

Tips for LGBTQ+ Travelers



Welcome!
Please
sign in
here.



Breakout Groups



Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Where do you plan or hope to travel to?
- What are you excited about for this location?
- What is 1 question or concern you have about studying abroad?



Manila, Philippines

Agenda

01 WHY

02 RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL

03 STUDENT EXPERIENCES & TIPS

04 QUESTIONS

Mission



Cape Town, South Africa

Every student should have the opportunity to study abroad. George Mason University has pledged to build and sustain an inclusive campus community. As such, GEO is committed to increase the number of students studying abroad and encourages every student to consider spending sometime abroad.

Why this session?

It's always important to learn as much as you can about your host country before you go abroad in order to have a positive, successful experience. For LGBTQ+ students, this includes understanding the country's laws and culture toward sexual identity.

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Some countries may require you to modify your behaviors or self expression while abroad. You will need to determine in advance how comfortable you feel adjusting your own behaviors to suit the cultural norms of a given culture and select a destination accordingly.

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Depending on where you go, you may be redefining what a student from an American university is for our international counterparts; therefore, it is wise to prepare yourself for cultural and societal differences.



Bergen, Norway

Why study abroad?

See the world and broaden your experience

Gain a new perspective on your own country

Explore your heritage

Dispel your own stereotypes

Gain new insights and outlooks through new relationships

Expand ideas of global diversity

Take control of your future

Resources for Travel

[U.S. Department of State: LGBTI Resources](#)

DiversityAbroad – [Diversity & Inclusion Abroad Guide](#)

[The Worst \(and Safest\) Countries for LGBTQ+ Travel in 2019](#)

ILGA World – Newsletter (weekly updates about countries/regions)

ILGA World – [Maps of Sexual Orientation Laws](#)

TransRespect.org – [Interactive Maps](#)

[National Center for Transgender Equality](#)



Taiwan

Asher and Lyric

LGBTQ+ Travel Safety Ratings

<https://www.asherfergusson.com/lgbtq-travel-safety/>

THE BEST (& WORST) COUNTRIES FOR LGBTQ+ TRAVEL IN 2021


We ranked the 150 countries with the most international tourist arrivals to see which are the best and worst for LGBTQ+ travelers. Our "LGBTQ+ Travel Safety Index" was created using nine factors, giving more weight to Gallup's Poll "Is it a good place to live?" (2x) and less weight to "illegal same-sex relationships" (up to -2x) and "propaganda/morality laws" (up to -1x). Higher scores are better for LGBTQ+ travelers.



PLEASE NOTE: Certain cities, tourist areas or resorts can sometimes be LGBTQ+ friendly even when the laws of the country as a whole are very anti-LGBTQ+. In all cases, do your research, check official government data for up-to-date news and if you feel apprehensive consider traveling to a more LGBTQ+ friendly country.



Reviewing State Department Resources

**Travel.State.Gov**
U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE — BUREAU of CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Search

[Congressional Liaison](#) [Special Issuance Agency](#) [U.S. Passports](#) [International Travel](#) [U.S. Visas](#) [Intercountry Adoption](#) [International Parental Child Abduction](#) [Records and Authentications](#)

[Travel.State.Gov](#) > [Travel Advisories](#) > South Korea Travel Advisory

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South Korea Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory
October 5, 2022

South Korea - Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions

Last Update: Reissued with updates to health information.

Exercise normal precautions in South Korea.

Read the [country information page](#) for additional information on travel to South Korea.

If you decide to travel to South Korea:

- Read the [Department of State's COVID-19 page](#) before planning any international travel, and read the [Embassy's COVID-19 page](#) for country-specific COVID-19 information.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Review the [Country Security Report](#) for South Korea.
- Visit the CDC page for the latest [Travel Health Information](#) related to your travel.
- Prepare a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).

