



## Gay European Tourism Association supports Iceland's bid for World Outgames

The Gay European Tourism Association (GETA) has given its full backing to Iceland's bid to host the World Outgames in 2017. In a visit to Reykjavik GETA Chief Executive, Carlos Kytka, met the organisers of the bid and the city's Mayor to offer support. Reykjavik has been shortlisted with Miami as the possible venue for the games.

"Reykjavik is the ideal destination for a major gay world event" said Carlos. "Iceland has an enviable gay pedigree. It has a lesbian president, and outstanding record on gay rights, and an outspoken mayor of its capital city who even attends pride in drag".

"What's more, there is so much to do that is so different, from snowbiking on glaciers, quadbiking over volcanoes, whale watching and swimming in geothermal spas. It's a really amazing and different place to visit."

"The World Outgames promotes sport, culture and human rights. Iceland is a strong contender in all and provides something very different for competitors and spectators" said Carlos.

Ingi Thor Jonsson Head of the Reykjavik bidding committee welcomes the opportunity to host the games. "Reykjavik and its citizens embrace diversity in all its forms, welcoming visitors with inclusiveness, respect and hospitality. We hope our guests leave with the sense of surprise, delight, inspiration and the drive to bring change to their societies."

Resting half way between mainland Europe and the USA Iceland was the venue for the historic meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev in 1986 that led to the end of the Cold War. "It is perfectly positioned for visitors from the Americas and Europe" said Carlos.

Ends



Notes

GETA

The Gay European Tourism Association (GETA) helps all businesses and organisations involved in gay tourism in Europe to prosper and grow.

It does this by helping members to improve their offering to gay people and to win more customers through effective marketing and networking.

Membership of GETA is free to businesses and organisations involved in European tourism who agree to the GETA Pledge to welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual and transexual customers and agree to treat them with the same respect that they treat all their our customers.

[www.facebook.com/gayeuropeantourismassociation](http://www.facebook.com/gayeuropeantourismassociation)

Gay Welcome

Gay Welcome the official consumer website of GETA. It is the most comprehensive website for gay tourists in Europe. It can be seen at [www.gaywelcome.com](http://www.gaywelcome.com)

Gay Welcome lists over 3500 gay and gay friendly hotels and guest houses throughout Europe, the largest number of any gay and gay-friendly accommodation listing in Europe.

It also contains gay destination guides, an events calendar and a travel shop.

Gay travellers can rate and comment on hotels, destinations and attractions.

[www.facebook.com/gaywelcome](http://www.facebook.com/gaywelcome)

Carlos Kytka

Carlos has a background in luxury hotel management in Vienna, Berlin and London. He has degrees in hotel management and tourism marketing from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Modul Hotel Management School in Vienna and Cornell University in New York. For three years he was the European Ambassador for the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) establishing its European presence.

Carlos Kytka is available for interviews in English, German, Spanish, and Portuguese