

Local Guide to LGBTQ DC

Washington, DC is one of the most progressive areas in the country and LGBTQ visitors have a lot of nightlight options at their disposal. But don't take my word for it—the *Advocate* named [DC the gayest city in America for 2014!](#)

In many respects, D.C. is still part of the South. But this city has a whopping 17 gay elected officials, perhaps a result of its unique status as a federal district, free from the grip of a state government. Gay-friendly neighborhoods include P Street and 17th Street in the Dupont Circle area, and Logan Circle to the east. The capital's nightlife includes the [Duplex Diner](#) and its hot bartenders; and show tunes, top 40, and retro pop at perennial fave [JR's Bar](#) (1519 17th St. NW, 202-328-0090). Though they're ostensibly right-leaning, we think hunky young pols Rep. Paul Ryan and Rep. Aaron Schock are subtly demonstrating their LGBT friendliness by indulging in well-known gay customs: Ryan lifts weights and exaggerates his stats (how fast was that run, Paul?), and Schock likes his shirtless photo shoots and pink fashion accessories. And we cannot overlook House Speaker John Boehner; bring extra Kleenex if you invite him over for a Nora Ephron flick on movie night.

Here are some more highlights of what the DC scene has to offer.

--Heather Slania, National Museum of Women in the Arts

[JR's Bar & Grill](#)

JR's is not a dance club but a casual gay bar in the middle of one of our gayborhoods. Monday is "Showtunes" night! GayCities says, "Great drink specials, campy videos, and friendly bartenders keep JR's packed with fun 7 days a week."

Address: 1519 17th St. NW
Phone: (202) 328-0090
Hours: Fri-Sat 2pm-3am; Sun-Thurs 2pm-2am

[Phase One](#)

Founded in 1970, Phase One is the nation's oldest lesbian bar. Open Thursday-Sunday, male patrons must be escorted by a woman to receive entry. Events include Karaoke Thursdays, Flannel Friday, Pop Rock Saturdays, and Wii Bowling tournaments on Sundays.

Address: 525 8th St. SE
Phone: (202) 544-6831
Hours: Thu 7pm-2am, Fri-Sat 7pm- 3am, Sun 7pm

[Green Lantern](#)

This popular gay bar—located in a "brightly-lit" alley—is self-described as DC's Queer Cheers. It's especially known for its Thursday night special—shirtless men drink for free from 10-11pm. Green Lantern has man scheduled themed parties throughout the month of May.

Address: 1335 Green Court NW (14th St. alley entrance)

Phone: (202) 347-4533
Hours: Daily 4pm-2am; Fri & Sat until 3am

Number Nine

One of DC's newest gay bars, Number Nine is a two-level space in nearby Logan Circle with plush seating and great happy hour specials. For your convenience it's located across from a Whole Foods.

Address: 1435 P ST NW
Phone: (202) 299-0999
Hours: Daily at 5:00pm

Perry's Restaurant for Drag Brunch

Skipping the Leadership Breakfast this year? Try Perry's drag brunch. For \$24.95 you get a buffet and entertainment; drinks are separate. Seating is first-come, first-served, with a suggested arrival time between 9-9:30 am (larger groups should come earlier).

Address: 1811 Columbia Rd NW
Phone: (202) 234-6218
Hours: Sundays 10am-3pm

Town Danceboutique

Town is a huge dance club with drag shows every Friday & Saturday at 10pm.

Address: 2009 8th St. NW
Phone: (202) 234-8696
Hours: Friday and Saturday 9pm-4am (5am on Sat)

Nellie's Sports Bar

Nellie's is DC's gay sports bar located in the U Street Neighborhood. They have fun events, two levels, an outdoor patio, trivia nights, drag bingo, drag brunch, and more.

Address: 900 U St. NW
Phone: (202) 332-6355
Hours: Mon-Thurs 5pm-Midnight; Fri 3pm-2am; Sat 11am-2am; Sun 11am-Midnight

Cobalt

Cobalt is a large, gay male dance club with weekend brunch. Downstairs is a sophisticated lounge while the second level contains the dance floor.

Address: 1639 R St. NW
Phone: (202) 232-4416
Hours: From 5pm (but varies; check website)