

# TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS FOR LGBTQ TRAVELERS

Travel with Confidence. Travel with Pride.

#TravelwithPride

## 1 CONSIDER YOUR RISKS

Remember that not every LGBTQ traveler faces the same risk, and there is not “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.



## 2 RESEARCH YOUR DESTINATION

Do thorough research before your trip to assess the cultural, legal and security issues for LGBTQ travelers in your destination. Be sure to research broader cultural and security concerns as well, so that you have a thorough understanding of the location you plan to visit.



## 3 LEAVE BEHIND CONTACT INFORMATION

Leave your itinerary and contact information with someone you trust. In the event of an emergency, it is helpful if someone back home has contact information of hotels, flight numbers and a general idea of planned events on your trip.



## 4 BRING PAPER COPIES

There are apps to hold digital copies, but you never know what might happen to your phone. Take paper copies of your passport, flight information, hotel confirmations and other important documents with you. Keep these documents safe and out of sight as they have confidential information on them.



## 5 FIND LGBTQ-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

Even if you are visiting an LGBTQ-friendly destination, the level of acceptance you receive can vary from business to business. Carefully research your planned accommodations and the places you intend to visit to ensure that you are choosing establishments that welcome the LGBTQ community. Consider using the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association as a resource for finding LGBTQ-owned and affirming businesses.



## 6 TAKE MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS

If you are traveling with medication, ensure that your medications are kept together in a separate bag in your carry-on. Keep all medications in their original containers and carry an official note of medical authorization from your doctor. Check beforehand that your medications are legal to carry into the country you are visiting.

If engaging in sexual activity, it is advised to bring protection, but carefully research the laws regarding what you are allowed to bring into the country you are visiting. If you are purchasing products in other countries, their reliability may not always be guaranteed.



## 7 USE DISCRETION WHEN NECESSARY

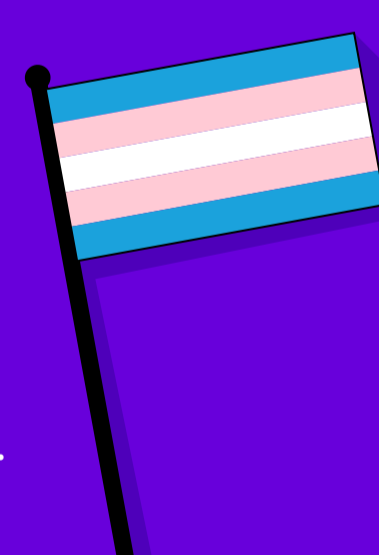
Connect with locals online before you travel for some tips to find the best bars, parties and community hangouts. Remember that in some destinations where being LGBTQ is illegal, websites and mobile apps that are used in country to connect you to LGBTQ people and venues may be used against you by officials.

Be mindful of public displays of affection. Holding hands, requesting a double bed at a hotel, casual touching, and kissing may be considered public displays, and such actions are illegal in some countries.



## 8 PRECAUTIONS FOR TRANSGENDER TRAVELERS

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. Cultural attitudes toward and laws regarding transgender people in conservative societies may present an unwelcoming and unsafe environment. Research cultural and legal issues for transgender individuals in your destination, as well as the procedures and necessary documentation for airport security in your home country and in your intended destination.



## 9 STAY SAFE

If you are harassed, remove yourself from the situation as quickly as possible and do not escalate by confronting your harasser. If you are being followed, find a busy establishment to enter. If you encounter harassment by officials, remain calm and courteous, request a ticket if you are receiving a citation and contact your diplomatic representation to report the issue. If you are the victim of a crime, contact local authorities and engage with your local diplomatic representation.



## 10 OBEY LOCAL LAWS

Even if you do not agree with the local laws and culture in the country you are visiting, you should still obey the laws and abide by the cultural norms. Your personal beliefs will not be sufficient legal defense in the event that you are charged with a crime.



## ★ CONSIDER BUYING TRAVEL GUARD®

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