

After tobacco, Turkey bans hookah in public places

January 28 2013

After banning smoking in public places, the Turkish government has gone one step further by clamping down on an ancient tradition—the hookah, or water pipe.

As of Sunday it is no longer permitted to smoke the "hubbly-bubbly" in cafes, bars or restaurants as the conservative Islamic government cracks down on use of tobacco.

In 2009 the government made it illegal to smoke in public places, but only barred use of the hookah by minors, and cafes continued to offer fruity tobacco mixes in [water pipes](#), drawing the wrath of [health authorities](#).

The hookah, or narghile, was very popular under the [Ottoman Empire](#) but was eclipsed by the new-fangled cigarettes under the Turkish Republic from 1923.

In recent years it has regained its popularity in big cities.

Health experts warn that its fruity flavours make users forget that they are in fact inhaling tobacco, and say that since the smoke lasts longer than a cigarette it is even more dangerous.

(c) 2013 AFP

Citation: After tobacco, Turkey bans hookah in public places (2013, January 28) retrieved 26

April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-01-tobacco-turkey-hookah.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.