

# Going to Pride

Hitting four of the 10 largest parades this summer? Take this cheat sheet with you.

## Chicago • June 28–29

Chicago offers a slew of fun things to do during those times you're not decked out in rainbow attire and gallivanting about Boystown. Teeter along the brink of Lake Michigan on a tandem, discover the city's architectural history on a **Chicago Architecture Foundation river cruise** ([architecture.org](http://architecture.org)), find yourself nose to nose with an Amazonian monster at the **Shedd Aquarium**, or play Funhouse mirrors with your reflection in the shiny, silver "Cloud Gate" sculpture known as "the Bean" in **Millennium Park**. But if you're going for Pride, you'll need to know these things. — *Aefa Mulholland*

**WHERE TO STAY:** To be close to the Pride action in Boystown, book a room at the **Majestic** or **City Suites Hotel**, both members of the lesbian favorite Neighborhood Inns of Chicago. Another convenient Boystown option is the elegant **Hawthorne Terrace Best Western**, a handy address for shopping, dining and nightlife just blocks from Lake Michigan and Wrigley Field. For a distinctive address for you and the pooch, opt for one of the trio of pet-friendly **Kimpton Hotels** downtown, boutique properties with character. To really impress your date, **Hotel Burnham** is the most dramatic of the three.

**WHERE TO EAT:** If you're craving spicy south-of-the-border flavors, downtown's tastiest destination is **Frontera Grill**. Longstanding gayborhood favorite **Kit Kat Lounge** is the place to tuck into elaborate salads, steaks and frou frou drinks while you catch the nightly drag queen shows. If you've had your fill of Boystown, saunter north to Andersonville, Chicago's lesbian neighborhood. For a family-friendly menu, sashay into **Hamburger Mary's** and feast on its enormous burgers. **M. Henry** is the perfect place to indulge in a decadent brunch, including tasty vegan and vegetarian options. Lesbian-owned **Tweet** serves up down-home brunch to local lesbians and their boi friends.

**WHERE TO PLAY:** The girls usually outnumber the boys in the intimate Boystown video den **The Closet**. For a night on the prowl, make your way to Andersonville's **Stargaze**. For laid-back drinks with the locals, check out lesbian-owned **Big Chicks** in Andersonville. If you're in town before or after the

big Pride weekend, check out some of the women's nights at **Circuit**, home to **Chic Mix** parties, occasional drag king shows and monthly Girl Bar events.

## New York City • June 28–29

New York Pride is one-of-a-kind, but the crowds, cost and heat can make you wish you were home watching *Top Chef* reruns. Go to events early, take a break from the most homo-infested 'hoods during the thick of the action and try these nifty secrets. Check out [curvemag.com](http://curvemag.com) for more Pride N.Y. — *Stephanie Schroeder*



**WHERE TO STAY:** Lesbian-owned, women-friendly **East Village B&B** ([evbandb@juno.com](mailto:evbandb@juno.com)) in the Village is affordable and adorable. If you are looking for an all-out-luxury and gay-friendly experience, the **SoHo Grand Hotel** is the place to go. Don't laugh, but with NYC in June as pricey as it is, the **Hyatt Regency Jersey City** offers more bang for your buck. Only minutes from the action.

**WHERE TO EAT:** **S'MAC** is not, as the name implies, a BDSM club. It's a macaroni and cheese-only theme restaurant. Very tasty, but leave your vegan ex back at the hotel. **The Tini Wine Bar Café** in Brooklyn is worth the trip if you've got a sweetie (or a sweetie for the weekend) you want to impress with your sense of romance. After dinner, stroll down Van Brunt Street and watch the sun set over the Verrazano Bridge and the Statue of Liberty.

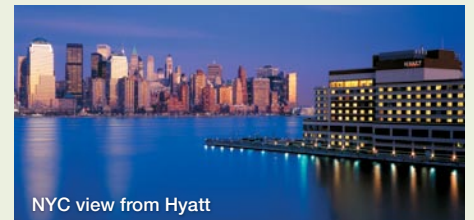
**WHERE TO PLAY:** **Henrietta Hudson** is the most les-

bionic place in Manhattan for post-Pride partying. **Rapture Café and Books** is a good choice for hanging out and meeting people, especially during the day. They have free Wi-Fi, fair trade coffee and usually at least one queen behind the counter singing show tunes. The **New York Dyke March**, the required event for meeting, has, well, dykes in all manner of dress and undress. **Bryant Park** is handy if you need to use the bathroom while waiting for the rest of your pussy posse to show up for the Dyke March. The facilities are worth a peek even if nature's not calling; it's the most beautiful public bathroom in the entire city. Dried flowers, anyone? Also known as the "library with the lions," **The New York Public Library Humanities and Social Sciences Library** is great for viewing Sunday's parade. You'll see the drag queens early, before their make-up has melted in the heat, and you'll be able to find shade and places to eat and drink that aren't overcrowded.

## San Diego • July 19–20

San Diego LGBT Pride is the seventh largest in the country—attracting more than 150,000 spectators to the parade and 50,000 to the weekend festival. If you're ready to join the festivities, here's a list of several other destinations within the gayborhood that would be worth checking out while you're in town.— *Margie M. Palmer*

**WHERE TO STAY:** If you want to be close to everything but don't want to be in the middle of the party, the **Lafayette Hotel and Suites** may be just the hotel



NYC view from Hyatt

you're looking for. **Park Manor Suites** is good for people who are willing to spend a little more money on a room, are traveling in a group and want to be within crawling distance of the festival.

**WHERE TO EAT:** **Lei Lounge** is hip, swank and decorated with a tropical island flare. The menu predominantly consists of tapas and specialty drinks, as this restaurant caters to a more sophisticated