



What Gay Pride means in Zürich, Switzerland

Do you think Gay Pride is unnecessary? Zürich shows us why we need pride parades 'now more than ever'

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In Switzerland, there's a city where a Greek statue signifies the love between Zeus and his male lover.

The same city, since 2009, has also proudly been home to the first openly lesbian mayor in national history.

Zürich, the largest city in Switzerland, the wealthiest city in Europe and one of the most gay-friendly in the world, has a history dating back 2,000 years to Roman settlement.

The city borders Lake Zürich, just miles away from the Swiss Alps, and has repeatedly been named the city with the best quality of life in the world.

From being a leading city on outdoor activities like street parades, film festivals and operas, to the annual Gay Pride festival, Zürich knows how to throw a party.

The annual Gay Pride festival was made an institution after hosting Europride in 2009.

Zürich's trendy hub the Neirderdorf Quarter is seen as the center of the LGBTi community, and is even home to what is recognized as the oldest gay bar in Europe: Barfüsser.

Festivities for Gay Pride take place from 8 to 15 June, and the main parade takes place on 14 June.

From political speeches to DJs and musical performers, this year's theme of Now More Than Ever is meant to encourage everyone to participate in pride because they can.

But, as organizers say on their website, there's still a lot to do: Same sex couples are not allowed to adopt children.

The suicide-rate of LGBT juveniles is still considerably higher compared to heterosexuals.

Within sport homosexuality is still a taboo and trans people nearly inexistent.

Within the working environment a slight removal of taboos is noticeable, but still a coming-out can imply an end of a career.

The federal council of Switzerland recommended a 'peoples initiative' for acceptance that likes to embed the marriage as a union between man and woman into the constitution.

This would mean a big step back. The russian example shows, that homophobic and transphobic laws are a sad reality.

Teeming with architecture, green landscapes and a buzzing urban population, Zürich offers plenty to see and do before you partake in the pride celebrations.

Browse Visit Switzerland, Gay Star Travel Facebook and Twitter for more tips, photos and stories on Zürich, Switzerland and beyond. - See more at:
<http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/what-gay-pride-means-z%C3%BCrich-switzerland270514#sthash.pw9Cb2ES.dpuf>