

# A GUIDE FOR LGBT TRAVELERS IN ASIA/PACIFIC



The travel security risks for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) travelers in the Asia Pacific vary by location.

It is crucial to understand the laws and social attitudes towards the LGBT community in different destinations to mitigate the risks associated with being an LGBT traveler.

Homosexuality is illegal in 18 countries in the Asia Pacific, as well as in the provinces of Sumatra and Aceh in Indonesia, due to predominance of Sharia (Islamic law). It also carries the death penalty in Pakistan. Homosexuality is either decriminalized or legal in 26 countries, 11 of which have discrimination protection laws; two of these countries have same-sex relationship recognition laws.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Malaysia

Illegal and not accepted

### Singapore

Illegal but accepted

### New Zealand & Australia

Legal and accepted

### Indonesia

Legal but not accepted



## BE AWARE

- Be prepared
- Keep a low profile
- Remain vigilant

Risks to travelers may include assault, detention, expulsion or imprisonment.



## FEMALE TRAVELERS

Of the 18 countries where homosexuality is illegal, only three countries and the provinces of South Sumatra and Aceh in Indonesia, explicitly criminalize homosexual acts between females in their penal codes.

Expressing sexual orientation and gender identity in public exposes women to the risk of hate crimes by men, such as 'corrective rape'.



## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

LGBT travelers should be no less vigilant in areas known to be more 'gay-friendly'.

An LGBT traveler should not be complacent, even in a place such as Bali, an Indonesian island popular with LGBT travelers where homosexuality is legal.

Travelers need to remain discreet, adopt a low-profile and be vigilant in all areas of a country, even where homosexuality is legal. Highly religious and conservative governments such as Indonesia's may employ a wide range of laws, such as censorship and religious laws, to penalize same-sex activities and behavior.



## PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Avoiding public expressions of sexual orientation and gender identity is vital to a LGBT traveler's safety in the Asia Pacific, irrespective of the legality of homosexuality and social attitudes and norms.

While most Asia Pacific countries criminalize same-sex sexual acts, it is highly improbable that an LGBT traveler would be prosecuted or face hostility as long as he or she does not commit such acts in public.



LEGAL AND ACCEPTED



LEGAL BUT NOT ACCEPTED



ILLEGAL AND NOT ACCEPTED



ILLEGAL, BUT ACCEPTED



ILLEGAL, DEATH PENALTY

Map: Legal status toward homosexuality in Asia/Pacific

**WORLDWIDE REACH. HUMAN TOUCH.**