

## Osaka's committed to being a leading destination for LGBTQ+ tourists

Osaka is setting a benchmark in Asia with its steadfast commitment to the LGBTQ+ community. In an effort to be more diverse and inclusive, the Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau has undertaken multiple initiatives to cultivate LGBTQ-friendly environments and in turn, position Osaka as a prime destination for LGBTQ+ tourists. One such initiative is the establishment of Visit Gay Osaka, an online travel resource listing LGBTQ-friendly businesses from cafés, restaurants and bars to hotels and tours.

→ For more information, check out [visitgayosaka.com](http://visitgayosaka.com)



### Pride Center Osaka

A significant milestone in Osaka's inclusivity journey was the 2022 inauguration of its first Pride Center. Venturing beyond the realm of nightlife, Pride Center Osaka stands as a cornerstone for the city's LGBTQ+ community. It extends various services including counseling and educational seminars while fostering support and awareness within the society. Notably, its doors are open to everyone – from the LGBTQ+ community to cis-gendered, heterosexual individuals looking to become more informed allies.

→ Temmabashi MS Bldg 7F, Temma 2-1-6, Kita (Temmabashi Station)  
→ [pridecenter.jp](http://pridecenter.jp)

### Osaka is the host of IGLTA 2024

The proactive approach of the Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau has propelled Osaka to become one of Asia's most inclusive and welcoming travel destinations. In recognition of the city's openness to celebrate diversity, the International LGBTQ+ Travel Association (IGLTA) chose Osaka to be Asia's first-ever city to host its Global Convention in 2024.

## Discover the best of Osaka

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Time Out Osaka's guide to the five most vibrant districts in Osaka



20 reasons to visit Osaka, the hub of Kansai



## Explore Osaka with these LGBTQ-friendly tour operators



### Out Asia Travel Tours

This specialist tour operator offers a variety of packages across Asia for LGBTQ+ travelers. Its Japan tours feature fun experiences throughout the year, from cherry blossom viewing in spring to colorful foliage tours in the fall. For first-time visitors, there's a basic package that takes you to Japan's three major cities: Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka. It includes accommodation, private tours with a gay-friendly tour guide, plus transportation and meals.

→ [outasiatour.com](http://outasiatour.com)



### Ipponmatsu Kaiun Cruise

To enjoy Osaka from a different perspective, hop on a water cruise with Ipponmatsu Kaiun. The company operates several boat tours around Osaka's most popular districts, such as quick 20-minute canal rides through Dotonbori, a relaxing Dotonbori boat tour accompanied by live jazz, and the evening Nakanoshima River Cruise which highlights the city's retro architecture. You can even hop on a full exploration cruise to take in some of Osaka's top sights including Osaka Castle. Group tours are the norm but private tours are available upon request.

→ [ipponmatsu.co.jp](http://ipponmatsu.co.jp)

# Over the Rainbow



# 10 LGBTQ-Friendly Spots in Osaka

POWERED BY:

**TimeOut**  
OSAKA

Osaka's LGBTQ+ scene boasts an eclectic mix of activities and establishments, ranging from gay karaoke bars to the razzle-dazzle of drag shows. Doyamacho is the city's unofficial LGBTQ+ district, but the neighborhood's appeal is not limited to the innumerable bars and clubs that populate the area. A myriad of daytime establishments, run by proud and openly queer individuals, serve as welcoming havens where LGBTQ+ residents and travelers can find an international community that celebrates love and diversity.

## Bars & Clubs



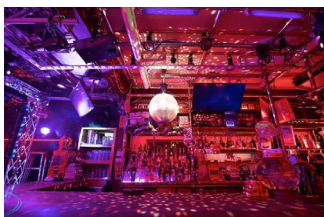
### 01 Dungaree

This friendly gay bar in Doyamacho has no karaoke, making it a conducive environment for interacting with people from around the world. The clientele here are mainly bears, who sing praises of the bar owner's Japanese curry rice.  
→ Nakadori Leisure Bldg 2F, 16-12  
Doyamacho, Kita (Umeda Station)  
→ 080 4288 1944  
→ dungareeosaka.jimdofree.com



### 02 Explosion

The relaxed and carefree attitude at Explosion has made it one of Doyamacho's most popular places for dancing. This vibrant club often holds special themed parties on Saturday and holiday eve – that's when it truly comes alive with all tribes of the rainbow community.  
→ Sanyo Kaikan Bldg B1F, 8-23 Doyamacho, Kita (Umeda, Higashi-Umeda stations)  
→ 06 6312 5003  
→ explosion.osaka



### 03 Grand Slam

This super fun karaoke lounge truly embraces the spirit of 'one world, one love' as it welcomes people of all gender and sexual identities. Plus, many of the staff members speak English and it's foreigner-friendly, making it the perfect bar to mingle. Note that certain event nights are for men only.

