



TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS FOR **LGBTQ TRAVELERS**

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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. That is why AIG Travel developed these helpful tips to prepare 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 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.

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. 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. Be aware that local residents may not approve of sexual affection when you are in surrounding areas.

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. State Department 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. 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 State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program and download the Smart Traveler App to have emergency information at your fingertips.



**Be Aware.
Be Alert.
Be Confident.**

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. Prior to travel, discuss the best plan of action with your employer should issues arise. Make sure you are provided with a designated contact that you can reach in the event of an emergency as well as the number to your company's travel assistance provider.

Want to find out more or have questions? Contact AIG Travel 24/7 with any travel questions; in addition, we are available to assist customers before, during or after their travel. Visit www.aig.com/travel/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



www.aig.com/travel