

## Gay VS Gay-Friendly?

As professional travel consultants, we are often asked by our GLBT travelers, “What’s the difference between a hotel that’s Gay and one that’s Gay-Friendly?”

My simple answer is...”Look at the clientele staying at the hotel.”

If they are all GLBT, then you have a gay hotel. Or you have a lesbian hotel, or a hotel that accepts our entire community. This means the hotel management takes reservations only from GLBT people.

If only a few of the hotel’s patrons are GLBT, then you have a gay-friendly hotel. In this case, management and staff will not discriminate against you. However, that’s no guarantee the other hotel patrons won’t.

Before booking yourself in this hotel or on that cruise ship, you need to ask yourself just how far “Out” you want to be on this trip. If you want to be able to display your affection at the pool or in the dining room, (or even go “topless or bottomless”), then you need to find a gay-owned (or at least gay-managed) hotel or B&B at your destination. Most of the time, true gay hotels are smaller and they may not be located conveniently to the beach, museums or other sight-seeing venues. But, that’s one of the trade-offs. You have to decide what’s more important to you before embarking on your trip.

How about children? Perhaps you enjoy larger, mainstream hotels (with all the services and preferred locations) but you don’t want to vacation with children. I get it! And, so can you!

One of the newest developments in the hotel industry is the growing acceptance of family pets.

Remember, “Look at the clientele staying at the hotel.” If you can relate to them, then you will most likely have a good time.