# LGBTQ Travelers Navigate Global Legal Landscape



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In recent years, LGBTQ travelers have faced complex challenges due to the legal status of homosexuality in various countries. While some destinations have made progress toward inclusivity, others maintain strict anti-homosexuality laws, impacting travel decisions for millions worldwide.

One such traveler, Emma-Jane Nutbrown, experienced this firsthand on a family trip to Jamaica, where same-sex sexual activity between men is punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Nutbrown and her brother Simon, both gay, insisted on family donations to an LGBTQ charity as a compromise.

According to the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), 62 countries criminalize homosexuality, with 12 imposing the death penalty. Popular tourist destinations among these include the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Corey O’Neill, a London-based office manager, avoids countries with such laws, citing safety concerns and his unwillingness to fund regimes that persecute LGBTQ individuals.

Destination marketers have increasingly targeted LGBTQ travelers due to their considerable disposable income. Companies like Out of Office and TravelGay specialize in ensuring safe and inclusive travel experiences. Darren Burn, founder of these companies, believes that engaging with such destinations can foster change by exposing local communities to diverse perspectives.

In Morocco, where same-sex activity is illegal, Inclusive Morocco, an LGBTQ-founded tour operator, aims to create safe travel experiences and support the local LGBTQ community through training and hiring initiatives.

In Uganda, despite severe laws, Michael Kajubi’s McBern Tours continues to operate, advocating for cautious and respectful travel to support local LGBTQ-friendly businesses and community projects.

While some, like Corey O'Neill, choose to avoid these destinations entirely, others argue that conscientious travel can help change perceptions and support local communities. Despite the legal landscape, LGBTQ travelers continue to navigate complex choices in their quest for safety and inclusivity.