

A GUIDE FOR LGBTQ TRAVELERS IN AFRICA



The legal status and social acceptance of same-sex relationships varies across Africa.

Differences in legislation and levels of social conservatism can be difficult to navigate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) travelers, which exposes them to risks they may not have anticipated during other business postings abroad.

The majority of African countries criminalize homosexuality, though Botswana, Cameroon, Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe have taken steps to impose further sexual offense legislation that explicitly targets homosexuals. In Mauritania, parts of Somalia and parts of Nigeria under Sharia (Islamic law), homosexuality can be punishable by death.



DID YOU KNOW?

Cameroon

Same-sex relationships are punishable by up to five years' imprisonment under article 347-1 of the penal code. Homosexuals are often ostracized and some – particularly activists – have been threatened, detained, assaulted and even killed.

Gambia

'Aggravated homosexual acts' are punishable by life imprisonment. Same-sex acts are punishable by up to 14 years' imprisonment.

Congo (DRC)

An MP in December 2013 introduced a draft bill punishing homosexuality by up to five years' imprisonment; however, the legislation has not yet been adopted and comments by officials in 2015 suggested that the government may not proceed with it.

In May 2016, the Senate approved a draft bill that prohibited LGBTQ couples from adopting. Local activists say that social attitudes towards LGBTQ lifestyles have become less tolerant.



LEGAL STATUS AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES

Across Africa, varying degrees of discrimination persist through the complex interface of social conservatism, patriarchy, religiosity and mistrust of 'Western' lifestyles.

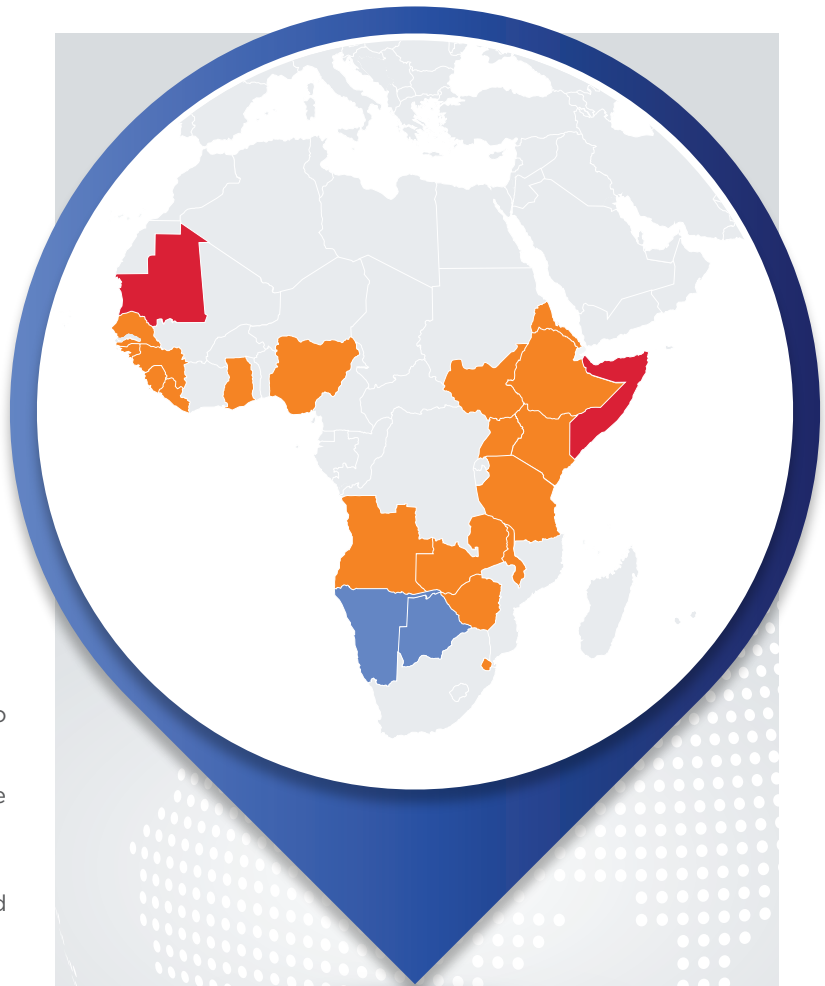


BE AWARE

Be prepared and understand the risks.

As a general rule, travelers to rural or low-income communities should anticipate more conservative attitudes than in more cosmopolitan, upper-middle income urban areas. LGBTQ travelers in the region should keep a low profile at all times and exercise vigilance and caution.

Depending on the country, LGBTQ travelers may face harassment or legal difficulties if they draw attention to their sexuality. LGBTQ travelers should therefore avoid drawing attention to themselves through public displays of affection, their dress or the display of accessories that may indicate their sexual orientation.



ILLEGAL AND NOT ACCEPTED



ILLEGAL, NOT ALWAYS ENFORCED



ILLEGAL, DEATH PENALTY