



Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) travelers face some challenges and restrictions in the Americas.

Attitudes and laws toward LGBT acceptance and rights span a wide spectrum throughout the region. However, state-sponsored persecution is generally less prevalent and less acute when compared with countries throughout other developing regions such as Africa and the Middle East.

Anti-LGBT laws persist in parts of the Caribbean, where same-sex acts remain illegal in 11 countries. Country-dependent penalties consist of prison sentences of varying lengths from two years to potential life terms, though in practice such laws are rarely enforced. In contrast, a number of countries in the Americas have taken significant political and legal steps to enshrine and protect rights for LGBT individuals.

At its worst, anti-LGBT sentiment in certain countries has contributed in-part to some of the highest levels of violence against LGBT individuals in the world.

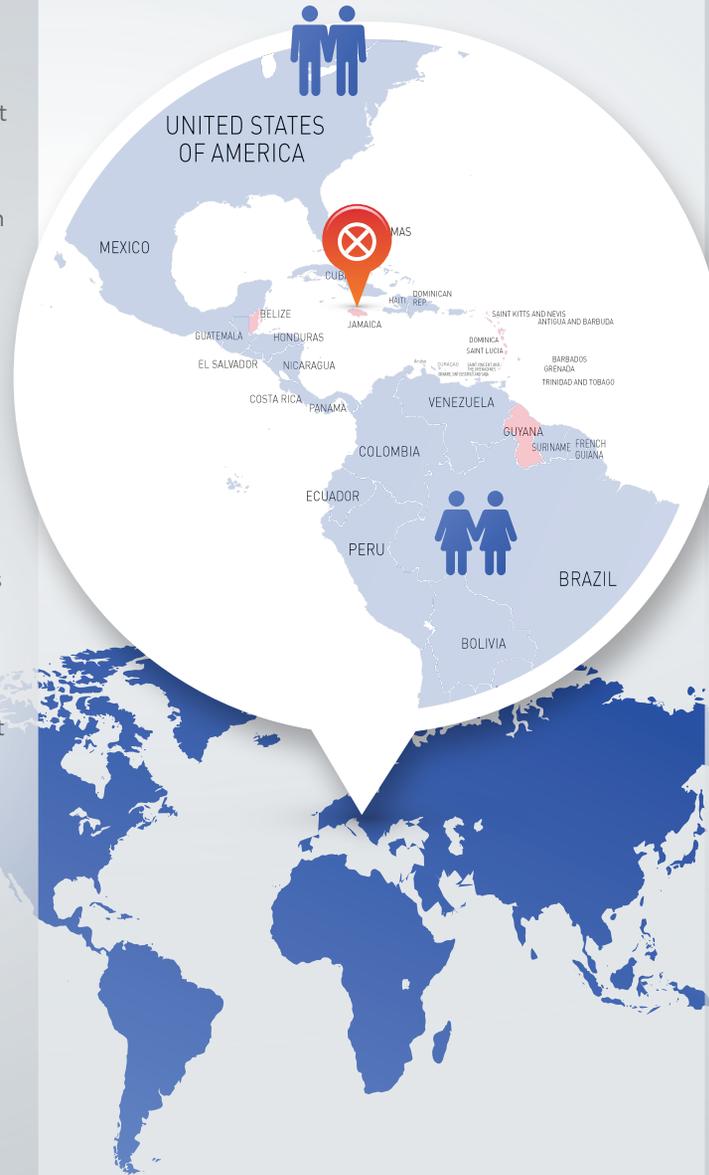
DID YOU KNOW?

Northern Triangle

The northern triangle is a region within Central America consisting of the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

An area plagued by gang violence and some of the highest homicide rates in the world, the northern triangle is likewise one of the higher risk areas in the Americas for targeting of and social discrimination against LGBT individuals. Same-sex acts are legal in these countries, though same-sex marriages are

A guide for LGBT travelers in the Americas



Same sex activity is illegal in:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana

- Jamaica
- St Kitts & Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent & the Grenadines
- Trinidad & Tobago

not performed or recognized; El Salvador is the only country of the three to have implemented some protections against discriminatory employment practices based on sexual orientation.

Argentina

In stark contrast to the northern triangle, Argentina is considered one of the most LGBT permissive countries in the region.

LEGAL STATUS AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES

In contrast, a number of countries in the Americas have taken significant political and legal steps to enshrine and protect rights for LGBT individuals - nationwide or localized prohibitions of discriminatory practices based on sexual orientation have been implemented in at least 14 countries throughout the region.

BE AWARE:

Travel risk managers should ensure that travelers are made aware before visiting the region of any anti-LGBT legislation and hostile cultural attitudes in their destination countries; encourage them to also conduct their own research prior to travel.

LGBT travelers in parts of the Americas, particularly the Caribbean and Central America, should be aware that there is a credible risk of harassment or, in rare cases, legal implications if they draw attention to their sexuality. They should therefore avoid drawing attention to themselves or their profile through public displays of affection, by their dress or the display of accessories that indicate their sexual orientation, by their behavior, or by expressing opinions on gay rights issues in public.

Map: Legal status toward homosexuality in the Americas