→ 6-14 Doyamacho, Kita (Umeda, Higashi-Umeda stations)  
→ 06 6362 8077  
→ grandslam-osaka.com

### 04 Lemon

A women-only bar in Osaka's bustling Minami district, Lemon is well known for its food offerings. The selection changes from time to time. In the past, there were Spanish al ajillo, blueberry cheesecake as well as Japanese oyakodon (chicken and egg on rice).  
→ Mitsudera Galaxy Bldg 1 6F, 2-30 Soemon, Chuo (Nagahoribashi Station)  
→ X (Twitter) @cafe\_barLemon

### 05 Salamat

Salamat has been around since 2007, with an open-door policy that's a testament to its longevity. This LGBTQ+ friendly mix bar welcomes people of all genders and sexual orientations. However, men who are non-members have to be accompanied by a woman.  
→ Nippo Higashi Hankyu Leisure Bldg 2F, 8-14 Kamiyama, Kita (Ogimachi Station)  
→ Instagram @bar.salamat\_1122

## Cafés & Restaurants

### 06 Cafe LA

This trendy cafe's aim is to create a safe, inclusive and fun space for everyone. Plus, you'll find a multitude of events here every week, from trivia and video game nights to language exchange and mingle sessions where you can meet locals and visitors who share the same interests. Aside from coffee, the menu also offers cocktails, beer and light meals.

→ Nishii Bldg B1F, 2-3-7 Nishishinsaibashi, Chuo (Namba Station)  
→ 06 7777 4798  
→ shinsaibashicafela.com



### 07 Dining Bar Rakuto

Gay-owned Dining Bar Rakuto is a cozy space to indulge in tapas, pizza and pasta made with seasonal ingredients. The friendly staff can recommend the best alcohol to pair with your meal, chosen from the restaurant's varied selection of wine, beer and shochu.

→ Eight Leisure Bldg 3F, 8-8 Doyamacho, Kita (Osaka, Umeda, Osaka-Umeda stations)  
→ 06 6361 3888  
→ bar-rakuto.com



### 08 Matsusakagyu Yakiniku M Namba

This popular yakiniku restaurant employs LGBTQ+ staff and serves

top-shelf Matsusaka wagyu beef at reasonable prices. The Namba branch is easily accessible and it's open for lunch and dinner. Opt for one of the course meals to try an assortment of premium Japanese beef.

→ 3-11 Nambasennichimae, Chuo (Namba Station)  
→ 06 6606 9887  
→ matsusaka-projects.com



### 09 Saryo Tsuboichi Seicha Honpo Namba

Get your matcha fix at this café run by venerable wholesale tea purveyor Tsuboichi Seicha Honpo. Here, you can enjoy premium Japanese tea like matcha, sencha and hojicha, along with a selection of desserts. Sweets range from kakigori shaved ice to homemade zenzai (sweet red bean soup) served with toasted mochi rice cake.

→ Osaka Namba City Main Bldg 1F, 5-1-60 Namba, Chuo (Namba Station)  
→ 06 6645 1850  
→ tsuboichi.co.jp/store/namba



### 10 Vietnam Sakaba

This lively restaurant is recreating a slice of Vietnam in Umeda. The interior decorations are sourced from Vietnam while the chefs are Vietnamese. So don't just order pho; try other classic Vietnamese dishes as well, such as banh xeo (savory rice pancakes) and bun cha (grilled pork meatballs with noodles).

→ Shiroguchi Bldg B1F, 2-15 Kakudacho, Kita (Osaka-Umeda Station)  
→ 06 6292 2345  
→ vietnamsakaba-biahoi.com



Haus of Kinki co-founder Nikuman.co

INTERVIEW

## Haus of Kinki

Get to know Kansai's biggest international queer collective

Haus of Kinki was started by a small group of friends looking to build a space for themselves. But as their reputation grew, so did their events. Haus of Kinki co-founder Nikuman.co lets us in on the collective's wonderful act.

#### What is Haus of Kinki?

"At its core, it's a group of friends living in Osaka and Kobe, who hang out, play and create. We're a community. Our events are whatever you need them to be: a welcoming space, a place to make friends, find a lover, watch performances, live out your own performance fantasies, and sometimes even learn makeup skills!"

#### Tell us about your shows.

"Our shows are a mix of drag artists, dancers and DJs giving you more than just lip-sync. There's story, comedy, looks, beauty, filth, reads, horror, important messages, and more. We welcome and feature performers of all levels including beginners, so each show is a complete mishmash of genres and ideas."

#### Are the events open to everybody?

"Yes! We pride ourselves on being open. We welcome all corners of the LGBTQ+ community and friends! We're used to hosting multilingual shows of mixed ages, genders and sexualities for 150 to 200 people. Everyone's welcome! Introvert? We've created new intimate shows with limited capacities. We don't

generally do tickets either, so that anyone can join the fun at the last minute."



#### How long do the events last?

"Our main interactive shows end before the last train, so everyone can get home if they need to. But we continue with after-parties and surprise performances. Sometimes the DJs have everyone dancing until 5am, so up to 11 hours of fun?"

#### What's the LGBTQ+ scene like in Osaka?

"It used to be small, but the bars and events have really opened up to all genders and nationalities now. So it's much easier to navigate through the community. The Osaka scene is relatively small compared to a lot of larger cities, but this is where I choose to live, and I love it!"

→ Follow Haus of Kinki on Instagram  
@hausofkinki