# **IS IT LEGAL TO GAMBLE** WITH BITCOINS?

## **INTRODUCTION:**

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There is **no country** around the world with a specific law that categorically bans playing blackjack, roulette or poker online using **Bitcoin** as the payment method. This form of online gaming can only be illegal, or not, by association or in consideration of laws affecting other aspects related to it.



There are  $\mathbf{2}$  aspects that majorly influence the legality of gambling using Bitcoin around the globe:

> **LEGALITY OF ONLINE GAMBLING IN GENERAL**

Laws that govern gambling online using fiat currency also apply to placing bets gambling websites using Bitcoin.

There is no country that has specifically banned bitcoin gambling, there are those that do not approve of online gambling in general.

Match fixing can get you lengthy sentences and huge fines in many countries.

You must be over the age of 18

# **GAMBLING WITH BTC ADVANTAGES:**



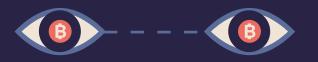
Certain regions in the world have specific legislation in place that allows them to license and regulate companies that operate an online gambling site. Different jurisdictions react differently to online gambling in general.



Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nigeria: Bitcoin as "illegal"

Bitcoin gambling will be legal or illegal dependin on how the law treats the cryptocurrency.

Not many countries have outrightly classified Bitcoin as illegal or made it a criminal offense











Minimal user details only email and login-name

**Transactions cannot be tracked** by governments and tax offices



**Faster Transactions** 



# **Is Bitcoin Legal?**

if your country is not on the list, local gambling laws will be decisive. In other words, if you are not allowed to gamble in our country, you can be sure that Bitcoin gambling is also prohibited too.

**The United States** The United Kingdom France Italy **The Netherlands** Germany Greece Turkey **South Africa** Poland Belgium Canada

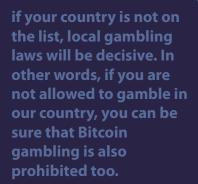
Yes, Regulated Yes, Regulated Yes, Regulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Regulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Regulated

?	China
	The Czech Republic
	Denmark
	Finland
	Hong Kong
	Japan
	Norway
	Portugal
	Spain
	Australia

## Unclear, Unregulated (\*\*)

Yes, Unregulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Regulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Regulated Yes, Regulated Yes, Unregulated Yes, Regulated Yes, Regulated

**Is Bitcoin Gambling Legal?** 



The United States	No (*)
The United Kingdom	Yes, Regulated
France	No
Italy	Yes, Regulated
The Netherlands	Yes, Regulated
Germany	No
Greece	Yes, Regulated
Turkey	No
South Africa	No
Poland	Yes, Regulated
Belgium	Yes, Regulated
Canada	Yes

China	NO
The Czech Republic	Yes, Unregulated (**
Denmark	Yes, Regulated (***)
Finland	Yes, Regulated (***)
Hong Kong	Yes, Unregulated (**
Japan	Yes, Unregulated (**
Norway	Yes, Regulated (***)
Portugal	Yes, Regulated (***)
Spain	Yes, Regulated (***)
Australia	Yes, Regulated (***)

"Regulated" refers that there is a regulation of Bitcoin and/or online subject to any legal regulation. Since this is not the goal of this article, (\*) Online gambling is considered legal in certain states only.

(\*\*) Individuals can hold and trade Bitcoin, but banks and payment providers are prohibited from BTC exchanges as of December 2017.

ulated (\*\*\*)

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#### **United Kingdom (UK)**

Online gambling is legal. Providing licensed by the UK Gambling Commission (UKGC) downside are the high tax rates.



#### Australia

Sports betting and lottery games are allowed. There's no law that specifically prohibits Australians from using overseas gambling sites.

Northern Territory Racing Commission (NTRC), informal ban against all cryptocurrency online wagering.



## **New Zealand**

Online betting and gaming are prohibited to companies based in the region. It is legal to use sites located overseas.



### US

#### **Online gambling unclear**

The Wire Act of 1971 = telephone betting illegal (Internet didn't exist in that time). The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA): didn't specifically make online gambling illegal. It illegal for banks and other financial institutions to process transactions between US residents and gambling sites. It is safe to assume that Bitcoin gambling is not illegal in the United States.

A number of other operators continued to welcome American customers though. Their argument was that if they were based and licensed in a jurisdiction where online gambling was legal, then they weren't breaking any laws.

A number of states makes online gambling legal and some states have even issued gaming and betting licenses to operators



#### Canada

It illegal for any company to provide betting and gaming services to Canadian citizens without a license from the provincial government. There is no law which makes it illegal for Canadians to use gambling sites that are located overseas.



#### **Russia**

Online gambling was completely banned. although it is believed that many Russians do continue to gamble online.

Internet service providers must block sites operated by online gambling operators



Does not allow internet or land-based gambling. National lottery is legal. Macau is the lone territory to gamble



#### Isle of Man

It is a center for online digital currencies. The hotbed for online bitcoin gambling. Controlled by the Gambling Supervision Commission (GSC)



#### Alderney

s reputed to transmit more internet e-gambling traffic than any other place on the globe.



## Curaçao

Created legislation for regulating online gambling. Nº1 top jurisdiction for launching a licensed **Online Gaming Business.** 

Provide very low tax rates for online gambling companies. Income tax rate: 2% and Gross income wager tax: 0%.



#### Gibraltar

The Digital Ledger Technology Regulatory Framework, where finanacial services and online gambling are the principal contributors to the ecomony.

# **CONCLUSION:**

**80 countries that have legalized online gambling** Europe has the largest online gambling market in the world In the US, three states (Delaware, Nevada and New Jersey) already allow online gambling

Legal online gambling businesses must be registered and in compliance in at least one jurisdiction.

Caribbean nations such as Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, and Curaçao and European nations such as Malta and the UK.

**Government won't be able to stop you – in fact, they even wouldn't be able to see** what you are doing. You are not using the banking system and do not share your identity: You are a "ghost" in the blockchain. For this reason, we can say that Bitcoin gambling is a "gray area". It allows you to get rid of legal and geographical restrictions and get an unlimited gambling experience.