Travel Advisory Levels

- 1 Exercise normal precautions
- 2 Exercise increased caution
- 3 Reconsider travel
- 4 Do not travel

Information for Vaccinated Travelers

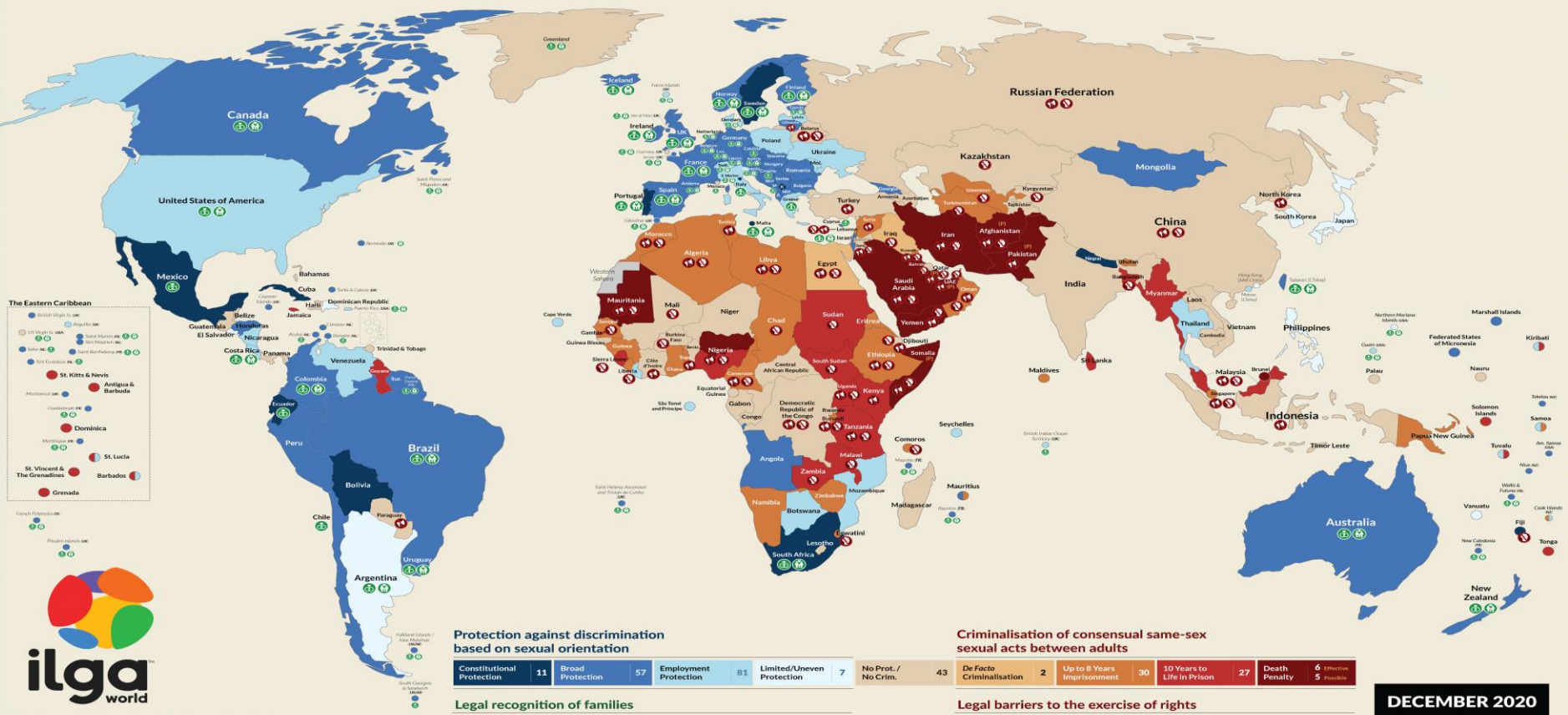
The CDC's latest guidance on international travel for vaccinated people can be found [here](#).

Assistance for U.S. Citizens

U.S. Embassy Seoul
188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu,
Seoul 03141, Korea

SEXUAL ORIENTATION LAWS IN THE WORLD

From criminalisation of consensual same-sex sexual acts between adults to protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation



DECEMBER 2020



The data presented in this map is based on State-Sponsored Homophobia, an ILGA report by Lucas Ramón Mendos, Kellyn Botha, Rafael Carraro Lelis, Enrique López de la Peña, R.I. and Daron Tan. This map can be reproduced and printed without permission as long as ILGA is properly credited and the content is not altered. ilga.org

Tips




San Juan

Always put your safety first. Before you leave, familiarize yourself with the customs and laws of your host country.

