

LGBT TRAVEL INFORMATION

U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs



Attitudes and tolerance toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons differ from country to country, just as they vary among U.S. cities and states. Most LGBT travelers encounter no problems while overseas, but it helps to be prepared and research your destination. Carefully consider the laws and biases of each country and decide how open to be regarding sexual orientation or gender identity.

Before You Go

- Sign up for the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at step.state.gov to receive the latest security updates and make it easier for the U.S. embassy or consulate to contact you in an emergency.
- LGBT parents should consider carrying documents regarding parentage and/or custody for accompanying minor children.
- If you plan on traveling overseas to adopt, note that some foreign countries do not permit LGBT individuals or same-sex couples to adopt. Do your research first at adoption.state.gov/LGBT.
- For more extensive travel safety information for the LGBT community, visit travel.state.gov/LGBT.

While You're There, Take Precautions

- Avoid potentially risky situations, and don't do anything you wouldn't do at home!
- Remember that you are subject to the laws and the judicial process of the country you're visiting.
- Avoid excessive physical displays of affection in more conservative countries. They could be illegal.
- In some countries, police have been known to monitor Internet chat rooms or other meeting places with the intention of carrying out entrapment campaigns. It's wise to find out about the local situation.
- Be wary of new-found "friends." Criminals sometimes exploit the generally open and relaxed nature of the LGBT scene.
- If you receive unwelcomed attention or remarks, it's usually best to ignore them.
- Some resorts or LGBT neighborhoods can be quite segregated. Be aware that local residents may not approve of expressions of sexuality when you are in surrounding areas.
- You're more likely to experience difficulties in rural areas, so exercise discretion.

If you run into problems while overseas, the American Citizens Services (ACS) Section of the U.S. embassy or consulate may be able to help, especially if you feel that you can't approach the local police or encounter difficulties with local authorities. Consular officers will protect your privacy and will not make generalizations, assumptions, or pass judgment.



WEB: travel.state.gov

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/travelgov](https://www.facebook.com/travelgov)

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APPLYING FOR YOUR U.S. PASSPORT

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The U.S. Passport Is Your Ticket To The World!

You should apply or renew your passport if you have family living or traveling abroad, want to take a vacation abroad, or have a job that could require international travel.

- A passport book is valid for international travel by land, sea, and air.
- A passport card can be used to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea, but is not valid for air travel. Both documents are valid for 10 years, and the wallet-sized card is less expensive.

How Do I Document Name Changes?

If your name has legally changed through marriage, divorce, or a court ordered change of name, you will need to apply for a new passport. The process and cost depend on how long it has been since your passport was issued. More information is on travel.state.gov.

- We recognize all lawfully-married couples regardless of gender may obtain passports in their married name through a name change based on a lawful marriage at the site of celebration, in accordance with state law.

What Must I Do To Submit Proof Of A Gender Transition?

- When a passport applicant presents a certification from a medical physician stating that the applicant has undergone appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition, the new passport will be issued to reflect the changed gender.
- Sexual reassignment surgery is not a prerequisite for passport issuance in the new gender and documents proving sexual reassignment surgery are not required.
- Those who have completed gender transition may amend a Consular Report of Birth Abroad previously filed in the birth gender. Gender neutral language is used and none of the language contains a bias towards or against members of the LGBT community.
- For more information on gender transition requirements for Passport Services, please visit travel.state.gov.



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