

Tropical Temptation

Q: I've been considering going on one of those all-lesbian vacations. It sounds like an awesome place to just let go. I've heard that a lot of women go on those trips to get wasted and hook up like crazy. What do you think of these trips? Are they good places to meet people?

A: I do have some experience with lesbian excursions. In fact, I'm a singles coordinator for one of the major women's excursion companies. And while I wasn't a big fan of them in theory, I've become a huge fan after experiencing a few.

For me, though, the excursions are more about finding community, spending time in a beautiful place with like-minded people and some of the community projects offered by the company I've gone with.

"Hooking up" isn't something that I've ever been into, but I also know women who use the trips as places to have "no consequences" affairs. Here's the thing, though: We're women. No consequences affairs are tricky. I know some women who are in open relationships and use the trips as sexual playgrounds. I know some women who are in committed relationships and use the trips as a way to cheat on their partners without getting caught. (That rarely works, just by the way.)



ask a gay

BY KRISTIN FLICKINGER

I also know singles who have gone on the trips alone, or with a friend, in order to meet new people, new friends, new lovers.

Obviously, depending on what you're looking for, these trips have a lot to offer.

Here's where I try to be nonjudgmental, knowing I'll probably fail.

If you are a married woman—either to a woman or a man—I recommend being honest with your partner up-front. Tell them you're not happy, before you head off to the tropics to drown your misery in bumblebee shots and women. I don't advocate lying to your spouse. If you're a woman in a miserable heterosexual marriage who is just figuring out that you might not be so heterosexual, it can be tricky, but if you can find a way to get yourself to a lesbian vacation without lying, you might find the camaraderie and strength to live the life you want.

If you're a single lady looking to find some fun, or even a mate, this is what I know:

Traveling with a pack of lesbians in a potentially exotic, foreign land can be terrifically exciting, and befuddling. Most of us have never spent an extended period of time

with a group of only lesbians and bi-women. The first couple of times traveling as a single, I found it like what I imagine middle and high school to be for straight people. I was overwhelmed by the fact that everyone around me was a potential mate. Just the biological truth of that is not something most LGBT people have gone through—ever.

It can make you want to hide, or to strut, or to gather a harem. It's hard to know how it will affect you until you're in it.

That in and of itself is a lot to handle. Add in alcohol (as much as you can consume at all-inclusive resorts), the adventure of great excursions and jacuzzi tubs in the rooms, and you've got a recipe for severe overstimulation.

As if that weren't enough, consider the following: All-women vacations are (get this) all women. That means that a fishbowl effect sets in almost immediately. The air is thick with estrogen, everyone is feeling their emotions—fully. Things become magnified. Attractions are powerful. Conflicts feel urgent. Drama can ensue at the drop of a bikini.

I've heard that the men's trips are very open when it comes to sex—that a lot of

guys go on those trips solely for sex. Men's tours are like giant, floating bathhouses. But the women's trips, in my experience, are different. Many of us go for community, for community service, or for the dessert buffet. If you're going for sex, make sure you're clear up-front.

Be honest with yourself. If you have a partner, talk with her. If you're single, be prepared. Bring your safer-sex kit. Get tested.

Once you're there, be honest with women you might be interested in. If you're looking for a relationship, you might just find the love of your life. If you're not, don't pretend that you are. You just might find what you're looking for, too.

These trips can be life altering. Rarely do we get the opportunity to live and work and play in one spot with hundreds or even thousands of gays. Planting trees and painting murals with developmentally disabled kids, rescuing puppies and petting stingrays can be incredibly bonding and empowering.

As far as being drunken hook-up fests, that's not the way I see these trips. There are plenty of women's weekends for that sort of thing. ☐

Kristin met her amazing girlfriend at the Dinab. Check out her writing at midleap.com.

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

NOVEMBER 4, 6m, 10, 12, 2011

The infamous barber of Seville has finally found himself a bride! There's just one little problem. Seems the Count has his eyes on her as well. Mozart takes us on a whirlwind ride—a madcap frenzy of disguises, mistaken identities and general mayhem.

Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

Call Today! 503-241-1802 | M-F/9-5 800-982-ARTS nicketmaster

Season Sponsors: RACC, Production, Artist & Media Sponsors: M&T Bank, intel, hink

portlandopera.org

PORTLAND OPERA

Squishfest Harvest Party

Saturday Oct. 15, 3-7pm

Help us celebrate the start of grape harvest!

Admission includes a flight of wine, light appetizers, live music by Warren Floyd, pie sampling from Picku, hazelnut sampling from Strohmayer Fruit & Nut Co., and the chance to help process/crush grapes.

Both Tasting Rooms Open Daily.
Portland tasting room: 11AM - 6PM,
Newberg tasting room: 12 (noon) - 7PM.

LOCATED AT 4510 SE 23RD AVE. PORTLAND, OR 97202
503-234-3790 | www.hipchicksdowine.com

I DON'T ENJOY
STANDING ON
A SUN DECK IN BROAD DAYLIGHT
ON THE 4TH OF JULY
TALKING ABOUT
DILDOS.

LIPS TOGETHER, TEETH APART
BY TERENCE MCNALLY
SEPT 28 - OCT 23, 2011

Featuring Susannah Mars,
Leif Norby, Darius Pierce
and Karen Wennstrom.

I DON'T THINK
THIS IS WHAT
THOMAS JEFFERSON
HAD IN MIND ??

14 SEASONS IN 1.
FOR ONE SEASON ONLY.

3430 SE BELMONT ST. PORTLAND | 503.242.0080 | PROFILETHEATRE.ORG

PROFILE THEATRE