



### What is Legal drinking age (LDA)

In many countries, a minimum age is set at which it becomes legal to drink or purchase alcohol. This drinking age provides a legally enforceable tool in preventing access to alcohol by those under a certain age on or off premise.

- *Drinking* age may be distinct from the minimum legal age at which a person may *purchase* alcohol. For example, in the UK, 16 and 17 year olds may drink wine, beer or cider with a meal in a licensed premises when with adults, but may not purchase the alcohol themselves until aged 18.
- Most legal drinking age legislation does not cover drinking in the home with parental permission and supervision (legal from age 5 in the UK for example).

Country	Drinking Age: On premise	Purchasing Age: Off premise
Albania	None	None
Algeria	18	18
Argentina	18	18
Australia	18	18
Austria	16/18 (For spirits, the age limit is 16 in three Federal States and 18 in six Federal States - 12% ABV or higher can only be consumed by 18 and over in some states.)	16/18 (For spirits, the age limit is 16 in three Federal States and 18 in six Federal States - 12% ABV or higher can only be consumed by 18 and over in some states).
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
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)

<b>Cape Verde</b>	18	18
<b>Central African Republic</b>	18	18
<b>Chile</b>	18	18
<b>China,</b>	18	18
<b>Colombia</b>	18	18
<b>Comoros</b>	None	None
<b>Congo, Republic of</b>	18	18
<b>Costa Rica</b>	18	18
<b>Croatia</b>	18	18
<b>Cyprus</b>	17	17
<b>Czech Republic</b>	18	18
<b>Denmark</b>	18	16
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	18	18
<b>Ecuador</b>	18	18
<b>Egypt</b>	18 for beer. 21 for wine and spirits.	18 for beer. 21 for wine and spirits.
<b>El Salvador</b>	18	18
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	None	None
<b>Eritrea</b>	18	18
<b>Estonia</b>	18	18
<b>Ethiopia</b>	18	18
<b>Fiji</b>	21	21
<b>Finland</b>	18	18
<b>France</b>	16, but 18 for spirits.	16, but 18 for spirits.
<b>Gabon</b>	None	None
<b>Gambia</b>	Illegal (18 for 5% non-Muslim population)	Illegal (18 for 5% non-Muslim population)
<b>Georgia</b>	16	16
<b>Germany</b>	16 for beer and wine. 18 spirits.	16 for beer and wine. 18 spirits.
<b>Ghana</b>	None	None
<b>Greece</b>	17	None
<b>Guatemala</b>	18	18
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	None	None
<b>Guyana</b>	18	18
<b>Hungary</b>	18	18

<b>Iceland</b>	20	20
<b>India</b>	18 to 25, depending on state.	18 to 25, depending on state.
<b>Indonesia</b>	21	21
<b>Ireland</b>	18	18
<b>Israel</b>	18	18
<b>Italy</b>	16	16
<b>Jamaica</b>	None	16
<b>Japan</b>	20	20
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	None	18
<b>Kenya</b>	18	18
<b>Korea, Republic of (South Korea)</b>	19	19
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	None	None
<b>Latvia</b>	18	18
<b>Lesotho</b>	18	18
<b>Libya</b>	Illegal	Illegal
<b>Lithuania</b>	18	18
<b>Luxembourg</b>	16	None
<b>Malawi</b>	18	18
<b>Malta</b>	16	16
<b>Mauritius</b>	18	18
<b>Mexico</b>	18	18
<b>Micronesia</b>	21	21
<b>Morocco</b>	None	16
<b>Mozambique</b>	18	18
<b>Namibia</b>	18	18
<b>Netherlands</b>	16, but 18 for spirits above 15% abv.	16, but 18 for spirits above 15% abv
<b>New Zealand</b>	18	18
<b>Nicaragua</b>	19	19
<b>Niger</b>	18	18
<b>Nigeria</b>	18	18
<b>Norway</b>	18, but 20 for spirits above 22% ABV.	18, but 20 for spirits above 22% ABV.
<b>Pakistan</b>	Illegal (21 for non-Muslim population)	Illegal (21 for non-Muslim population)
<b>Palau</b>	21	21
<b>Panama</b>	18	18
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	18	18
<b>Paraguay</b>	20	20

<b>Peru</b>	18	18
<b>Philippines</b>	18	18
<b>Portugal</b>	16	16
<b>Russia</b>	18	18
<b>Samoa</b>	18	18
<b>Seychelles</b>	18	18
<b>Singapore</b>	18	18
<b>Slovenia</b>	18	18
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	21	None
<b>South Africa</b>	18	18
<b>Spain</b>	18 (16 in Asturias)	18 (16 in Asturias)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	18	18
<b>Swaziland</b>	0	18
<b>Sweden</b>	18	20, but 18 for beer with ABV of 3.5% or less
<b>Switzerland</b>	16/18, depending on the canton, for beer and wine.18 for spirits.	16/18, depending on the canton, for beer and wine.18 for spirits.
<b>(Taiwan)</b>	18	18
<b>Togo</b>	None	None
<b>Tonga</b>	18	None
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	18	18
<b>Turkey</b>	18	18
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	18	18
<b>Uganda</b>	18	18
<b>Ukraine</b>	18	18
<b>United Kingdom</b>	18 (Beer,wine and cider can be consumed on premise at 16 if with a table meal and when accompanied by an adult aged 18 or over.	18
<b>United States</b>	21	21
<b>Uruguay</b>	18	18
<b>Vanuatu</b>	18	18
<b>Venezuela</b>	18	18
<b>Zambia</b>	18	18
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	18	18