



21 Top Pride Parades and Celebrations in the U.S. for 2023

Explore the biggest gatherings and unique events celebrating LGBTQ communities from coast to coast.

By Suzanne Mason, May 22, 2023



On June 28, 1969, in the New York City neighborhood of Greenwich Village, police raided a popular gay bar: the Stonewall Inn. Fed up with the frequent raids and harassment from law enforcement, both patrons and local residents began to fight back, leading to six days of protests and clashes between LGBTQ people and police.

The world-famous Stonewall built on years of LGBTQ activism. Similar homophobic and transphobic persecution by police had previously sparked other uprisings in the U.S., such

as nearly three years earlier in San Francisco at Gene Compton's Cafeteria, or a decade before in Los Angeles' Cooper Do-nuts.

On the anniversary of Stonewall in 1970, activists held a march known as Christopher Street Liberation Day in New York to commemorate the uprising on that very street a year before. This parade drew thousands of marchers and prompted other cities to hold Pride events, which evolved into annual celebrations in June.

Recent years have seen an increase in violent assaults and state legislation threatening the rights and legal protections of LGBTQ communities across the U.S. With gay and trans rights under immediate threat, this year's Pride events are more than just celebrations – they're intended as acts of unity by LGBTQ community members and allies.

Here are the top destinations to champion and celebrate Pride nationwide in 2023.

Providence, Rhode Island: June 17

Providence is a city with a small-town vibe and a vibrant arts community. Its first Pride event was held in 1976 after a court ruling allowed the gay community to march through the city. About 75 people marched in that parade. Today that number has grown to 125,000-plus attendees to its annual PrideFest.

The 47th Annual Rhode Island PrideFest & Illuminated Night Parade will take place on June 17. During the day, you can enjoy more than 250 nonprofit vendors, live entertainment and plenty of food. This [Providence](#) festival is one of Rhode Island's biggest festivals with more than 100,000 attendees yearly.

The Rhode Island Pride Illuminated Night Parade is New England's only nighttime LGBTQ parade. Parade-goers can expect to see buildings and floats light up as participants make their way through downtown Providence after dusk.

For more details, consult the Rhode Island Pride [website](#).

See more of Providence: [Things to Do](#) | [Hotels](#)