taxation: Travelers are required to declare vaping products at customs upon arrival and pay applicable taxes, which can be substantial.

Usage Restrictions

Despite the allowance for personal possession, Bhutan enforces strict prohibitions on the use of vaping devices in public spaces:

- Public Spaces: Vaping is prohibited in all public areas, including restaurants, hotels, parks, and streets.
- Private Spaces: Usage is generally permitted in private residences and designated smoking zones within certain hotels.

Cultural Considerations

Bhutanese culture places a high value on respect and mindfulness. Visitors are encouraged to be considerate and avoid vaping in areas where it may be deemed offensive or disruptive.

Recommendations for Travelers

- Compliance: Strictly adhere to all local laws and regulations regarding vaping to avoid legal complications.
- Stay Informed: Consult official Bhutanese resources or your travel provider for the most current information on vaping policies before your trip.

SRI LANKA

Travelers planning to visit Sri Lanka should be aware of the country's stringent regulations regarding electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and vaping devices.

Importation and Sale

Sri Lanka has implemented a comprehensive ban on the manufacture, import, sale, and offer for sale of e-cigarettes, regardless of whether they contain tobacco. This prohibition is enforced under the Prohibited Tobacco Products Regulations, No. 1 of 2016.

Usage in Public Places

While the sale and importation of e-cigarettes are banned, their use is not explicitly prohibited in public spaces such as restaurants, train and bus stations, and shopping malls. However, vaping is typically restricted to designated smoking areas. To respect local customs and regulations, it is advisable to exercise discretion and avoid vaping in public areas.

Recommendations for Travellers

- Avoid Bringing E-Cigarettes: To prevent potential legal issues, it is advisable not to bring e-cigarettes or related products into Sri Lanka.
- Respect Local Laws: Adhere to Sri Lanka's regulations by refraining from using vaping devices in public places.
- Stay Informed: Before traveling, consult official sources or your travel provider for the most current information on vaping policies in Sri Lanka.

MALDIVES

As of November 15, 2024, the Maldives has introduced new regulations regarding the import and use of vapes, impacting all tourists visiting this idyllic Indian Ocean destination. The updated policy reflects the country's ongoing efforts to regulate tobacco and smoking-related products more strictly.

Key Regulations

- **Vape Ban:** Tourists are prohibited from bringing vapes into the country.
- **Confiscation and Return:** Travelers arriving with a vape must deposit it at a designated counter at the airport. They will receive a receipt and can collect the vape upon departure.
- **Prohibited Items:** The import ban extends to tobacco products, smoking accessories, shishas, and flavored cigarettes.

Exceptions

Tourists aged 18 and older with a valid tourist visa may bring in:

- Up to 200 cigarettes or
- 25 cigars or
- 250 grams of tobacco

NEPAL

Travelers planning to visit Nepal should be aware of the country's stringent regulations regarding electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and vaping devices.

Importation and Sale

Nepal prohibits the importation, sale, and distribution of e-cigarettes. The Tobacco Product Control and Regulatory Directive, 2014, explicitly bans these activities, aiming to control the proliferation of vaping products within the country.

Usage in Public Places

The use of e-cigarettes is restricted in public spaces. Similar to traditional tobacco products, vaping is not allowed in public areas, including public transport, to protect individuals from second-hand exposure.

Recent Developments

In response to the rising use of e-cigarettes, particularly among the youth, Nepal has initiated steps to enforce stricter regulations. In May 2024, the government collaborated with various ministries to enhance enforcement measures against electronic cigarettes.

Recommendations for Travellers

- **Avoid Bringing E-Cigarettes:** To prevent potential legal issues, it is advisable not to bring e-cigarettes or related products into Nepal.
- **Respect Local Laws:** Adhere to Nepal's regulations by refraining from using vaping devices in public places.
- **Stay Informed:** Before traveling, consult official sources or your travel provider for the most current information on vaping policies in Nepal.