# Manchester the most sexually liberated city in the UK! But no London in the global top ten?



The latest global research conducted by escort consultancy group Erobella has revealed the most sexually liberated cities worldwide in 2025, showcasing a significant shift in the landscape of sexual freedom and LGBTQ+ acceptance. This year’s rankings highlight a notable European dominance, with eight cities from the continent featuring in the top ten, while only one city from the United States secured a place. This shift contrasts sharply with last year’s list, where seven American cities including New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago featured prominently but have now dropped out entirely.

Taking the top position is Amsterdam, a city long-renowned for its liberal attitudes and vibrant Red Light District. The Dutch capital was commended for its comprehensive legal protections, extensive sexual health resources, and a dynamic LGBTQIA+ community. Amsterdam’s legalisation of sex work since 2000 reflects governmental aims to empower sex workers, reduce criminal activity, and improve working conditions. Historically, the city also holds significance as a pioneer in LGBTQ+ rights, having decriminalised homosexuality in 1811.

San Francisco claimed the sole American spot in second place. Known for housing one of the earliest gay neighbourhoods in the US, The Castro, the city continues to be a bastion of LGBTQ+ culture and activism. Despite recent political challenges in the US, including rollbacks in diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, San Francisco Pride events persist with strong community support, maintaining its reputation as a safe haven for queer life.

Following these are Cologne in Germany, Vancouver in Canada, Lisbon in Portugal, and Berlin in Germany—all cities celebrated for their vibrant queer events, legal protections, and open access to sexual health services. Berlin, historically a hub for liberal views on sexuality, remains a key city for sexual and gender diversity.

A standout inclusion from the UK is Manchester, which appears at number seven. The city boasts a thriving LGBTQ+ scene centred around the famous Gay Village near Canal Street, which is home to over 30 gay bars and clubs. Manchester’s position on the list underlines its growing reputation as a sexually liberated city in northwest England, reflecting broader improvements in LGBTQ+ visibility and rights across the UK.

Rounding out the top ten are Hamburg and Vienna in Germany and Austria respectively, along with Barcelona, Spain. These cities combine strong legal frameworks protecting sexual and gender minorities with vibrant cultural scenes, contributing to their high rankings.

This evolving ranking arguably mirrors broader geopolitical and social trends, especially in the US where a resurgence of conservative attitudes has influenced sexual health, reproductive rights, and LGBTQ+ protections. Meanwhile, European cities appear to be benefiting from sustained progressive policies and vibrant community engagement.

Additional rankings, such as the LGBTQ+ Dating Index by TS-Dating.com, similarly stress the importance of legal protections, queer culture, and healthcare access, though their top cities differ slightly, with San Francisco often leading these lists. Other travel and lifestyle guides emphasize the unique cultural and social atmospheres that make cities like Amsterdam, San Francisco, and Vancouver standout destinations for LGBTQ+ individuals seeking acceptance and celebration.

Overall, the 2025 report highlights not only places where sexual liberalism thrives but also the complex interplay between politics, social attitudes, and community activism shaping these urban landscapes. It underscores the importance of inclusive laws, accessible health services, and vibrant social scenes in supporting sexual freedom and LGBTQ+ rights worldwide. Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/07/08/sexually-liberal-cities-2025/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/07/08/sexually-liberal-cities-2025/> - An article from PinkNews detailing the world's most sexually liberated cities in 2025, highlighting Amsterdam, San Francisco, Cologne, Vancouver, Lisbon, Berlin, Manchester, Hamburg, Vienna, and Barcelona. The piece discusses factors such as the number of gay bars, frequency of LGBTQ+ events, access to contraception, transgender rights, legality of sex work, and laws protecting against homophobic and transphobic behaviour. It also notes a shift from previous rankings, with European cities now dominating the top spots and only one US city making the list.
3. <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/03/27/3051055/0/en/LGBTQ-Dating-Index-2025.html> - A press release announcing the 2025 LGBTQ+ Dating Index by TS-Dating.com, ranking the 25 most LGBTQ+-friendly cities worldwide. The index evaluates cities based on legal protection, LGBTQ+ culture, and LGBTQ+-friendly healthcare. San Francisco tops the list, followed by Cologne, Miami, Atlanta, and Amsterdam. The release highlights the growing visibility and acceptance of queer love globally.
4. <https://zvtravel.com/lgbtq-travel-guide-top-friendly-cities-in-2025/> - An article from ZVTravel presenting a guide to the top LGBTQ+ friendly cities in 2025. The list includes Amsterdam, San Francisco, Toronto, Berlin, and Sydney, emphasizing factors such as legal protections, inclusive accommodations, vibrant queer nightlife, and cultural acceptance. Each city is highlighted for its unique contributions to the LGBTQ+ community and travel experiences.
5. <https://www.qxmagazine.com/2021/10/sexy-city-index-the-worlds-most-sexually-liberal-cities/> - An article from QX Magazine discussing the Sexy City Index, ranking the world's most sexually liberal cities. The index considers factors like anti-discrimination laws, number of gay bars, and sex shops. Amsterdam is noted for its strong anti-discrimination laws and sex-positive life, while Cologne leads in the number of queer events. Berlin ranks third due to its liberal legal views on sexuality.
6. <https://erobella.com/lust/worlds-most-sexually-liberal-cities/> - An article from Erobella's Lust magazine detailing the world's most sexually liberal cities. The ranking considers factors such as the number of gay bars, LGBTQ+ events, and liberal laws on sexuality. San Francisco tops the list, followed by Amsterdam, Cologne, and Lisbon. The article notes a shift from previous rankings, with European cities now dominating the top spots.