Research the terms and definitions used in your host country to talk about LGBTQ+ issues and identities.

Build a support network of family, friends, GEO program administrators, and other study abroad students who you can rely on while abroad.

Questions to Ask



How are people with my identities perceived in my host country? What kind of stereotypes are there?


How should I react if I find something to be offensive? Is the person curious or do they have bad intentions?

Has my host family housed LGBTQ+ students before? If not, will this be a problem?

Am I used to being part of the majority at home but will be a minority abroad? Or vice versa?

Who should I contact if I do face homophobic or transphobic incidents?

Does my program have support staff that will understand and help me through any discriminatory incident I may face?





NYC

Unfortunately no place is perfectly free of ignorance, homophobia, transphobia, or other forms of discrimination. Just like at home in the U.S., you may find various levels of acceptance by some people and discrimination by others while abroad. Be aware that these problems do exist in various degrees in other countries, but this should not prevent you from traveling.

Trans and Non-binary Friendly Program Highlights: Internships

- Build Your Own Internship: Summer, Semester, Spring Break, or Winter Break

- You find your own internship and housing. You work with GEO for credits.
- Possible around the world
- Flexible and based on your interests

- Internships in Buenos Aires, Argentina: Summer or Semester

- 3 housing options: homestay, shared apartment (flexible), or independent housing
- Argentina legally recognizes non-binary gender on all official documentation
- B rating for LGBTQ friendliness(same as US), 26th in the world
- Very thoughtful and intentional Global Partner, Road2Argentina



Buenos Aires, Argentina

Trans and Non-binary Friendly Program

Highlights: Exchange and Gateway Programs

- Free University of Amsterdam (Amsterdam, Netherlands): Semester
 - Ranked #3 in the world for LGBTQ friendliness, A rating
 - Has dedicated office and resources for LGBTQ pride including events, workshops – see VU Pride [website](#).
 - Independent housing
- Veritas University (San Jose, Costa Rica): Gateway and Exchange semester
 - Progressive country in a traditionally conservative region.
 - Veritas works with host family network to find the best fit for individual students, including gender identities
 - 41st in the world in for LGBTQ friendliness, C+ rating



Amsterdam, Netherlands

Trans and Non-binary Friendly Program

Highlights: Faculty Led

- Switzerland - International Security Studies: Mason-Led, Summer & Switzerland/France - The Future of the United Nations and the European Union: Winter
 - Switzerland: B+ LGBTQ friendliness rating (#12), France: A- rating (#10)
 - Supportive transgender legal identity laws
 - Partner is able to provide individual housing as space is available
- Spanish Language in Granada (Granada, Spain): Summer
 - Spain has supportive transgender legal identity laws and an A- LGBTQ friendliness rating (#9)
 - Program housing is in homestays



Madrid, Spain

LGBTQ+ Resources Center

Student Union Building (SUB) I

Room 2200

703-993-2702

<https://lgbtq.gmu.edu/>



Additional Resources

LGBTQ+ Students:

- [International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission](#)
- [The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association](#)
- [NAFSA \(Association of International Educators\) Rainbow Special Interest Group](#)
- [The White House LGBTQ+ Fact Sheet](#)
- [U.S. State Department's LGBTQ+ Travel Information](#)
- [Diversifying Study Abroad Travel Scholarship](#)
- [The Complete Guide To Studying and Living in UK as an LGBT Student](#)
- [LGBTQ+ International Safety Tips: A Guide to Safe Travel](#)
- [Global Gayz](#)
- [GoAbroad LGBTQI Student Guide to Study Abroad](#)
- GEO's [Diversity Equity and Inclusion](#) page: specific resources for students from many intersecting identities

The background of the slide features a light beige color with abstract geometric shapes in red, pink, and teal. On the right side, there is a grid of small yellow dots.

Let's hear from our alums and staff!

We will stop recording now.
Please add any questions
you have into the chat.

