

THE HETERO-FRIENDLY GAY TRAVEL MAGAZINE

# PASSPORT

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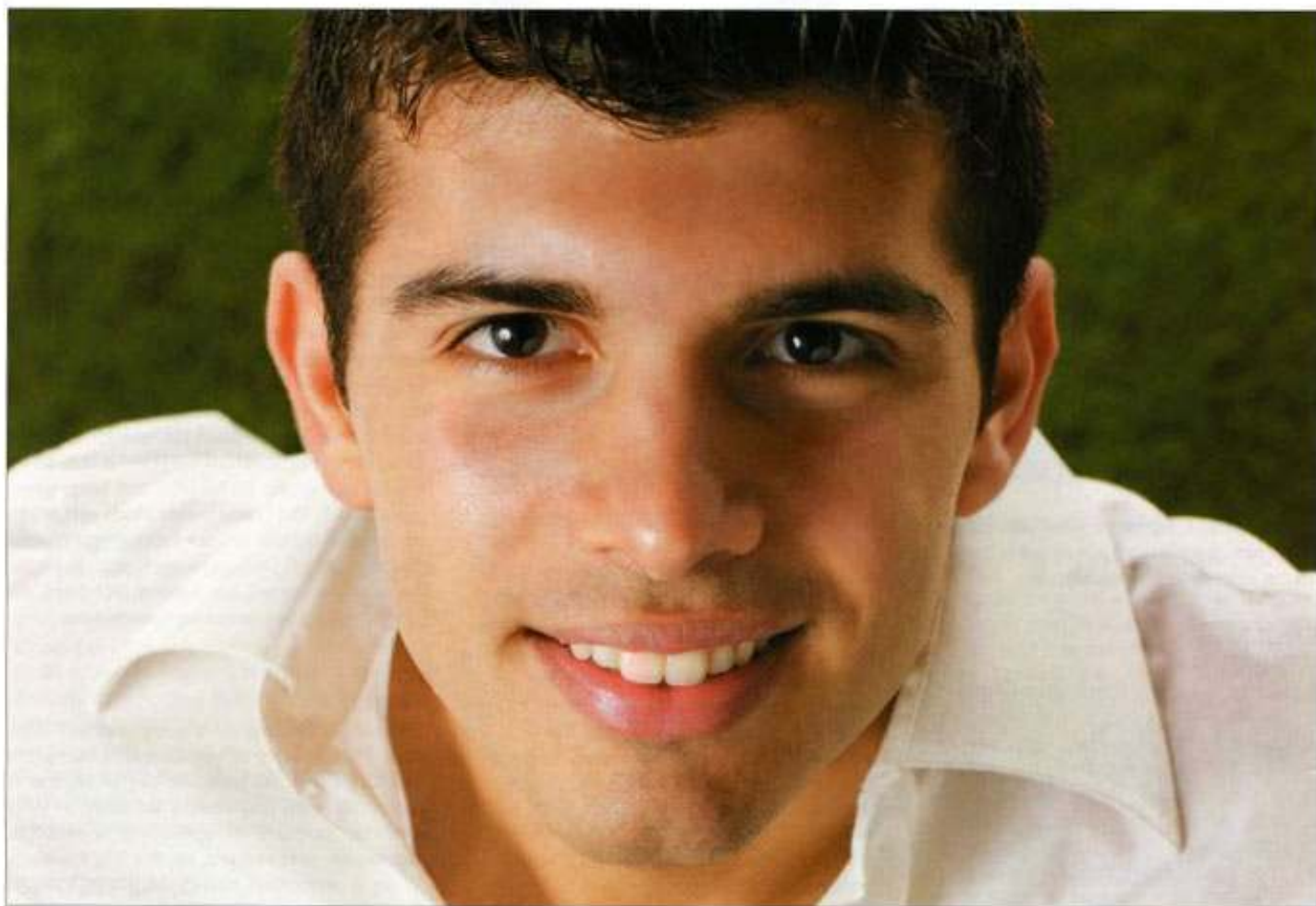
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## Hot Spots for the Jet Set

*Celebrations and Events Around the World*



With hundreds of fascinating international events for the gay or lesbian traveler to enjoy, there's no better time to pack your bags and visit someplace new and exciting. To make choosing your next travel destination a little easier, *Passport* takes you on a world tour of film festivals, art exhibits, fashion shows, music concerts, sports tournaments, and more. There's literally something for everyone in this big, beautiful, gay world, and there's always a reason to celebrate. If you know of a gay, lesbian, or gay-friendly event, and would like to share it with our readers, please email us at [worldbeat@passportmagazine.net](mailto:worldbeat@passportmagazine.net)

### EUROPE

#### AUSTRIA VIENNA

**Wiener Festwochen** began in 1951 as a "demonstration of Austria's will to survive" post World War II. The ravaged city sought to prove that it could still engage in cultural activities. Today, the festival is more vital than ever despite serving a different function. As Vienna emerged as a cultural metropolis, Wiener Festwochen also evolved into an event more

focused on international cooperation. This year's multi-disciplinary program, set for May 14–June 20, features 51 productions from 23 countries including new additions of *Othello c'est qui* and *Generacija 91-95*. The event is an ever-changing project always searching for fresh, artistic takes. [www.festwochen.at](http://www.festwochen.at)

#### BELGIUM BRUSSELS

What could possibly make the birthplace of Belgian beer, chocolates, and waffles even bet-

ter? **Belgium Gay Pride**, of course. This annual event, started in 1996, evolved from Antwerp's Pink Saturday gay pride observations honoring New York's Stonewall Riots. Last year, it livened up the city of Brussels with its Rainbow Village (complete with shops, open air cafés, and entertainment stages), from parade, and massive Pride parties. May 15 will mark a new edition with plenty of exciting events throughout the day. Take note. The week before Pride is Belgium's **Rainbow Week**, May 8–14, which includes festivities in several other

# HOTEL EDOUARD 7

The first thing that impressed us about the **Edouard 7** in Paris is how genuinely friendly everyone is who works there. They made us feel immediately at home, and every request was fulfilled almost immediately. If you're looking for a location that is a short walk to the Louvre, Paris Opera, and the Tuileries, as well as a quick taxi ride to the Marais (the gay district), this is a great choice. The concierge at the hotel will also be happy to make reservations at much sought after restaurants and to pre-book tickets to the most popular museums so you are guaranteed admittance and don't have to wait in long lines. After a day of perusing the pleasures of Paris, stop by the cocktail lounge and have one of the sexy barmen prepare you an aperitif. The accommodations here are impressive and comfortable. Book one of their Collection Couture rooms or suites, which feature rich velvet, silk, and leather in regal colors such as deep blue/taupe, purple/saffron, red/gold or green/black. Amenities at this non-smoking hotel include: Air conditioning, Wi-Fi, minibar, safe, and flat screen TV. Request a room or suite with a balcony and a view of the Opera. Rates for a Deluxe Room start around €275. [www.edouard7hotel.com](http://www.edouard7hotel.com)



—Robert Sandberg

Belgian locales. So arrive early, tour all the gay highlights of the country, and get a head start on the celebration. [www.blgp.be](http://www.blgp.be)

## ENGLAND BIRMINGHAM

Be sure to rest up for **Birmingham Pride** at the end of May—it has plenty of activities to keep you busy during your visit. Each year, more than 70,000 visitors escape to the heart of the city's Gay Village. There lies an oasis of dynamic dance arenas, chic shopping markets, the relaxing Village Green, and, of course, fair rides galore! Enjoy the Carnival Parade, get some laughs at a comedy or cabaret show, show off some skill at Pride's Got Talent, then go party at over 15 gay bars and clubs. Join in on the fun May 29–30. This promises to be the biggest, free, gay and lesbian party in the UK. [www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com)

## LONDON

Forget those other "sports" events, in London this May it's all about the **Drag Olympics**. On May 15, The WayOutClub will host this fabulously fun event. Try your luck on the Drag Obstacle Course and compete for cash prizes. Just beware. As event organizers say, "To be a Drag Queen you have to go through hoops to get your bookings, the dressing rooms is always a tortuous mile from the stage, you have to keep your fans happy while managing a quick change of costume, and crawl to the venue manager for your next booking." These ladies are well pre-

pared. [www.thewayoutclub.com](http://www.thewayoutclub.com)

## MANCHESTER

May is one of the best months to visit Manchester. Take advantage of the pleasant temperatures and reduced precipitation at **Queer Up North International Festival**. Tanja Farman and Gavin Barlow founded the event in 1992 to provide a platform for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender art. Today, the festival continues to support LGBT culture and creativity through an eclectic mix of theatre, cabaret, music, debate, and film. Crowd favorites and new talents will take the stage this year May 18–31, so save the dates. [www.queerupnorth.com](http://www.queerupnorth.com)

## FRANCE CANNES

Only the Cannes Film Festival could find a way to be so glamorous for a good cause. May 20 will mark the festival's seventh annual **Cinema Against AIDS**, a black-tie event complete with cocktail reception, dinner, and live auction. Each year attracts several familiar faces from film, music, fashion, business, and international society. It also packs plenty of memorable moments such as Sharon Stone dancing to an impromptu performance by Sir Elton John and Ringo Starr. Since 1993, Cinema Against AIDS events around the globe have raised more than \$50 million for the lifesaving work of the Foundation for AIDS Research. Cocktails start at 6:30 P.M. at the Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc. Dress up and come join the fight. [www.amfar.org](http://www.amfar.org)

## GERMANY BAYREUTH

Whether you listen to baroque or contemporary, classical or jazz, do not miss **Musica Bayreuth**. Over the past five decades, this eight-day festival has become a cultural institution in Bayreuth. From May 9–16, a mix of well-known performers and award winning young artists will come together to entertain both music connoisseurs and lovers alike. Unfortunately, the Margarete Opera House—one of the festival's main venues—is under construction this year. Still, the show must go on. A host of the city's other concert venues, such as the Stadtkirche and City Hall, will house this can't-miss musical event. [www.musica-bayreuth.de](http://www.musica-bayreuth.de)

## IRELAND CORK

If you're in Ireland at the end of May, follow the rainbow (there will probably be plenty of them) to **Cork Pride 2010**. For the past five years, it has gained much broadcast attention from Irish channels and major UK-based networks alike. The festivities will kick off in the city's South Main Street on May 30 and keep going until June 7. The grand celebrations and much anticipated parade are set for the main week-end of June 4–7. So come party with the Irish. A pot of gold is not guaranteed, but there will be plenty of pride. [www.corkpride.com](http://www.corkpride.com)

## ITALY VENICE

Do you get excited by a good paddle? Well, there will be plenty at **Vogalonga**, a non-profit regatta held in the beautiful city of Venice. A group of friends first started the event in 1975 with the purpose of spreading knowledge, awareness, and respect for the city's waters. Today it welcomes rowers and fans from all over the world for a 30-kilometer race through Venice's canals and lagoon. Recent year's events have involved over 5,000 participants, and its 36th edition in 2010 will likely draw an even larger crowd. So whether flying, walking, or paddling in, don't miss this show of "love for Venice and its waters, for its lagoon and its islands, for rowing and its boats" on May 23. [www.vogalonga.it](http://www.vogalonga.it)

## NETHERLANDS AMSTERDAM

On May 5, join in the fun at Amsterdam's **Liberation Concert**. This open-air concert is set beside the beautiful Amstel River and is a perfect end to Amsterdam's Liberation Day. During this national holiday, the city celebrates the end of Nazi occupation during World War II. At 8 P.M., the country shares two minutes of silence. Then,

starting at 9 PM., the mood shifts dramatically and the concert will rock into the night, ending with the traditional "We'll Meet Again" by Vera Lynn. Come celebrate with the Dutch. This liberation celebration is completely free. Now isn't that fitting? [www.lamsterdam.com](http://www.lamsterdam.com)

## SCOTLAND EDINBURGH

Run, skip, walk, or sprint to **Cancer Research UK's Race for Life**, the largest women-only fundraising event in the United Kingdom. Cancer Research UK funds over 4,500 scientists, doctors, and nurses, devoted to fighting this disease. Since 1994, women of all ages and fitness levels have come together to raise money for this effort. So far, they have helped to raise over £240 million. This year, the race will start in South Queensferry on May 9, and in Holyrood on June 13. So put on those running shoes, and perhaps revive that New Year's resolution, for a good cause. Join cancer survivors and those walking in honor of loved ones not so lucky for a 5k toward finding a cure. [www.raceforlife.org](http://www.raceforlife.org)

## SPAIN BARCELONA

Sample new, alternative, and independent music at **Primavera Sound 2010**. From May 27-29, performers like Pet Shop Boys, The Charlatans, Sunny Day Real Estate, and Broken Social Scene will come to beautiful Barcelona. For three days, the city's Parc Del Fòrum will house plenty of music and all-night disco parties. Dance in the sun during the day's concerts, then show off your glowing tan at the evening events that follow. [www.primaverasound.com](http://www.primaverasound.com)

## SWITZERLAND ZÜRICH

Enjoy spring's pleasant weather at **Warmer Mai**, Zürich's month-long GLBT festival. Each year, the event fills the streets of Switzerland's gay capital with scantily dressed partygoers, spirited parades, and seemingly endless activities. From QueerBall to circuit parties, art shows to stand-up comedy, street theatre to intimate concerts, Warmer Mai can satisfy any taste. Don't hesitate. There are plenty of things to do, and only so many days in a month. [www.warmermai.ch](http://www.warmermai.ch)

## AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND BRISBANE

The **Brisbane Pride Festival** began in 1990 to promote public events and activities that contribute to queer culture. Today, this month-long blowout is Australia's third largest gay and les-

# RUSCHA IN STOCKHOLM

As one of the first pop artists, Ed Ruscha explored, and defined, a new frontier of art. He is most famous for interweaving popular culture into his paintings, collages, films, graphic designs, and photos. His work captured the zeitgeist of his time through the use of advertisements and words, which challenged established genres like conceptual art, surrealism, and post modernism. **Ed Ruscha: 50 Years of Painting**, at the **Moderna Museet** in Stockholm, journeys through the pioneer's works. After he moved to Los Angeles, Ruscha primarily worked on his paintings and left other art forms behind. The most famous of his paintings include his word portraits that range from early, basic pieces to more complex works in which he combines blocks of text or complete sentences with other subject matter. He, as much as his paintings, became iconic for the Beat generation in LA and for the ironic commentary of his work. This very special exhibit will run from May 29-September 5. [www.modernamuseet.se](http://www.modernamuseet.se)

90% ANGEL

—Joseph Pedro

bian event, attracting more than 50,000 visitors. This year's theme is "Love Our Way," calling the government and society to recognize LGBT relationships. Come enjoy the Pink Pub Prowl, the Queens Ball Community Awards, and, of course, the much anticipated Fair Day, Rally, and March. From June 1-30, show a little love to our friends in Brisbane and come celebrate. [www.pridebrisbane.org.au](http://www.pridebrisbane.org.au)

## DARWIN

**BassintheGrass 2010** is the Northern Territory's largest musical extravaganza that brings together some of Australia's biggest bands. Since its start in 2003, the concert has grown into one of the city's must-see events. People of all ages and musical tastes will find something to enjoy. Plus, there will be plenty of food and confections for those who work up an appetite. This year's lineup includes popular Aussie bands like Silverchair, Hilltop Hoods, Empire of the Sun, Children Collide, and Short Stack. Haven't heard of them? Stop by anyway on May 22 and sample what the locals listen to. [www.bassintheGrass.com.au](http://www.bassintheGrass.com.au)

## QUEENSLAND

The **Asia Pacific International Physique, Figure, and Sports Model Championships** showcases some of the sexiest natural sights. No, we're not talking about landscapes. The event, sponsored by Powerzone ANB on May 29, features the finest body builders, figure girls, and sports models from Australia and all parts of the globe. The best part is all their chisels and curves are unenhanced. See these bodacious boys and girls flex and strut before showing off their moves during their own musical routine.

Come appreciate the beauty of the human body. There will be plenty of tiny Speedos, skimpy bikinis, and of course, body oil. What more could you want? [www.anbasiapacific.com](http://www.anbasiapacific.com)

## SYDNEY

What could be more relaxing than reading a book by the sea? Well, there will be plenty on hand for your perusal at the annual **Sydney Writers' Festival**, the biggest literary event of its kind in Australia and one of the largest book fairs in the world. From May 17-23, a mix of authors, poets, biographers, editors, publishers, philosophers, and booklovers from all across the globe will assemble for this event. Come leaf through thousands of titles, attend workshops, or sit down for a reading. Unleash your inner bookworm. [www.swf.org.au](http://www.swf.org.au)

## NEW ZEALAND WELLINGTON

Step aside Celine and Whitney. In Wellington on May 2, it's all about the **Comedy Divas**. This two-hour show will feature the comedy world's sassiest females who will have audiences in stitches. New Zealand's own starlet, Justine Smith, will host the event, joined by comedic leading ladies like Ireland's Maeve Higgins and the UK's Zoe Lyons. So get on your best frock, and come spend a night laughing with the girls. [www.comedyfestival.co.nz](http://www.comedyfestival.co.nz)

## ASIA

### HONG KONG

Once a way to ward off pirates, the **Bun Festival** now celebrates Buddha's birthday on the eighth day of the Fourth Moon in the

## GROOM SERVICE

**Suite Arrival**, a new, online, courier service allows travelers in the USA to have their preferred shampoo, soap, and other personal products, sent directly to their hotel. That's right. No more worrying about 3-1-1 rules for carry on bags...nor risking that the ultra-pricey, organic, green tea-Vitamin E infused, rejuvenating face cream might get confiscated at the security line. No more enduring stock, hotel shampoo that leaves your hair hopelessly dehydrated. Suite Arrival stocks everything from Right Guard to upscale herbal moisturizers, as well as other basics like Band-Aids, Pepto, and condoms. Just order at least three days in advance, and your grooming essentials will await your arrival. Now that's special delivery. [www.suitearrival.com](http://www.suitearrival.com)



—Tricia Manzanero

Chinese calendar. Locals go vegetarian for seven days. Even the McDonald's converts to veggie burgers for the span. On the eighth day, a parade of bun-covered towers marches down the city streets. Young men then show off their strength by climbing the towers and snatching the buns. Over ten thousand visitors flock to this festival each year. With its mix of male athleticism and tasty edibles, how could anyone stay away? May 21. [www.cheungchau.org](http://www.cheungchau.org)

### JAPAN TOKYO

Love men in thong-like attire and shows of strength? Then don't miss **The May Basho**, one of Japan's six annual Grand Sumo Tournaments. Sumo ranks among the country's most popular sports and is steeped in legend, history, and ceremony. Although seemingly a sheer battle of power, it is also a delicate art that involves over 70 different maneuvers and forms. From May 9-23, the country's greatest Sumo wrestlers will meet at the Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Hall (try saying that five times fast). There, they will vie for victory and wow crowds using their own throws, trips, and tricks. See these mammoth-sized men wrestle for glory. [www.sumo.or.jp](http://www.sumo.or.jp)

### PHILIPPINES MANILA

Do you think there's no such thing as too many tiaras or too much tulle? Do you TiVo every single beauty pageant that airs? If so, you can't miss **Flores de Mayo**. During this month-long festival, Filipinos honor the Immaculate Conception and the Virgin Mary with parades overflowing with flowers. Yet, what's a festival without a princess to preside over it? The *Flores de Mayo*, or *Santacruzán*, is known as

the "Queen of Filipino Festivals." Several town belles from all over the archipelago vie for the title. They are judged not only their beauty, but also their embodiment of traditional feminine qualities. Come see who gets crowned. [www.tourism.gov.ph](http://www.tourism.gov.ph)

### SINGAPORE

At the **Singapore Arts Festival**, it's "Between You and Me." This new theme for 2010 promotes getting closer to the arts. The festival itself will reach out this year through an initiative called "com.mune," meant to heighten accessibility and connection between the arts and the public. Since 1977, this national showcase has helped to make Singapore one of Asia's major cultural capitals. It is known today for its bold, innovative collaborations and international performances, all with a hint of Asian flavor. The 33rd edition, set for May 14-June 13, will again feature a fabulous mix of art, theater, music, and more. This year's festival promises to "touch you in ways you never imagined." Take that as you like. Just don't miss out. [www.singaporeartsfest.com](http://www.singaporeartsfest.com)

### AFRICA

#### MOROCCO MARRAKECH

Those obsessed with couture can get their fix at the **CAFTAN Fashion Show**. On May 1, both experienced designers and young talents will unveil their elegant creations at the regal Palais des Congrès' Palmeraie Golf Palace. The show, organized annually by *Femmes du Maroc Magazine*, features the latest Moroccan and Eastern looks. Collections of both traditional garb and contemporary styles will debut on the runway. All proceeds go to the CSSF, which provides scholarships for young girls liv-

ing in rural Morocco. Haute couture mixed with philanthropy? Now that's fashionable. [www.moroccofestivals.co.uk](http://www.moroccofestivals.co.uk)

### FEZ

For centuries, Christians, Jews, and Muslims have lived peacefully together in the city of Fez. It then seems only appropriate that this Moroccan city host the **Fes Festival** of sacred world music. The show celebrates religious commonality and a collective love of the arts. This diverse musical gathering brings together the top sacred music arts from all over the globe. Sufi whirling Dervishes will share the stage with Celtic chants during this week of concerts, lectures, performances, and more. Get in on the mix June 4-12. [www.fesfestival.com](http://www.fesfestival.com)

### SOUTH AFRICA CAPETOWN

Feast on the best in South African cuisine at **The Good Food and Wine Show**, an annual event showcasing culinary trends from all over the globe. Each year it packs the Cape Town International Convention Centre with international chefs, gourmet cocktail makers, and more than 50,000 food and wine enthusiasts. This year will feature Get Fresh with BBC Lifestyle, an interactive theatre in which celebrity chefs like Gordon Ramsay and Giorgio Locatelli will give their takes on why "green is great." Guests can also indulge in an array of demonstrations, exhibitions, competitions, and hands-on workshops. Get your fill May 13-16. [www.gourmetsa.co.za](http://www.gourmetsa.co.za)

### JOHANNESBURG

Do you constantly keep the television on HGTV? Does the thought of decorating or updating your home make you giddy? Then **Grand Designs Live** is the event for you. This unique exhibition caters to anyone with an interest in interiors, building, kitchens, bathrooms, gardens, shopping, food, and technology. Its unique displays not only offer cutting-edge home design products but also ideas on how to unlock the potential of your abode. Find some domestic inspiration at the Johannesburg Coca-Cola Dome May 21-23. [www.granddesignslive.co.za](http://www.granddesignslive.co.za)

### SOUTH AMERICA

#### ARGENTINA BUENOS AIRES

The **International Book Fair of Buenos Aires** is the largest of its kind in the Spanish-speaking world. It attracts more than 1,200,000 readers as well as authors, publishers, booksellers, distributors, educators, and librarians each year. Visitors can browse literature in almost every

language as well as enjoy unique debates, book-signings, and workshops. In the past, prominent professors and lecturers have led talks on the history of jazz, the history of Argentine art, and techniques for scriptwriting. Bond with other bookworms from all parts of the world April 22–May 10. [www.el-libro.org.ar](http://www.el-libro.org.ar)

Afterward, bring a new or old book you've procured and enjoy a glass of Malbec at **Wine Tour Urbano**. On this one-night affair, visitors can take a unique tour of Argentina's trendy Arenales Street. They can leisurely stroll from shop to shop, with wine glass in hand of course. In the past, this unique wine festival has spotlighted Argentina's Cabernets and Syrahs as well as its Malbecs and Merlots. On May 20, however, the country's top wineries will put all of their best bottles forward. Don't miss this chance to sip some of the finest wines Argentina has to offer. [www.winetoururbano.com.ar](http://www.winetoururbano.com.ar)

**BRAZIL  
SÃO PAULO**

**Sao Paulo Pride** is a celebration for the record books. Literally. In 2006, the city's Gay Pride Parade made *The Guinness Book of World Records* with its 2.5 million participants. Once only attended by a mere 2,000 people, Sao Paulo Pride is now expected to attract more than four million. This year's theme, "Without Homophobia, More Citizenship" refers to the dozens of constitutional rights denied to LGBT individuals. From June 3–7, come celebrate with the beautiful men and women of Brazil. Don't miss festival traditions like the Cycle of Debates, LGBT Cultural Fair, and Gay Day. There will be plenty to do and see at this record-breaking party, and it's just the kick off for a month full of activities. [www.paradasp.org.br](http://www.paradasp.org.br)

**RIO DE JANEIRO**

Shopaholics will love **Feria do Rio Antigo**. On April 3, the city's Rua do Lavradio transforms into a giant antiques market. There, visitors can browse 100 stalls featuring works by local entrepreneurs, producers, and artists. In addition, restaurants and bars extend their tables and chairs onto the pavement, providing some rest and sustenance to weary shoppers. Feria do Rio Antigo began in 2005 as a way to revitalize Rio de Janeiro's historic center. Today, it continues to attract people the world over to this center of culture, history, and cuisine. [www.novorioantigo.com.br](http://www.novorioantigo.com.br)

**NORTH AMERICA**

**CANADA  
MONTREAL**




Every spring the beautiful city of Montréal opens up 30 participating museums for a special event called **Montréal Museums Day**. Some 130,000 people visit the city's best cultural offerings on May 18. If the gorgeous springtime weather warrants a day outdoors, don't worry, there are plenty of activities going

*We see the stage. You steal the show.*



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## KEY WEST TROLLEY TOUR

It's important to learn your history, and **Key West's Gay and Lesbian Historic Trolley Tour** offers LGBT visitors and friends a ride along the way. Since the early 1940s, Key West has been both a haven and home for gay residents. Now, every Saturday at 11 A.M., the rainbow flag-draped Old Town Trolley runs a 70-minute tour highlighting the city's rich gay and lesbian history. Pay a visit to Tennessee Williams' home, admire the art gallery once owned by Richard Heyman, the city's first gay mayor, stand in the site of the legendary bar, the Monster, as well as stop at many other historic hotspots en route. Learn how the gay community contributed to the culture, politics, and economy of Key West, while also taking in the city's unique architecture and equally eclectic people. Tickets are only \$25 per person for this fabulously fun and informative tour. [www.gaykeywestfl.com](http://www.gaykeywestfl.com)



—Tricia Manzanero

on all around the city, even in public parks, to share the general festivity of celebrating art and history. [www.museesmontreal.org](http://www.museesmontreal.org)

### TORONTO

It's back for its 20th year as Canada's premier GLBT film festival. **Inside Out, Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival** raises awareness about the thriving GLBT population in Canada and around the world, while also giving filmgoers a chance to kick back and have a good time. Enjoying good cinema brings people from all different kinds of backgrounds and beliefs together, so use this opportunity to bond over GLBT storytelling in a city that is welcoming to not just gays and lesbians, but folks from all cultures and traditions. [www.insideout.on.ca](http://www.insideout.on.ca)

### OTTAWA

The first sign of spring is tiny green tulip sprouts, or, maybe the first day you see cute boys in shorts. The **Canadian Tulip Festival** will offer a little of both. The festival is an Ottawa tradition that started in 1953. The introduction of tulips dates back to 1945 when 100,000 bulbs were presented to Ottawa from the Netherlands. When the tulips were planted, Ottawa became a sensation as the city landscape became a blanket of color. The tulip is celebrated as a sign of peace, friendship, and spring, three things that make for a wonderfully utopian festival. May 20–30. [www.tulipfestival.ca](http://www.tulipfestival.ca)

## UNITED STATES

### CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

**LA Pride** won't be suffering a mid-life crisis for its 40th birthday this June 10–13. Thousands

of festival attendees are expected in the heart of WeHo to celebrate this year's mantra "Power, Passion, Purpose." Revel among A-list performers (like previous years' headliners Olivia Newton John, Joss Stone, and Joan Jett). World-renowned DJs will have you dancing in the streets. Be sure to stop by the festival grounds that have food, drink, community programming, and exhibitors. At night, expect the local watering holes to be packed with proud people. [www.lapride.org](http://www.lapride.org)

### PALM SPRINGS

It's not every day that you can afford to go out and eat at all of the trendiest Palm Springs restaurants. So, take advantage of **Palm Springs Restaurant Week** where you can enjoy fine dining without breaking the bank. Last year's Restaurant Week was such a success and gave such a boost to business, Palm Springs decided to make this year's bigger and better than ever. With more restaurants participating than ever before, it would be foolish to miss out. Three-course meals at all restaurants are set at a fixed price of \$24–\$36 from June 4–13. [www.palmspringsrestaurantweek.com](http://www.palmspringsrestaurantweek.com)

### SAN FRANCISCO

Get ready for some tough ball smackers headed your way from May 22–25. The **United States Gay Open** is ready to celebrate 30 years. Past champions will return and relive their glory at the largest LGBT tennis tournament in North America. Prepare for a wild pre-party at San Francisco's 15th Street tennis courts, the birthplace of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation, where you can participate or watch from the stands. Each year the competition gets tougher and the crowds get larger, so make sure you reserve your space today. [www.gltf.org](http://www.gltf.org)

### YOSEMITE

Come join San Francisco's Golden Gate Guards and the Levi-leather club, for some outdoor springtime fun at **Springtime in Yosemite!** Want to experience leather culture at its finest? You're probably going to want to break in a new pair of chaps for this weekend. Biker boys come to enjoy beautiful Yosemite with breathtaking rides and adventure trips, and of course, no matter how butch you are, cocktails. May 14–16. [www.gguards.com](http://www.gguards.com)

### COLORADO FRUITA

It's a tale as old as time. OK, maybe not, but the story of Mike the Headless Chicken is one that goes down as a classic American tale. This cock lived almost 18 months after decapitation, and the strange tale has become a legend to the great people of Fruita, Colorado. They mark his death with a two-day party from May 14–15 that is appropriately named the **Mike the Headless Chicken Festival**. This year's theme is "Let's Get Physical." It will include a 5k run-like-a-chicken race, lawn mower races, bands, a car show, and plenty of chicken for festival-goers to eat. [www.miketheheadlesschicken.org](http://www.miketheheadlesschicken.org)

### FLORIDA MIAMI

Once White Party and Miami Gay Pride wrap up, the gay fun doesn't end in the Sunshine State. **The Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival** turns on the projectors from April 23–May 2. Each year the festival gets bigger and better as filmmakers from all over the world come and show off their full-length films and shorts to a growing crowd of GLBT movie fans. [www.mgiff.com](http://www.mgiff.com)

Miami better brace itself for an estrogen-filled hurricane when **Aqua Girl 2010** whirls into town. The weeklong celebration for women who love women is the largest gender-specific charity week in the country. Whether you just want to kick back and relax at the beach or pool, dance the night away, laugh at a comedy show, listen to the smooth sounds of jazz at a concert, or get your culture on at an art show, you will certainly find something to do. Events run May 12–16. [www.aquagirl.org](http://www.aquagirl.org)

Things are seriously heating up in Miami this spring and **Sizzle Miami's** inclusive black pride event proves it. People from all over the world come to celebrate life, pride, and liberty where they'll party in the city where the heat is on. The five-day event, from May 27–June 1, has tons of events during the day, as well as a wild nightlife scene. For the ladies, **SizzleHer** runs the same weekend, but ends on the 31st. [www.sizzlemiami.com](http://www.sizzlemiami.com) and [www.sizzleher.com](http://www.sizzleher.com)

**ORLANDO**

Orlando shows it has more than theme parks with the **Orlando Fringe Festival**. More than 80 artist groups will perform throughout nine venues around town at the **Orlando Fringe Festival**. As one of the oldest fringe festivals in the United States, it has a wild and bohemian reputation that it is careful to maintain. Keeping with fringe tradition, all of the money raised will go to the artists, and each performance will go on uncensored, opening up the stage to a slew of provocative shows. May 20–31.

[www.orlandofringe.org](http://www.orlandofringe.org) and [www.fringefestivals.com](http://www.fringefestivals.com)

OK, Mickey can't be left out! The most magical place on earth is for the gays too! **Gay Days at Walt Disney World** takes place June 3–7 and offers the best in gay entertainment, allowing the over 140,000 guests to channel their inner Disney princesses. Enjoy the parks by day, including Gay Day at the Magic Kingdom, and enjoy the adult entertainment at night, including a wine tasting and unforgettable performances, as well as girls' and guys' nights at local bars and clubs. [www.gayday.com](http://www.gayday.com)

**GEORGIA  
ATLANTA**

On May 12, eat as much as you can to help fight childhood hunger at Atlanta's **Share Our Strengths Taste of the Nation**. The country's best chefs will craft the finest foods in their repertoire, and mixologists will make the tastiest cocktails. The charity event takes place May 12, so hurry and get tickets.

[www.taste.strength.org](http://www.taste.strength.org)

**HAWAII  
HONOLULU**

This May 27–30, celebrate the best in LGBT film at the **Rainbow Honolulu Film Festival**. Watch inspired GLBT works from some of the industry's diverse, experienced directors, as well as from newcomers. Enjoy the lush greenery and stunning beaches of Oahu, all while supporting the community. [www.hglcf.org](http://www.hglcf.org)

**ILLINOIS  
CHICAGO**

Since spring is a time for nourishment, the **Be-All: Transgender Convention** celebrates the season by cultivating solidarity among transgender people and their allies. From June 1–6, people of all orientations—whether transgender, gay, straight, enigmatically undecided—are invited to Chicago's Double Tree Suites for six days of stimulating seminars and inspiring speeches. Of course, business will mix with plenty of pleasure including exciting excursions, pool parties, and live entertainment. The conference, now in its 28th edition, attracted over 450 attendees last year and 2010 promises to be bigger than ever. Come show some support, nurture old acquaintances, and bring some new friendships into bloom. [www.be-all.org](http://www.be-all.org)



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**LOUISIANA  
NEW ORLEANS**

If the way to a person's heart is through their stomach, then it's easy to see why guests adore **The New Orleans Wine & Food Experience (NOWFE)**. The event, set for May 22-23, brings together renowned winemakers, celebrated chefs, industry insiders, and food lovers alike for a five-day, gastronomic extravaganza. Savor exciting seminars, elegant dinners, and exclusive tastings. The flavors are phenomenal and represent an entire United Nations of gastronomy. Also, indulge guilt-free knowing all this gluttony benefits causes like the Cancer Crusaders and the Animal Rescue of New Orleans. All you need are tickets, and of course, an empty stomach. [www.nowfe.com](http://www.nowfe.com)

**MASSACHUSETTS  
NANTUCKET**

Nantucket, the historic whaling community, transforms into a world-class wine capital each year. Now celebrating its 14th year, **The Nantucket Wine Festival** offers five days of tantalizing food seminars, delectable luncheons, and sumptuous tastings, all set amid the natural beauty of New England. Raise a glass for charity with culinary stars like Ming Tsai. Parts of the festival proceeds benefit several Nantucket non-profit organizations. Don't miss the Celebrity Chef & Winemaker Auction dinner on May 22. This marquee event, featuring a fabulous meal crafted by the Four Seasons Hotel Boston's Brooke Vosika and critically-acclaimed wines from Spain, is not to be missed. Indulge May 19-23. [www.nantucketwinefestival.com](http://www.nantucketwinefestival.com)

**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS**

At the **Minnesota AIDS WALK**, take steps toward fighting HIV. Literally. On May 16, thousands of people from Minnesota and beyond will gather in Minneapolis' Minnehaha Park. There, they will take on a ten-kilometer course to raise funds for the Minnesota AIDS Project, a statewide nonprofit agency committed to HIV prevention education as well as advocating for people suffering from the debilitating disease. Whether you choose to walk, run, or volunteer to support those on the course, there are many ways to get involved. Regardless of fitness level, anyone can participate in this day to remember those who have lost their fight as well as to support those still struggling against AIDS—and really, that's all of us, isn't it? [www.mnaidswalk.org](http://www.mnaidswalk.org)

**NEVADA  
LAS VEGAS**

A bit of gluttony seems only appropriate in the City of Sin. From May 6-9, **Vegas Uncorked** will wholeheartedly encourage this seventh deadly sin. For three days, indulge in a sumptuous mix of fine food and wine. Savor exclusive tastings, alluring live-entertainment, and elegant dinners prepared by international culinary greats. Consort

[www.GLBTTTravelExpo.com](http://www.GLBTTTravelExpo.com)

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**NEW YORK  
NEW YORK CITY**

Since 1986, **AIDS Walk New York** has raised over \$105 million to benefit HIV programs and services in the tri-state area. In 2009 alone, the efforts of more than 45,000 participants resulted in a record sum of more than \$5.6 million given to the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and 50 other local AIDS service organizations. Go solo or organize a team. If the more than six-mile route seems too daunting, there is even the option of sponsoring others. There are many ways to take part in what has become the largest AIDS fundraising event in the world. No matter which you choose come May 16, help raise awareness about HIV and remember those who have lost their fight against this devastating disease. [www.aidswalk.net/newyork](http://www.aidswalk.net/newyork)

NewFest is the Big Apple's premier LGBT film organization dedicated to empowerment, education, entertainment, and, of course, a bit of provocation. Each year, the group hosts **NewFest: The New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Film Festival**. From June 4-11, the highly anticipated show will again feature international, US, and local film, video, and other media that foster a sense of awareness and community among GLBT and GLBT-friendly audiences. Each submission gets thoroughly critiqued, so audiences can expect some top-quality work. With its equally engaging panel discussions, workshops, and after-parties, this film fest is definitely a must see. [www.newfestival.org](http://www.newfestival.org)

**OKLAHOMA  
OKLAHOMA CITY**

The guys and gals of the Oklahoma Gay Rodeo Association (OGRA) can really ride. Started in 1986, OGRA strives to create a friendly environment where anyone interested in western lifestyle can express themselves through rodeo, play days, family events, dance, and other extravagant explorations. This Memorial Day weekend, these cowboys and girls will show off their skills at the **25th Annual Great Plains Rodeo**. So, stop by Oklahoma City's State Fairgrounds May 28-30. Things might get rowdy, but there will be plenty of down home fun. [www.ogra.net](http://www.ogra.net)

**PENNSYLVANIA  
NEW HOPE**

Don't let New Hope's size fool you. This small city of 2,000 has lots of love for LGBT residents, families, friends, and guests. Each year it hosts **New Hope Pride Celebrates (NHC)**, which offers live performances, an information expo, softball games, children's activities, and, of course, a Pride Parade. Have some wholesome

family fun before partying the night away at the many dance events. During NHC, there is something for everyone. Join the celebration May 11-16, and give some love back to the people of New Hope. [www.newhopecelebrates.com](http://www.newhopecelebrates.com)

**PHILADELPHIA**

Traverse Arts Project (TAP) uses media like the stage or the big screen as mirrors for societal reflection, and its **Philadelphia GLBT Arts Festival** is no exception. The event, now proudly in its second year, showcases multidisciplinary masterpieces crafted by GLBT artists and their straight allies. Recognizing the struggles that these artists face, the festival seeks to highlight their magnificent creativity while also promoting social change. From June 6-14, come for a concert, a film, a play, or all three. At this arts festival, there are several ways to show these special artists support. [www.traversetheater.org](http://www.traversetheater.org)

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
CHARLESTON**

There's no such thing as the "same old same old" at the **Spoletto Festival**. Called a "beauty of an event," by the *New York Times*, this eclectic event features opera, musical theater, dance, Wachovia Jazz, visual arts, and many other genres and special events. After an elegant opening night fête, festival highlights to follow include performances by all-male dance troupe, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Grammy Award-nominated jazz trio, Norma Winstone Trio, and masters of West African string tradition, Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba. Reserve tickets now for May 28-June 13, because this diverse arts festival promises to be unlike any other. [www.spoletousa.org](http://www.spoletousa.org)

**TEXAS  
AUSTIN**

Everything is bigger in Texas and that also goes for **Austin Pride 2010**. Since its start in 2002, the celebration's attendance has skyrocketed to over 45,000. Plans for 2010 include the Big Gay Garage Sale, film screenings, 4th Street Block Party, and of course the much anticipated Pride Parade. From June 3-6, show some love to our friends in Austin. Who knows, you could meet a cute Texan boy or girl and get a bit of your own southern hospitality. [www.austinpride2010.org](http://www.austinpride2010.org)

**WASHINGTON D.C.**

From May 14-16, guests are cordially invited to **Mount Vernon's Spring Wine Festival & Sunset**. Held on George Washington's old estate, this event offers three enchanting evenings of wine and entertainment. Spread a blanket out on the grounds and take in some live jazz as well as stunning Potomac River views. Then, get exclusive access to the estate's rarely seen cellar on a candlelit mansion tour. Reserve tickets now and enjoy an unforgettable evening fit for a president. [www.washington.org](http://www.washington.org)

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