

OUT & ABOUT:

LOCAL INFORMATION & PLACES OF INTEREST FOR THE LGBT TRAVELLER



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SOUTH PLACE HOTEL

WELCOME TO SOUTH PLACE HOTEL

AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW ALREADY, YOU'RE PERFECTLY BASED TO EXPLORE AND DISCOVER LONDON'S EAST END, ONE OF THE MOST CULTURALLY DIVERSE, CREATIVE AND VIBRANT NEIGHBOURHOODS IN THE WORLD. AS AN LGBT TRAVELLER, YOU'LL FIND A WARM WELCOME AT ALL OF THE PLACES WE RECOMMEND ON THE BACK OF OUR ILLUSTRATED MAP OF THE AREA. LONDON IS ONE OF THE MOST TOLERANT AND GAY FRIENDLY PLACES WE KNOW – AS THE 2012 OLYMPICS SHOWED SO WELL. WE CAN ALSO RECOMMEND:

BARS & PUBS



George & Dragon



Dalston Superstore



Joiner's Arms

Commercial Tavern: 142-144 Commercial Street, E1 6NU

Dalston Superstore: 177 Kingsland High St, E8 2PB

George & Dragon: 2 Hackney Road, E2 7NS

Joiner's Arms: 116-118 Hackney Rd, E2 7QL

Loungelover: 1 Whitby Street, E1 6JU

Star of Bethlehem: 359 Bethnal Green Rd, E2 6LG

In the spirit of the area, most of the above would be better described as polysexual or even post-gay; of the bunch, the Joiner's positions itself as a friendly, local gay bar, though things can get a bit 'out of hand' on weekend nights (expect to queue if it's late and to get very sweaty once inside). Loungelover is a classy cocktail bar, brought to you by the legendary Trois Garçons, whose eponymous restaurant (at 1 Club Row, E1) backs on to the bar and is stuffed with taxidermy, crystals and curiosities. The three 'boys' live upstairs and also own a furniture shop, Maison Trois Garçons, on nearby Redchurch Street (no. 45).

CLUBS



Bijou



Gutterlsut



XXL

Bijou: "the cocktail social for women", every Saturday night at Cos Bar, 148 Queen Victoria St, EC4V 4BY

Gutterlsut: 'full-on' monthly party from the Dalston Gay Mafia – the next is on 25th August at East Bloc, 217 City Rd, London EC1V 1JN

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Prick Up Your Ears: every Thursday at East Bloc, 217 City Rd, London EC1V 1JN

Way Out Club: the name says it all at London's weekly transgender knees-up, attracting a wildly mixed bunch and offering changing facilities and make-up lessons. Every Saturday at Abbey Bar, 30-33 Minories, EC3N 1DD

XXL: claims to be the biggest bear club in the world; certainly it's laid out across a huge dancefloor, two bars and a beer garden, but the crowd's surprisingly mixed (not just bears but bear and bear-cub lovers) and the atmosphere's very friendly.

There's something for almost everyone, though it must be said that the scene here tends towards the edgier end of the spectrum (XXL apart). If you're looking for something or somewhere more mainstream, head to Heaven underneath the arches at Charing Cross or to the late-night bars in Soho, traditionally London's 'gay village' with Old Compton Street at its epicentre. Muscle Marys flock to Vauxhall.

NOT FORGETTING...

Expectations: leather, rubber and fetish wear – including a made-to-measure service – at 75 Great Eastern Street, EC2A 3RY

Sh! a sex shop for women, run and owned by women, now celebrating its 21st year of trading at 57 Hoxton Square, N1 6PB

Chariots: men's sauna, pool and gym, open daily from midday to 9am; 1 Fairchild Street, EC2A 3NS



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