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Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Mexico Monarch Butterfly Trail" (CMMT), [but here are some similar trips](#).



Mexico Monarch Butterfly Trail

10 days, Mexico City to Mexico City

Trip code CMMT

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Janitzio and Tzintzuntzan tour

- Morelia guided city tour
- El Rosario Butterfly Reserve tour
- Sierra Chincua Butterfly Reserve tour
- El Capulin Butterfly Reserve tour
- Free time in Uruapan
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2016 - December 31st, 2016

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

Mexico City

Arrive at any time.

There are no planned activities until an evening welcome meeting.



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

Mexico City

Enjoy a full day exploring the capital city of Mexico.

Take the morning to explore Mexico City before travelling to Uruapan.

Uruapan is a very traditional Mexican city which retains a little colonial ambience. The Eduardo Ruiz NP is just a 15 minute walk from the town centre.



Today's Activities

Free Time

Mexico City

Get out and explore.

Day 3

Mexico City/Pátzcuaro

Travel to Pátzcuaro. Spend an afternoon enjoying the colonial city.

Spend the afternoon marvelling at the beautiful plazas and colonial buildings in this magical city. This is a great day for shopping, or just sampling some local food and drinks at the numerous outdoor cafés.



Today's Activities

Local Bus

Mexico City - Pátzcuaro

4h30m-5h

376km

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Free Time

Pátzcuaro

Get out and start exploring.

Enjoy a full day visiting the famous island of Janitzio and nearby Tzintzuntzan, capital of the ancient Tarascan Kingdom.

Take a boat ride across Lake Pátzcuaro to Janitzio. This small island is full of beautiful traditions including the famous "butterfly fishermen", skilled at using their butterfly-shaped nets to catch local fish. View the colossal 40m (131 ft) statue of José Maria Morelos, built as an homage to this independence patriot.

Later visit Tzintzuntzan, the 'Place of the Hummingbirds', which was the capital of the ancient Tarascan kingdom.



Today's Activities

Janitzio Island Visit

Janitzio - Pátzcuaro

2h

Visit Janitzio Island, the largest of the islands in Lake Pátzcuaro in Michoacán, Mexico. Walk the terraced stone steps, past vendors selling everything from honey to handicrafts. Head to the statue of José María Morelos, Mexico's hero of independence, climb the interior spiral staircase and admire the murals painted by Ramón Alba de la Canal and others as you make your way to the top. Look out and see the fishing boats, with their unique butterfly-form nets.

Tzintzuntzan Visit

Tzintzuntzán - Pátzcuaro

1h

Built in the 13th century, on the shoreline of Lake Patzcauro and extending to the hills inland, the ancient site of Tzintzuntzan was once an urban centre with 30,000 inhabitants. Learn more about the cultural, religious and social history of the ancient Tarascan people, why they built temples on five pyramid-shaped structures (yacatas); each one on a terrace of stone blocks. Visit the museum to see pottery and obsidian artifacts excavated from the site.

Day 5

Pátzcuaro/Morelia

Travel to Morelia with a guided city tour on arrival. Opt to explore the many museums or just wander through town admiring the beautiful architecture.

Travel to Morelia and enjoy an included city walking tour to get familiar with the city.

This capital of Michoacán state, is a well-preserved colonial city – the historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy the atmosphere with a coffee in one of the many cafés around the Zócalo, or main square.

Today's Activities

First-class Bus

Pátzcuaro - Morelia

2h

60km

Ride on in style. This sure isn't your grandmother's public bus.

Morelia Guided City Tour

Morelia

Take of tour of this Spanish colonial city on foot to truly appreciate all this colonial city has to offer. Stop at some of the main attractions, including the cathedral built from pink volcanic stone, museums, and plazas. Check out the handicrafts museum some of Morelia's best shopping. Feeling hungry? Head to Avenida Madero and ask for the ice-cream stand; it's been there for 30 years and offers up delicious treats such as mango and mamey.

Day 6

Morelia

Enjoy a free day to explore this charming city.

Today's Activities

Free Time

Morelia

Get out and explore.

Day 7

Morelia/Mineral de Angangueo

Travel to Angangueo. En route, visit El Rosario Monarch Butterfly Reserve.

Travel through scenic countryside and into towering forests on the way to El Rosario, a magnificent Monarch butterfly sanctuary situated at the top of a steep mountainside. From November to March, see millions of butterflies that have migrated here from Canada and the US. Learn more about their life cycle at the visitor centre, and enjoy walkways and forested trails.

Continue the journey 6km (4 mi) further down the mountain road to the small village of Angangueo, meaning "entrance to the cave" in the Tarascan language. Angangueo is an old mining town that still extracts some lead and silver from the rugged hillsides.



