

## Travel Safety for LGBTQ+ Travellers

The LGBTQ+ community should be free and safe to travel anywhere, but unfortunately that's not the case. So, here are some guidelines to help you have a safe, happy and prideful trip. Use these tips to research the culture, laws, accommodation, and safety regulations of your destination.



### Laws

- Research the laws before you travel: homosexuality and non-confirming expression is criminalised in more than 60 countries, and the death penalty is applied in 11, according to the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association (ILGA).

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- **ILGA** offers easy-to-understand, colour-coded maps with the legal status of queer people country by country.

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- Check your own government's advice, register your upcoming international trips and sign up to receive alerts.

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- Research local emergency contact information for your destination and keep this with you during your trip.



### Cultures

- Even cultures with welcoming hospitality might criminalise homosexuality or gender non-confirming behaviours. Awareness and performance of local norms and customs can help travellers to avoid becoming a target of harassment or violence.

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- Put your safety first. Be aware of your surroundings, dress conservatively, and avoid public displays of affection if they are likely to provoke an unwelcome response from locals.



## Finding LGBTQ+ -friendly accommodation

- Finding queer-friendly places to stay will help your trip run smoothly.

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- **[The International LGBTQ+ Travel Association \(IGLTA\)](#)** has travel guides and lists of queer-welcoming accommodation.

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- Lesbian-run **[Once Upon a Journey](#)** offers tips for finding accommodation, destinations, and trips catering to queer women travellers.

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- Travellers who are trans or non-binary should ask hostels and hotels if single rooms and private bathrooms are available. Prior to departure, trans and non-binary travellers should ask hostels and hotels if they offer gender-segregated accommodation.



## How to **meet your community** when travelling

- Before you travel, use hashtags and the search feature on Instagram, TikTok and Facebook to find local LGBTQ+ cafes, bars, clubs and other hangouts.

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- Consider hiring a local queer tour guide for an orientation to the city.

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- If you're anxious, coincide your trip with a Pride celebration, LGBTQ+ film festival or similar event.

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- If you use same-sex dating or hook-up apps, only meet in public spaces, never go alone; and tell someone your plans.



## **Coming out** while travelling

- Independent travel might be a way to explore sexual orientation and gender identity without risking judgment and misunderstanding from family.

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- Investigate the resources that give a lot of useful tips and solutions to help younger travellers come out safely and securely.



## Places you'll **feel welcome**

- Consider spending your money in destinations with highly regarded reputations for welcoming LGBTQ+ people like Stockholm, Thailand, Great Britain, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Puerto Rico, New York City, West Hollywood and San Francisco.

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- **IGLTA** has many more LGBTQ+-welcoming destinations with links to websites where you can start planning a queer-friendly vacation.

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- Younger travellers should consider budget-friendly operators, specialising in inclusive social travel for 18 to 35-year-olds.

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- **MeetUp** is a social site facilitating gatherings including many LGBTQ+ meetups all over the world.



## What to do if you **feel unsafe**

- Remove yourself from the situation as soon as possible and head to your accommodation or another safe space.

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- In an emergency or life-threatening situation, call the local emergency services number or your nearest embassy or consulate.



\*These tips were inspired by an [article](#) written by LGBTQ+ travel expert Ed Salvato for World Nomads.

These travel safety tips are endorsed by members of the Travel Safety Sector Panel of WYSE Travel Confederation.

