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TropOut, a New Gay Travel Experience, Launches With This Trip To Thailand

May 26, 2015 at 2:00 PM | by Scott Kearnan | Comments (0)





Around the world, equal rights for gays and lesbians continue to be won every day. (In fact, over the weekend Ireland became the latest country to legalize same-sex marriage — and the **first to do so by popular vote**.) But LGBT travelers must still make special considerations when traveling internationally. Even if they're not visiting one of those countries where homosexuality is still punishable by, you know, prison **or death**, gay tourists are often acutely aware of the potential for discrimination on vacation. No one deserves to have the sweet kiss of a romantic sunset selfie interrupted by jeering passerby — or worse.

So welcome the latest travel series that aims to ensure fun and inclusive outings for the gay community: **TropOut**, a "sophisticated" entry that just announced its inaugural week-long travel experience in Bang Tao Beach, Thailand in April 2016. Over 1,000 participants are expected to join the outing (pun intended) in southern Phuket, staying at the five-star Angsana Laguna Phuket while enjoying an itinerary that includes DJ parties at nearby Nikki Beach, walking tours and cave explorations, bay cruises, cooking classes and muscle-melting spa treatments. **Head here** to check out the packages and special add-ons, which start at \$1,295 per person for six nights (April 3-9).

Future TropOut experiences will take a “chill, party and explore” approach to travel, according to a statement about the series’ launch, giving gay travelers a well-rounded option that sounds a little less circuit party-focused — and a little more inspired by cultural environs — than some of those cruise lines that dominate the gay travel sphere. And Thailand seems like a smart place for the kickoff. In 2013, Thailand became the first Asian country to launch a government sponsored tourism campaign — “Go Thai. Be Free.” — specifically aimed at gay travelers.

Sounds like it’s *werqing*.

[Photo: courtesy of Nikki Beach]

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