

# Travel

## A Short Trip Through Our World

Finding a decent hotel that isn't overrun with cockroaches; dealing with the after effects of the local cuisine and drinking water; landing in one country while your luggage pays a visit to another. Certainly, travelling is not easy and it can be especially difficult if you are gay or lesbian.

What countries are tolerant to gay and lesbian travellers? Which tours are available to gay and lesbians? Which bed and breakfasts welcome gays and lesbians and are not owned and operated by members of Eagle Forum?

Fortunately, there is help. *Our World* is a monthly magazine devoted to gay and lesbian travel. Each issue usually features an area such as Key West or Provincetown with accompanying articles and photographs about its accommodations, restaurants, bars, and sights.

The articles are written from a first person point of view, giving readers an idea of what exactly the particular area offers. The March 1991 issue devoted several articles to Key West, including one about its Fantasy Fest, which, according to the author, makes Mardi Gras festivities look like a Legionnaire's parade.

Of course, *Our World* is not limited to U.S. locales. Luxembourg was presented in one issue as a fairy (no pun intended) tale country, with its medieval towns and spiraling castle towers, not to mention that it is gay-friendly. Other areas presented in past issues included Amsterdam, Thailand, Tahiti, the Soviet Union, and Australia.

Each issue includes a column called "The Gay Globe" with news bits from all over the world, as well as a men's and women's travel hotline offering information on international gay and lesbian organizations and resources.

It is worth buying *Our World* for the advertising alone. Advertisers include international travel guides for both men and women, bed and breakfasts, resorts, and restaurants from around the globe. Much space is also given to travel agencies which specialize in packaging tours and cruises

for gay men and lesbians.

*Our World* is a well written and informative magazine and an invaluable community resource for those who enjoy travelling. With its international focus, The publication helps make "our world" look even bigger and better.

## Gay Hospitality Exchange International Established

Gay Hospitality Exchange International (GHEI) is now up and running and ready to launch its membership drive in the men's community.

Briefly, the idea behind GHEI is that members are prepared to offer a couple of nights' hospitality to other members in exchange for the right to receive hospitality themselves when they travel. "It is in no way meant as a 'dating network!'" claim the founders.

Upon payment of their annual membership fee (\$20 U.S. or Canadian), members will have their names included in the annual directory (or one of the updates if they join later in the year) along with all the information necessary to participate, including a bit of a description of hospitality offered, languages spoken, and interests.

Members wishing to travel can then contact each other directly using the directory, which will be available only to members. Those who are contacted can in turn find out a bit about their prospective guests from the listing.


In the spring of 1990, a number of gay men from Europe and North America who like to travel as well as to receive guests discussed the need for some sort of organi-

zation whereby hospitality could be offered to others who were prepared to do the same thing. So, borrowing some ideas from a straight club which already existed, Gay Hospitality Exchange International was founded as a non-profit organization to promote international travel and friendship among gay men.

After three months of active promotion of this idea, with tremendous support from numerous gay publications, it was very clear that its time had come. Enthusiastic letters offering assistance arrived from all over.

The group now has contacts listed from all across the U.S. and Canada, Trinidad, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, South Africa and numerous countries in Europe. The group plans to publish its first directory this spring.

For more information (brochure and membership form), contact GHEI at P.O. Box 612, Station "C", Montreal, Quebec, H2L 4K5, Canada.

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