ONLINE RESOURCES:
www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay/student.html
http://gayguide.net/index.html
www.iglhr.org
www.gaymart.com/travel/world.html
www.gaycities.com

Chico State Study Abroad is committed to providing a safe place for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered students and their allies.

Our goal is to provide exceptional and personalized advising for all students in order to create an incredible Study Abroad experience which fits their needs.
Introduction

The more aware individuals are about the culture in which they are living in, the more rewarding their experience will be. This is also true for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students embarking upon an international adventure.

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The first step in preparing for your journey is thoroughly researching your host country and region. Take the time to learn about:

- LGBT organizations and support resources
- Laws of the host culture
- Norms/styles of behavior in the host culture
- LGBT media
- General attitudes toward LGBT persons
- Meeting places

Homestays/Housing

Often programs place students in home stay or housing situations so individuals may be more immersed in the local host culture. It is important that all students are aware of and consider the implications of being identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender in the host-culture and how coming out might affect the host family relationship.

Safety

It is important for students to realize how behavioral signals which mean one thing in the U.S. may mean something completely different in the foreign culture. Depending on the situation, the consequences can be serious. Physical harassment, assault, and even rape are issues both women and men have to consider when interacting across cultures due to chance of misinterpretations of behavior and speech. Furthermore, the legal system in the country may not offer protection for the victim when issues of sexual orientation or other behavior are involved. You are encouraged to explore and research the cultural, legal, and social issues relevant to the country where you plan to study and travel.

Program Specific Information

While the study abroad office in the U.S. may be inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered perspectives, the in-country staff and faculty may represent another office and culture that will present a different climate. Depending on this climate, you may need to look outside of the office for support related to sexual identity issues or GLBT community information.

While You’re Abroad

You will find that attitudes and tolerance toward gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered issues vary from country to country, and even within the US. Some countries are more welcoming and legally protective than the US, while others may be less accepting and more restrictive. All students need to be aware of the legal issues related to sexuality in other countries. GLBT students need information regarding the receptivity and social climate of the host country.

Back in the U.S.

Before you return to the U.S. it may be helpful to consider how the changes you have experienced and any new perspectives may affect your relationship with families and friends back home.

Information adapted from NAFSA Rainbow SIG

“Euro Pride” Photo courtesy of Tray Robinson, CSUC Director of University Diversity Programs