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Freepik.

Chat Questions

Share 1 concern you have that we did not address today.

What is 1 thing you learned today that you want to research more?

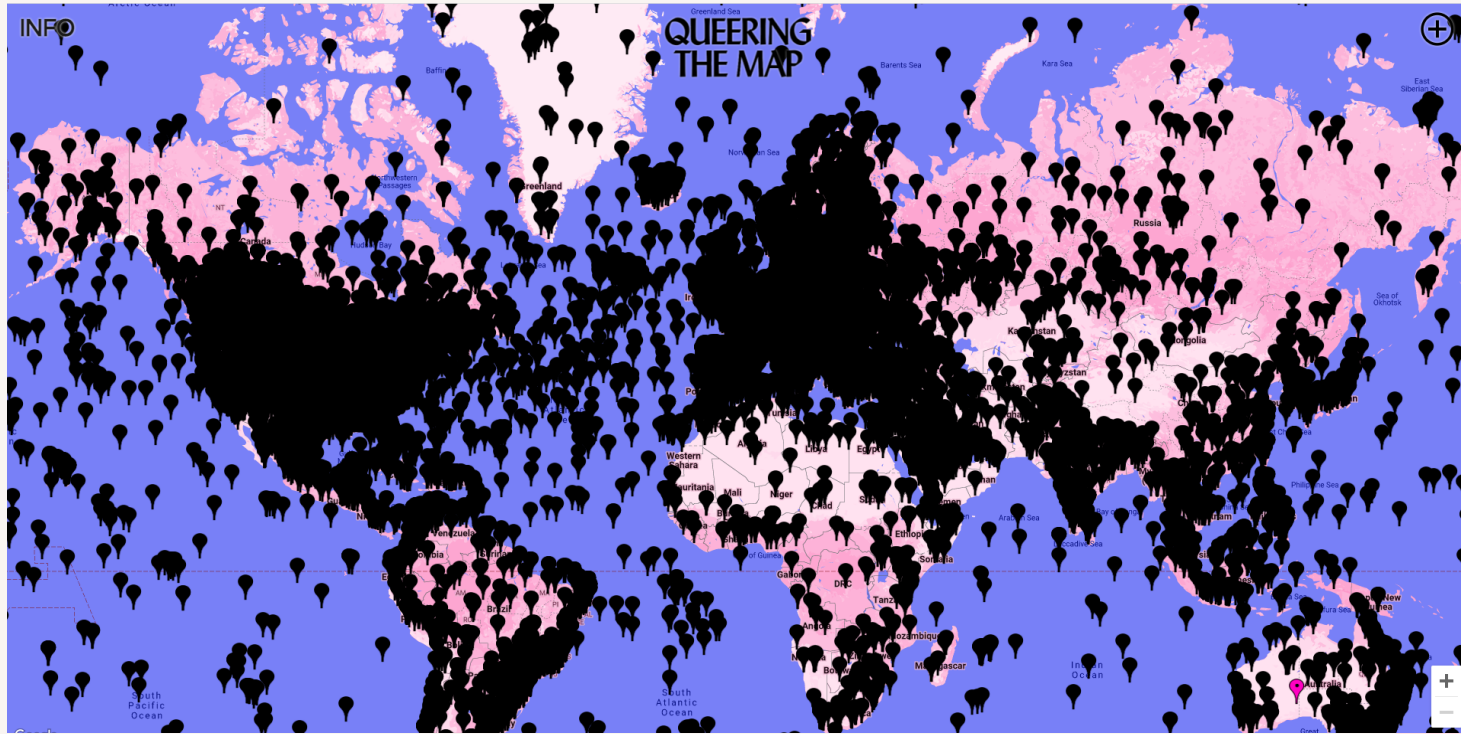
Add in any other questions!

1:1 Advising Opportunities

Transparency	Information Tailored to Location
Preparation	Additional Assistance

Advisors' Information Through Email After Meeting!

Queering the Map



<https://www.queeringthemap.com/>

Next Steps

- 1:1 advising
- Further questions?

goabroad@gmu.edu

703-993 2154

studyabroad.gmu.edu



Costa Rica