

Under the Radar Places to Celebrate Pride This Year

LGBTQ | MIA TAYLOR | APRIL 08, 2019



PHOTO: The days and weeks leading up to Vancouver's Pride parade and festival are packed with plenty to do. (Photo via Tourism Vancouver/Vision Event Photography)

From San Francisco to New York City and Los Angeles, Pride season has arrived and the celebrations in these major cities are legendary.

The annual extravaganzas, which typically take place between April and June, were started in urban centers to improve the visibility, acceptance and legal protections for LGBTQ people.

Today, in addition to offering an important chance for the LGBTQ community to demonstrate for rights such as same-sex marriage and equality, the parades and festivals are a chance to come together and celebrate the LGBTQ culture.

For travelers who'd like to avoid some of the most crowded of these events, there are plenty of secondary cities hosting Pride gatherings each year. Here are some of under the radar destinations to celebrate the LGBTQ culture.



PHOTO: Providence, Rhode Island skyline. (photo via SeanPavonePhoto/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

Providence, Rhode Island

Providence holds many events year-round focused on engaging local and out of town members of the LGBTQ community. However, the main attraction each year is always Providence's annual pride celebration. This year's festival will be on June 15 and marks the 44th annual [RI PrideFest](#), an event that typically attracts more than 60,000 people.

One of the highlights of the weekend is the After-Dark Illuminated Parade, one of a handful of after-hours pride parades in the country and the only one of its kind in New England.

Providence's tight-knit LGBTQ community also hosts an annual LGBTQ Film Festival, which not only showcases independent films but also offers seminars, expanded walks and tours and outdoor screenings. The [festival](#) takes place from August 6–11.