

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ALCOHOL POLICIES

TABLE: Minimum Age Limits Worldwide

ICAP has gathered information from over 100 countries around the world on the minimum ages to legally purchase and consume alcohol.

The table below records the minimum legal purchase ages both on- and off-premise and by beverage type (beer, wine, and spirits). The World Health Organization defines on- and off-premise as follows:

On-premise retail sale refers to the selling of alcoholic beverages for consumption at the site of the sale, generally in pubs, bars, cafes or restaurants.

Off-premise retail sale refers to the selling of alcoholic beverages for consumption elsewhere and not on the site of sale. Off-premise sale takes place, for example, in state monopoly stores, wine shops, supermarkets, and petrol stations or kiosks, depending on the regulations of the country. (World Health Organization, 2004, p. 15)

This table is continually monitored and updated as international laws change. The data have been confirmed by sources in each country. If you have information about a country not listed here or if you find any of the information outdated, please [email us](#).

Reference:

World Health Organization (WHO). (2004). *Global status report: Alcohol policy*. Geneva, Switzerland.

Country	Drinking Age: On premise	Purchasing Age: Off premise	Notes
Albania	None	None	
Algeria	18	18	
Argentina	18	18	
Australia	18	18	
Austria	16/18 (see notes)	16/18 (see notes)	For distilled spirits, the age limit is 16 in three Federal States and 18 in six Federal States (there are nine Federal States in Austria). However, some Federal States differentiate by alcohol content, rather than by beverage type. Thus, drinks with an alcohol content of 12% ABV or more can only be consumed by individuals aged 18 and over, which therefore includes some wines and all mixtures containing spirits (e.g., alcopops, cocktails).
Azerbaijan	18	18	
Bahamas	18	18	
Belarus	18	18	
Belgium	16 beer and wine. 18 for spirits.	None for beer and wine. 18 for spirits.	
Belize	18	18	

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Country	Drinking Age: On premise	Purchasing Age: Off premise	Notes
Bolivia	18	18	
Botswana	18	18	
Brazil	18	18	
Brunei	Illegal	Illegal	
Bulgaria	18	18	
Burundi	16	16	
Cambodia	None	None	
Cameroon	18	21	
Canada	18/19 (see notes)	18/19 (see notes)	18 in Manitoba, Alberta and Quebec. 19 in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Yukon.
Cape Verde	18	18	
Central African Republic	18	18	
Chile	18	18	
China, People's Republic of	18	18	
China, Republic of (Taiwan)	18	18	
Colombia	18	18	
Comoros	None	None	
Congo, Republic of	18	18	
Costa Rica	18	18	
Croatia	18	18	
Cyprus	17	17	
Czech Republic	18	18	
Denmark	18	16	
Dominican Republic	18	18	
Ecuador	18	18	
Egypt	18 for beer. 21 for wine and spirits.	18 for beer. 21 for wine and spirits.	
El Salvador	18	18	
Equatorial Guinea	None	None	
Eritrea	18	18	

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Country	Drinking Age: On premise	Purchasing Age: Off premise	Notes
Estonia	18	18	
Ethiopia	18	18	
Fiji	21	21	
Finland	18	18	
France	16 for beer and wine. 18 for spirits.	16 for beer and wine. 18 for spirits.	
Gabon	None	None	
Gambia	Illegal (18 for 5% non-Muslim population)	Illegal (18 for 5% non-Muslim population)	
Georgia	16	16	
Germany	16 for beer and wine. 18 spirits.	16 for beer and wine. 18 spirits.	
Ghana	None	None	
Greece	17	None	
Guatemala	18	18	
Guinea-Bissau	None	None	
Guyana	18	18	
Hungary	18	18	
Iceland	20	20	
India	18 to 25, depending on state.	18 to 25, depending on state.	
Indonesia	21	21	
Ireland	18	18	
Israel	18	18	
Italy	16	16	
Jamaica	None	16	
Japan	20	20	
Kazakhstan	None	18	
Kenya	18	18	
Korea, Republic of (South Korea)	19	19	
Kyrgyzstan	None	None	
Latvia	18	18	
Lesotho	18	18	
Libya	Illegal	Illegal	
Lithuania	18	18	
Luxembourg	16	None	
Malawi	18	18	
Malta	16	16	

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Mauritius	18	18	
Mexico	18	18	
Micronesia	21	21	
Morocco	None	16	
Mozambique	18	18	
Namibia	18	18	
Netherlands	16, but 18 for spirits that have an ABV of over 15%.	16, but 18 for spirits that have an ABV of over 15%.	
New Zealand	18	18	
Nicaragua	19	19	
Niger	18	18	
Nigeria	18	18	
Norway	18, but 20 for spirits defined as 22% ABV.	18, but 20 for spirits defined as 22% ABV.	
Pakistan	Illegal (21 for non-Muslim population)	Illegal (21 for non-Muslim population)	
Palau	21	21	
Panama	18	18	
Papua New Guinea	18	18	
Paraguay	20	20	
Peru	18	18	
Philippines	18	18	
Portugal	16	16	
Russia	18	18	
Samoa	18	18	
Seychelles	18	18	
Singapore	18	18	
Slovenia	18	18	
Solomon Islands	21	None	
South Africa	18	18	
Spain	18 (16 in Asturias)	18 (16 in Asturias)	
Sri Lanka	18	18	
Swaziland	0	18	
Sweden	18	20, but 18 for beer with ABV of 3.5% or less	

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Switzerland	16/18, depending on the canton, for beer and wine. 18 in all cantons for spirits.	16/18, depending on the canton, for beer and wine. 18 in all cantons for spirits.	
Thailand	18	18	
Togo	None	None	
Tonga	18	None	
Trinidad and Tobago	18	18	
Turkey	18	18	
Turkmenistan	18	18	
Uganda	18	18	
Ukraine	18	18	
United Kingdom	18 (see notes)	18	Beer and wine can be purchased on premise at 16 years of age if with a table meal and when accompanied by an adult aged 18 years or over.
United States	21	21	
Uruguay	18	18	
Vanuatu	18	18	
Venezuela	18	18	
Zambia	18	18	
Zimbabwe	18	18	