

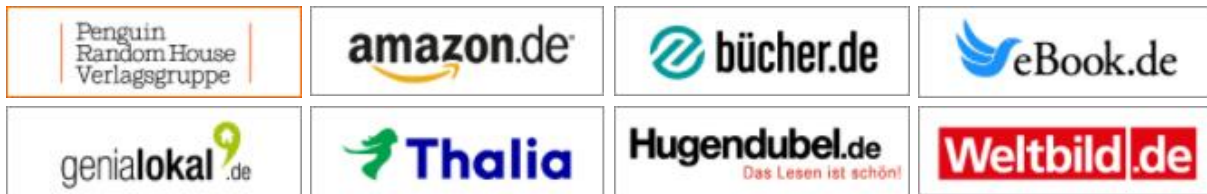
Leseprobe

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Sassy Planet

A Queer Guide to 40 Cities,
Big and Small

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Zum Buch

Check out what's up and coming in LGBTQ scenes around the world with this quirky, vibrant queer travel guide.

For decades, LGBTQ travelers have congregated in predictable places: queer-friendly cities like New York and Berlin, or beach towns such as Mykonos and Fire Island. But as progress and visibility expand across the globe, so do queer people's travel options. Drawing on their own extensive travel experiences, as well as the perspectives of local DJs, artists, activists, drag performers, DIY historians, and long-time residents (many of them found through the biggest advantage gay travelers have over their straight counterparts: 'hookup' apps), the authors of *Sassy Planet* offer up the latest on what's hot in 40 cities around the world. Traveling in the US? Check out RuPaul's Drag Race star Alaska's recommendations for Pittsburgh, where she first got her start. Planning a trip to Japan? Read about the 300+ queer bars packed into Tokyo's Shinjuku neighborhood. Even in countries where homosexuality is sanctioned, you'll read about emerging pockets of queer acceptance and culture, like the Chale Wote Street Art Festival in Accra, Ghana. If you do choose to revisit old favorites, you'll find the very latest info on where to go, from the Por Detroit parties in Mexico City to the clothing-optional Sandy Hook Beach in New York. The book features interviews with local celebs, best-of lists, and little-known hideaways all packaged with helpful insights, cool bits of regional culture, queer lore—and of course, plenty of sass to spare.

Autor

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Introduction

For decades, LGBTQ travelers have congregated in predictable places: queer-friendly cities like New York and Berlin, or secluded beach towns such as Mykonos and Fire Island. We've stuck to this same fruit-loop of destinations for the opportunity—still rare for so many of us—to be around large groups of other gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender people. We've also done this for a less sexy reason: safety. Same-sex sexual acts are still illegal in over 70 countries, and punishable by death in at least 12. Even where queerness is legal, we are often the targets of violence and harassment.

But acceptance in cities and countries around the world is also on the rise, creating new, exciting destinations ready for LGBTQ folks to enjoy (if we can get past our preconception of what a “gay” travel destination looks like). As queer progress and visibility expands, so do our travel options. Rather than escaping to gay ghettos like New York's West Village or San Francisco's Castro at the first opportunity, more people are staying put in their hometowns or moving to smaller cities and areas not typically thought of as LGBTQ-friendly. Others are pioneering queer communities on the fringes of the larger cities we already know and love. As a result, vibrant, surprising scenes are being established all over the world—and we want to shine a big gay spotlight on some of them for the first time.

This book aims to do exactly that: we've found, explored, and documented cool queer shit happening in cities of all sizes. And we've been able to do this thanks to the biggest advantage gay travelers have over our straight counterparts: tried-and-true “hookup” apps. It turns out they're not only about sex—they can also serve as global libraries of people and communities who share our minority status. In addition to anonymous chats, we've also reached out to many prominent queer

people worldwide to gain their perspectives on the LGBTQ scenes in their respective cities.

The idea for *Sassy Planet* was inspired by our alternative travel website, forbottoms.com, where we chat with locals through Grindr, Scruff, and other apps to discover interesting things—nightlife, art, culture, history, and more—in cities across the world, and then write about it all. The name *For Bottoms* is a jab at how subdivided our community can be: bears, otters, twinkles, muscle queens, Solange fans ... it's as if you'd need your own special gay guide based on your preferred sexual position. The astute homo may pick up on a little pun in there too: some of the places we profile on the site are literally at the “bottom” of the list for most gay travelers. But hopefully not for long.

Lastly, it's worth noting that we didn't start this project amid a global pandemic—but we certainly ended it in one. We want to recognize that a large proportion of our global LGBTQ community is employed in many of the industries hit hardest by the economic fallout from Covid-19: nightlife, hospitality, tourism, art, and more. Many of the people you will read about in this book have had their careers—and lives—put on hold due to quarantines and lockdowns. Some of the nightclubs and parties you'll read about may no longer exist; many of the artists and performers are out of jobs. We encourage you to find these venues and artists online and support them in any way you can.

Pandemic aside, this book is nonetheless the culmination of several years of work to bring the concept of our website to the printed page. It illuminates what's new and emerging in LGBTQ spaces around the world and serves as a snapshot of queer life at this very crazy, very queer moment in time.

This is *Sassy Planet*.

