

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

The U.S. is among the more lenient countries when it comes to the penalty for jumping the border. Its maximum six-month jail sentence for first-time offenders puts it squarely at the lower end. Here is how other nations stack up:

Canada

Fine and imprisonment for 6 months to 2 years, depending on the nature of the offense

Mexico

Deportation; no prison/jail time expected

Guatemala

Fine, 6 months of imprisonment, or both; deportation

Colombia

Fine and deportation

Argentina

Deportation

U.K.

Fine, 6 months of imprisonment, or both, and deportation

France

1 year of imprisonment and/or fine; 3 years' imprisonment for illegal reentry

Italy

Fine; 5 to 15 years of imprisonment and a fine for aggravating circumstances

Algeria

Confinement not exceeding 30 days in an immigrant detention camp, followed by deportation

Ghana

Fine, custodial sentence of 3 months to 1 year, or both

Brazil

Deportation; no prison/jail time expected

South Africa

Fine or custodial sentence not exceeding 2 years

Norway

Fine or up to 6 months to 2 years of imprisonment, depending on the crime

Germany

Imprisonment of up to 1 year or a fine

Iraq

Imprisonment not exceeding 3 years, a fine, or both; deportation

Israel

5 years of imprisonment, a fine or both

Iran

Discretionary imprisonment for 1 to 3 years or a fine

Ethiopia

Fine, custodial sentence not exceeding 3 years, or both

India

Imprisonment for 2 to 8 years and a fine

China

Imprisonment, criminal detention or public surveillance, and a fine, depending on the nature of the offense; foreigners are also subject to deportation

Japan

Imprisonment for not more than 3 years and/or a fine, and deportation

South Korea

Imprisonment for not more than 5 years or a fine, and deportation