

Travel Guard[®]

LGBTQ+ Travelers

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Travel safety tips

All travel comes with some risk. However, there are countries in the world where it can be very unsafe for LGBTQ+ people. More than 70 countries worldwide criminalize homosexuality. Even in regions without anti-LGBTQ+ policies, social opinions of LGBTQ+ individuals can be dangerous.

Travel Guard has developed these helpful tips for LGBTQ+ travelers when planning to travel:

Research your destination

You should always know the cultural landscape in your destination, but it is especially important for LGBTQ+ travelers. Just because homosexuality may be legal in one country, does not mean it's accepted by all of its citizens. Be sure to research broader cultural and security concerns, so that you have a thorough understanding of the location you plan to visit.

There is no “one size fits all” set of advice. Consider your own profile, as well as the sort of experience you want to have in your travels and determine if a particular destination is right for you.

Make reservation ahead of time

Make sure to extensively research and book all hotels ahead of time. Some places may refuse to let LGBTQ+ individuals stay with them, so it's best to check before you go. Remember, some resorts or LGBTQ+ neighborhoods can be quite segregated and may require an LGBTQ+ couple to reserve a room with two beds instead of one in order to remain discreet or even to avoid legal action.

Get your documents in order

Prior to departure, check with your home country's embassy or consulate in the destination you plan to visit. For example, the U.S. Department of State recommends that all LGBTQ+ travelers carry custody papers for minor children traveling with them. If you are recently married or in the process of changing your name, review the change of name guidelines. In countries where same-sex marriages are not recognized or if you are traveling with an unmarried partner, a medical power of attorney authorization may be necessary. When applying for a visa, there are some instances in which a married LGBTQ+ couple should apply for visas as single individuals rather than as a couple.

Transgender travelers may face additional scrutiny when departing from and arriving at airports and when navigating the cultural and legal landscape of a different country. For those who are in the process of, or have completed a gender reassignment, review the identification requirements for gender reassignment applications. For U.S. citizens, consider enrolling in the U.S. Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program and downloading the Smart Traveler App to have emergency information at your fingertips.

Have an emergency plan

When traveling in a conservative country, you can easily become the target of hostility or a hate crime. It's important to remember that not all countries have safeguards in place to protect the LGBTQ+ community and may even have laws against LGBTQ+ individuals.

For instance, travelers should be particularly cautious in most African countries, as well as Iran, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia as you could face criminal charges if your sexual orientation is revealed.

In other cases, it may simply be culturally insensitive or offensive to discuss personal information such as sexual orientation. Be mindful of local norms to as not to cause offense or draw unwanted attention.



Resources

The [International LGBTQ+ Travel Association \(IGLTA\)](#) is an organization that specializes in hotels and destinations that are safe for the LGBTQ+ community, they can also assist with the booking process. Also, you can visit the well-known site, [Out Traveler](#), for updated destination-specific information, hotels, and tips for your next trip.

Want to find out more?

Contact Travel Guard 24/7 with any travel questions, we are available to assist customers before, during or after their travel. Visit www.travelguard.com/LGBTQ to view more in-depth information on safety and security tips for LGBTQ+ travelers.

Sources:

Out Now Business Class <http://www.outnowconsulting.com/>

Community Marketing and Insights http://www.communitymarketinginc.com/documents/temp/CMI_LGBTTravelStudy2014.pdf

Travel Guard meets the diverse needs of leisure and corporate travelers alike through its comprehensive portfolio of travel insurance plans and assistance services as well as a network of experienced providers. With global service centers placed strategically around the globe, our 24/7 multilingual team is always just a phone call away and ready to assist when our customers experience travel issues – from lost luggage or minor travel inconveniences to medical emergencies or life-threatening events. We help customers recover from travel disruptions and enjoy their journeys knowing Travel Guard has their back every step of the way. Learn more at www.travelguard.com and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube.