# Nordic countries top the list of queer-friendly capitals... but where is London?



A recent study conducted by Emisil has highlighted the most queer-friendly capitals around the world, ranking them based on various metrics that include inclusivity, safety, and economic factors. The study assessed cities by compiling data from five crucial indices: equality, safety, cost of living, rent, and the number of LGBTQ+-focused establishments and events. Each capital's performance on these indices was aggregated to produce a composite score, with Reykjavik leading the list with a perfect score of 100.

The city achieved a safety index of 74.6 and an impressive equality index of 93, having embraced inclusivity, demonstrated by the legalisation of same-sex marriage in 2010. The presence of Rainbow Street, a landmark celebrating LGBTQ+ culture, further illustrates Reykjavik's commitment to creating a supportive environment for both residents and visitors.

Securing the second spot on the list is Berlin, which scored 98. Known for its vibrant nightlife, it offers a staggering 147 queer bars and clubs, ensuring a plethora of safe spaces for the community. Furthermore, Berlin ranks as the second most affordable city in the survey, with a cost of living index of 44.

Third place is occupied by Oslo, with a score of 97. The city consistently achieves high scores across all indices, with a public opinion index that reflects strong societal support for LGBTQ+ rights. Additionally, Oslo offers the highest annual salary among the ranked capitals, averaging $102,000.

Denmark's capital, Copenhagen, claims the fourth position with a score of 96. The city has demonstrated strong legal support for LGBTQ+ rights since the legalisation of same-sex marriage in 2012, and it houses 36 queer-friendly venues, fostering community engagement and inclusivity.

Fifth place goes to Bern, Switzerland, scoring 94. Though it legalised same-sex marriage only recently in 2022, Bern boasts a high safety index of 73.9 and offers competitive annual salaries, making it an appealing destination for LGBTQ+ individuals seeking economic stability and safe living conditions.

Amsterdam follows in sixth place with a score of 93, having been the first city globally to legalise same-sex marriage in 2001. With 67 LGBTQ+ events annually, Amsterdam remains steadfast in its dedication to providing avenues for social connection and support for the community.

London, the UK’s capital, ranks seventh with a score of 92. It hosts an impressive 3,800 LGBTQ+ events yearly, the most among the capitals assessed, alongside a wealth of queer bars and safe spaces available to residents and visitors alike.

Madrid comes in eighth with a score of 90, supported by an equality index of 83 and its historical significance in advancing LGBTQ+ rights, having legalised same-sex marriage in 2005. The supportive societal stance reflected in its public opinion index contributes to Madrid's inclusive environment.

Vienna placed ninth with a score of 88 thanks to a competitive cost of living index of 45 with a strong equality index while completing the top ten is Helsinki, Finland, which achieved a score of 86. The city balances its equality index of 74 and a safety index of 73.8 with an affordable cost of living index of 42, promoting a welcoming atmosphere in the Nordic country despite a lower number of LGBTQ+ venues.

Commenting on the findings, a spokesperson from Emisil observed, “Cities that prioritise equality and safety for LGBTQ+ individuals build communities where people can thrive socially, culturally, and economically.” This statement underscores the notion that fostering inclusivity can lead to stronger, more resilient communities for everyone.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gscene.com/news/international-news/reykjavik-ranked-top-queer-friendly-capital-in-the-world/> - This article supports the claim that Reykjavik is a top queer-friendly capital, highlighting its high equality and safety indices. It also mentions the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Iceland in 2010.
* <https://www.gscene.com/news/international-news/reykjavik-ranked-top-queer-friendly-capital-in-the-world/> - The article further corroborates the ranking of Berlin and Oslo as second and third, respectively, in terms of queer-friendliness.
* <https://www.outtraveler.com/travel-guides/travel-queer-trans-friendly-cities> - This article provides additional context on queer-friendly cities, including Amsterdam and London, which are known for their LGBTQ+ events and venues.
* <https://www.brusselstimes.com/1329264/brussels-among-10-best-city-in-the-world-for-lgbtq-singles> - While not directly related to the specific rankings mentioned, this article supports the broader theme of cities being evaluated for their LGBTQ+ inclusivity and social opportunities.