

LGBTQ+ TRAVELER ADVICE



LGBTQ+ travelers can face a unique and complicated set of rules and restrictions when traveling internationally. While some countries are welcoming to visitors of all genders and sexual orientations, others place harsh and sometimes dangerous limitations on certain groups.

Despite possible restrictions, LGBTQ+ persons continue to travel internationally both for business and personal reasons. By keeping informed on the laws, policies and international attitudes towards this community, these travelers are better prepared for the experience and can help to ensure their own safety.

Before you travel

+ **Research your destination.** For information on the local culture and customs for the countries you are traveling to, [click here](#) to read travel advice offered by the British FCO. The US Department of State travel website also offers advice to LGBTQ+ travelers [here](#). Additional information can be found through the websites of The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) and The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association ([ILGA](#)).

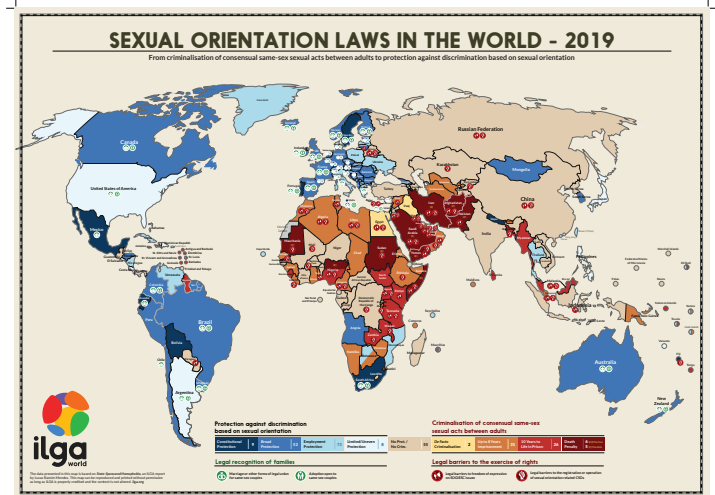
- + When traveling internationally, routine passport checks are the norm throughout the check-in and travel process. These checks may pose a challenge to gender nonconforming or transgender travelers who's current gender identity may not match their government-issued ID. When and where possible, update any outdated identification before traveling to avoid invasive delays. Passport details should match the details used when booking travel, including identical names, sexes, and dates of birth.
- + All baggage, checked and carry-on, is scanned for security purposes before being loaded onto an aircraft. When traveling with items that are likely to cause intrigue, such as prescription medication and medical accessories, pack them separately when possible. Airport security may question you about these items, so being informed of their location and use case will help to speed up the screening process.
- + **Know Airport Security Rules.** In many countries, airport security uses Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) to scan passengers for possible dangerous items. These scanners utilise a technology that may register body contours, binders, or prosthetics as "anomalies" requiring further screening, which usually consists of a targeted pat-down of any areas where an anomaly was perceived. Travelers often have the right to opt out of AIT, but opting out of this screening requires a thorough pat-down as an alternative. If you request a private screening, ask to bring a second person or official witness with you.

Accommodation

- + When traveling with a partner, some hotels may refuse bookings for same-sex couples. Research individual hotels and any conflicting policies before reserving your stay.

While Visiting

- + It is important to be wary of over-friendly strangers, as this tactic is sometimes used as an entrapment ploy by the authorities or prior to a homophobic assault. In countries where attitudes to LGBTQ+ people are hostile, right-wing groups and police have been known to carry out entrapment campaigns.
- + Consider increasing your privacy settings on mobile apps, and using encrypted messaging apps like WhatsApp during your trip.
- + Physical displays of affection between partners may not be as common or allowed in countries harboring harmful views towards LGBTQ+ individuals. Ensure that you and your partner can participate in physical displays of affection safely at your destination.
- + If you receive unwelcome attention or unwelcome remarks about your sexuality or gender identity, it's usually best to ignore them and move to a safe place.
- + Should you experience a hate crime, report the incident to the relevant embassy and/or seek consular assistance.
- + Stay aware of your surroundings, even when visiting familiar or friendly destinations and social spaces.



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