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Photo by Quintina Valero/Getty Images

# These Global LGBTQIA+ Events Reveal the Many Ways to Be Proud

## The best celebrations around the world — both in-person and virtual — in 2021.

By Kwin Mosby • May 31, 2021

Whether you attend as an ally in a socially conscious march, a wide-eyed spectator at a colorful parade, or a festival-goer engaging in an immersive cultural experience, Pride is always illuminating, moving, and well, a blast! This year COVID-related safety restrictions have forced Pride organizers to re-envision their events, changing the formats and moving some of them online entirely. Still, there's no shortage of ways to celebrate. Both InterPride and IGLTA have extensive calendars of Pride events around the world. We've chosen nine to put in our calendars reflecting diverse LGBTQIA+ communities, experiences, and ways to be proud.

*Editor's Note: Scheduled events listed below are subject to change due to local COVID-19 restrictions. Check websites before making plans.*

## Trans Pride Los Angeles — Los Angeles

**June 17-19**

The Los Angeles LGBT Center is keeping it virtual this year for Trans Pride, but a variety of online events will keep the transgender community and their families, friends, and supporters celebrating. The lineup includes a virtual dance party and costume contest hosted by DJ Shane Ivan Nash; a candid discussion with Latinx parents of transgender kids; and a livestreamed variety show — music and comedy — featuring fabulous trans performers.

Photo from www.visualechoesug.org

## Pride Sports Gala — Kampala, Uganda

**June 19**

Uganda continues its struggle for LGBTQIA+ rights and freedoms: A recently passed law has activists fearing a reprise of the infamous (and since struck down) 2013 Anti-Homosexuality Bill. But that's not stopping the LGBTQIA+ youth organization VEHRA from putting on its annual Pride Sports Gala. The event is a safe space for LGBTQIA+ youth to compete in soccer, volleyball, swimming, and other popular local sports — and for locals to stand with them in solidarity.

## Cancún Pride — Cancún, Mexico

**June 19**

Why should straight Spring Breakers have all the fun? Cancún Pride, now in its 18th year, is celebrating under the theme "Creating a Community," along with nearby beach towns Playa del Carmen, Chetumal, and Tulum. The events, organized by Foro Cuir, are designed to support local LGBTQIA+ residents and businesses. They'll include a vogue dance class, outdoor roller disco, open-air concert (slate TBA, but expect drag queens and queer musicians), and the chance to create your own fabulous Pride outfits with help from local designers and artists. The fun continues at after-parties at local clubs 11:11, Havana, Laser, and Japi.

Photo from www.nycdykemarch.com

## 2021 NYC Dyke March — New York City

**June 26**

The first NYC Dyke March was in 1993, and the boisterous, furious, joyous energy isn't letting up this year. Thousands of women — who wear the homophobic slur dyke as a badge of honor — and their supporters will protest discrimination, harassment, and violence as they head down Fifth Avenue, following the same route as the Heritage of Pride Parade the following day. (The organizers stress that this is a protest march, not a parade.) Anyone who identifies as a Dyke is welcome to join.

UK BLACK PRIDE

Photo of UK Black Pride by @elaineaemmott

## UK Black Pride — London

**July 2-4**

Founded 15 years ago in the small town of Southend-on-Sea and relocated to East London to accommodate its ever-growing crowds, UK Black Pride has also become more inclusive. It's now Europe's largest celebration of LGBTQIA+ people of African, Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American, and Caribbean descent. This year, founder Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, aka Lady Phyll, is taking the event online over three days, with livestreamed performances unified under the theme "Love and Rage" — a rallying cry to ensure that all LGBTQIA+ Black voices are heard.

## Mad Bear Beach Week — Torremolinos, Spain

**August 6-16**

Spain has long been a destination for gay bears and those who love them, with annual gatherings in Sitges and Seville as well as a big bar scene in Madrid. The calendar culminates in this ten-day party in the Costa del Sol resort of Torremolinos. Celebrating the event's 15th year, COVID be damned, thousands of friendly bears will come to frolic in the sun at beach and pool parties (Eden Beach Club and Hotel Ritual are hosting the main events), plus exhibitions, sports activities, and host of performances by international DJs and recording artists.

Photo from www.copenhagen2021.com

## WorldPride & EuroGames 2021 — Copenhagen, Denmark, and Malmö, Sweden

**August 12-22**

When New York City hosted WorldPride in 2019, it drew five million attendees, the largest LGBTQIA+ gathering in history. Not to be outdone — or deterred by the pandemic — this year the biennial event will happen in two cities (and countries) at once: Copenhagen and Malmö, which face each other across the Øresund. The packed roster of 40-plus in-person and virtual events includes protest marches, a Children's Pride, a human rights forum, and (of course) a livestreamed concert celebrating the 65-year history of Eurovision. Not enough for you? WorldPride is also coinciding with the 2021 EuroGames, which will bring 6,000 international LGBTQIA+ athletes to the sister cities to compete in 29 different events. Phew!

Photo of EnVee from www.reverbnation.com/enveeofficial

## ORGULLO — Miami

**October 1-15**

South Florida has one of the most prolific drag scenes in America — RuPaul's Drag Race icon Latrice Royale got her start at South Beach's landmark Palace Bar & Restaurant. So it's natural that ORGULLO, Miami's Hispanic and Indigenous Pride Festival, has a drag theme this year. "The Art of Illusion" will celebrate the creativity, talent, and self-expression that drag represents, with costume exhibits, lip-sync battles, campy drive-in movies, and the Night of 1,000ish Stars Concert, a fundraiser for LGBTQIA+ artists and hospitality workers.

## Phoenix Pride Festival and Parade — Phoenix

**November 6-7**

Long after most Pride celebrations around the world have cooled off, the LGBTQIA+ community in Phoenix starts heating up. This year, to mark the event's 40th anniversary, legendary divas Jody Watley and Deborah Cox are set to perform, and more than 150 acts across six stages will keep the crowds entertained. (You'll probably find us at the Latin Stage, which will feature Yara Sofia, Jessica Wild, Sonora Tropicana, and other Latinx stars.)

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