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Morelia - Mineral de Angangueo

4h

130km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

El Rosario Butterfly Reserve Guided Tour

El Rosario - Angangueo

Hike approximately one hour into the sanctuary. As you reach the top, at nearly 3,048m (10,000 ft) in elevation, monarchs start to appear until there are upwards of 150 million fluttering in the air. Bring your camera and capture this orange and black marvel of monarchs clinging by the thousands to once-green tree branches. Learn more about the life cycle and migratory patterns of these interesting insects.

Day 8

Mineral de Angangueo

Enjoy a tour of the El Capulin Butterfly Reserve. Spend the rest of the day exploring Angangueo.



Today's Activities

Free Time

Mineral de Angangueo

Get out and explore.

Day 9

Mineral de Angangueo/Mexico City

Enjoy a guided tour of Sierra Chincua Butterfly Reserve before heading back to the capital in the evening.

Depart Angangueo in the morning for the 45 minute drive through the volcanic highlands towards the Sierra Chincua reserve to visit a monarch butterfly sanctuary. Enjoy the scenic mile-long hike climbing the hillside as we enter into the forest of tall fir trees of the sanctuary. At an elevation of 3,000m (9,842 ft), hike along a path to where millions of colourful monarchs gather in trees, bushes, and even along the ground.

Continue on to Mexico City for a final evening in the capital.



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Mineral de Angangueo - Mexico City

5h

180km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Sierra Chincua Butterfly Reserve Guided Tour

Mineral de Angangueo - Angangueo

The Mexican government created the Monarch Butterfly Special Biosphere Reserve in 1986. Made up of five hilltop sanctuaries where butterflies migrate for the winter, only two are open to the public. Head up into the Sierra Chincua reserve and meet some of the 50 million monarchs who managed to make journey all the way from eastern Canada to the US.

Day 10

Mexico City

Depart at any time.

What's included

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What are the main highlights of this trip?

Watch thousands of monarch butterflies surround you, tread off the beaten path on horseback to small towns, set your sights on impressive architecture in Morelia's city centre, sample Mexico City's vibrant nightlife

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Is there an itinerary Disclaimer?

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Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

What is the group leader like?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our group leaders, a G Adventures representative, or an expedition team. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

How large will the group be?

Max 16, avg 12

What meals are included in this trip?

No meals included

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. Please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Public bus, private van, horseback.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (9 nts).

What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

What are the joining instructions?

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day during which no activities have been planned.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO. If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office San Jose, Costa Rica

During Office hours (Weekdays 9am-5pm Local Time): +506 4001 8474

After hours emergency number: +51 997 582 712

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What should I take on my trip?

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying and handling your own luggage.

What should be on my packing list?

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

What the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

How much spending money do I need for my trip?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances. Visa cards are the most widely accepted cards. While ATMs are widely available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work in Latin America. Check with your bank. You should be aware that to purchase products or services on a credit card a fee of 5%-10% usually applies. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of US dollars cash and cards with travellers cheques as backup is best. Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE TIP: Please be advised that slightly torn notes, notes that have been heavily marked or are faded may be difficult to exchange. It is best to bring notes in fairly good condition, in denominations lower than 100USD (or equivalent).

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Do I need to pay a departure tax?

Depending on the exchange rate departure tax is approximately \$48 USD per person. This tax is sometimes included in the price of your ticket, contact your airline to confirm.

Should I be tipping on my trip?

It is customary in Latin America to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$5-10 USD per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$20-25 USD per person, per week can be used.

What activities are optional on this trip?

- All prices are per person, in USD amounts and are subject to change as services are provided by third party operators.

Mexico City (Mexico):

- Teotihuacan Ruins, church of Guadalupe tour USD35 (includes transport, entrances and guide) 8.30am to 5pm
Bosque de Chapultepec tour with Museum of Anthropology \$45 (includes transport, entrances, and guide) 9am to 4pm
Templo Mayor ruins USD7
Xochimilco Tour USD25
Museum of Anthropology USD10
Palacio national and the paintings of Diego Rivera entrance free, guide USD10
Museum of Frida Kahlo (Casa Azul) USD10
UNESCO University UNAM entrance free
City tour hop on hop off Turibus USD10 for whole day pass

Pátzcuaro:

- Walking tour: \$10.00

Morelia:

- Parque Zoologico: \$1.00
Museo Casa de Morelos: \$3.00

Butterfly sanctuary:

- Horseback tour to butterflies \$7.50 one-way or \$15.00 both ways

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that you'll receive a special discount code for free online prints and we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Please visit <http://www.gadventures.com/evaluations>

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

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