



LEVELLING THE PLAYING AFIELD

It's safe to assume that anyone going on holiday expects to receive a warm welcome when they arrive — wherever it is. But that's not always the case for LGBT+ travellers. Following the news that a number of same-sex couples had been turned away from B&Bs in the UK, Further Afield, a gay-owned travel company, was launched in 2009. The firm now has a list of more than 160 LGBT-friendly properties, ranging from self-catering and B&Bs to luxury hotels. Owner David Matthews says: "While I am passionate about providing gay-friendly places to stay, those places need to recognise that our community is part of the wider, liberal community who also support equality and inclusivity whether they are part of the LGBT+ community or not."

Here are three of our favourite gay-owned properties from Further Afield.

Almohalla 51

Owners David and Myles have been welcoming guests to Almohalla 51, a small but charming hotel (left) in the historic Spanish town of Archidona, since 2012.

The Andalucia property features whitewashed walls, exposed timber beams and a pool. Seville and Ronda are both within easy reach while the attractions of Malaga are just 40 minutes away by car.



Kaywana Hall

Close to Dartmouth and set in 12 acres of woodland, Kaywana Hall (above) has been restored by owners Tony and Gordon, who now offer four en-suite guest rooms in this luxury B&B. Visitors can swim in the pool between May and September.



Oriel Milgi

Oriel Milgi is run by Anne and Helen in St Dogmaels, Pembrokeshire. The restored sea captain's house has three contemporary en-suite guest rooms (above) and is a treat for all those who enjoy spectacular coastal walks.

furtherafield.com

JUST THE TICKET

TRAVEL TIPS AND A ROUND-UP OF ALL THE LATEST HOLIDAY NEWS

WORDS: **MARKUS BIDAUX**

DREAMS REALLY DO COME TRUE

No matter how wild your dream, how crazy your idea of a fantasy day out, the answer is at hand; be it driving a tank, flying a light aircraft, or doing your best Gordon Ramsay impersonation in the kitchen of a Michelin-starred restaurant, Humdinger Days can arrange it. For those with slightly less adventurous tastes, the company can organise a day of gardening at Sudeley Castle in the Cotswolds, or pampering sessions at a spa. Once you've chosen one of the dozens of options you'll be paired with a personal concierge who'll help you



to plan every step of the experience. Fans of I'm a Celebrity... can even venture into the forest to learn survival skills. We're not wild about eating kangaroo testicles, so we'll pass on that one...

humdingerdays.co.uk



COSI UP

Thai hotel group Centara have launched a new brand of hotel aimed at the millennial traveller. Cosi Samui, on the island of Koh Samui, is a 150-room hotel with all the tech and connectivity a modern traveller could want — without the pricey frills. Checking-in is done digitally so there is no need for a hotel lobby. Instead, the hotel's hub is a 24/7 social and media space where guests can relax and use credits at the WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) Café. The rooms are bright and modern, with king or twin beds and 43-inch TVs that will mirror a smartphone so guests can catch up on their favourite streaming services — helped by the fast and free WiFi. When guests are not hanging out by the rooftop pool, they can venture out to the nearby shopping district and beach. Rooms cost from about £31 per night. Suit and Thai, not required.

centarahotelsresorts.com/cosihotels/samui



THE GAUCHO CLUB

Award-winning airline Norwegian are set to expand their horizons. From February they're offering flights from Gatwick to the Argentine capital Buenos Aires (above) — their first South American destination. And in March flights will go to Chicago and Austin, Texas. So saddle up, cowboys!

norwegian.com



MORE TO THE POINT

Hotel chain Marriott have launched a new app and desktop extension, allowing shoppers to earn points towards hotel stays. The Marriott Rewards MORE programme enables members to earn points from more than 20 retailer sites including Nike, Ralph Lauren and MR PORTER. The points can also be transferred to The Ritz-Carlton Rewards and Starwood Preferred Guest programmes and used at the Marriott Group's hotel brands, made up of 6,000+ properties across more than 120 countries. Points can also be used to redeem Marriott Rewards Moments, which include culinary, sporting and theatre experiences in London, Europe and the US.

marriottrewards.com

