

HOLS WITH HETS!

Refreshing break or restrictive straight-jacket? It can swing either way on hols with straight mates says rampant rover ADRIAN GILLAN.

WHO can predict the outcome of a venture abroad with straights?

For starters, it depends on whether those straight friends are male or female. It's a different story altogether if you're venturing abroad with half a dozen fag-hags or even - the latest gay male travelling trend - with your own mother! The latter is the ultimate post-ironic fag-hag fad of a statement saying, "I'm a big boy now and mum and I are so over it."

Obviously, much also depends on whether or not you are 'out' to your straight mates. If you aren't then it'll just be a case of grin-and-bare I'm afraid, whilst sneaking away furtively whenever you can. If you are, then - joy of joys - you'll be faced with a plethora of opportunities; plus the odd threat.

Apart from anything else, male intimacy can be a queer thing between gays and straights. You know the story. You're playing in your work's five-a-side and then: shower time. Either they chicken out and head for the pub - or

you do. They feel watched and you can feel a right perve. Unless your mates are all naturist hippies, you may just have to be more discreet when changing Speedos at the water's edge. And once the novelty's worn off, gay bars can be a boring or embarrassing hassle for truly straight guys - ditto for you and straight bars. Whatever else you and your mates may have in common, it ain't this.

Unfortunately, being in the minority on your holiday, you may be the one biting your tongue and sitting tight as your mind drifts to the gay bars and beaches downtown. Your eyes latch onto a stray gay boy gang passing outside - lost between bars - and you yearn to mingle, follow and mix with your own.

Whatever you do, don't suffer in silence - declare your rights and assert your wee self. Drag some of your pals over to a gay bar on a couple of nights or negotiate some 'time off' for yourself. Each side has to be flexible and make the effort.

Naturally, the straight mate holiday scenario also offers a wealth of opportunities. What's a boy to do if one of your 'straight' male mates gets drunk, drops his guard and then his trousers, especially if you haven't made yourself look completely 'unavailable' and happen to be sharing the same room? If you decline it might offend the fellow, but if you oblige you'll have to deal with his undoubted embarrassment, or distance, the morning after. And why wait when you can be prime mover in catering for such basic boyish needs? With so much young, scantily-clad, chilled-out, hot male flesh on show, at least one poor boy buddy's bound to appreciate a blob of your nice soothing cream for his cute sun-sore hide. What are mates for if not for fast yet far reaching relief? But chose your target carefully: the most obvious swinger in the group. You know the sort - strangely curious and so far from his girlfriend back home! Of course, it can be hell if you have a crush on one of your mates. And despite - over the years - practically thrusting yourself at the poor lad's loins, he goes and strikes up a straight holiday romance in your very face or even brings a girl back and shags her senseless in the same room: "Oh don't mind him babe - gay." In which case, unless he genuinely doesn't care, he probably gets turned on by having you there, so don't entirely give up. Hey ho.

We all know that straight guys - real men, after all, in so many queer minds - can be a mighty lure. And going on holiday with semi-naked ones you are 'out' to and at ease with, when they are at their most open and relaxed, can seem like paradise, a dream come true. But it's probably best to do your own thing and play it cool, whilst making yourself vaguely available throughout, keeping an eye out for a leg up. You will, at the very least, strike up some serious straight male bonding and even - stranger things have happened - help a straight mate stray.

Pic courtesy of Alternative Holidays, tel: 020 8902 7177.



TOP 5 PLACES TO HOL WITH HETS:

- Reykjavik** - So gay-friendly and metrosexual, everywhere's cool and mixed, not a ghetto in sight
- Brighton** - Lure 'em onto home turf where one in three are queer, then pounce
- Shetland Islands** - No gay bars to distract from some serious male bonding
- Ibiza** - Something for all, a clubbing culture that unites
- Studland Nudist Beach, Dorset** - Nudity is the great leveller, with some more equal than others

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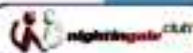
ANTHEM

Sunday - Kandi Kane's Welcome Party
Anthem - Yacht cruise with Wayne G

Monday - Pink Foam Party with Hom
swimwear. Dance til dawn.

ORANGE

Tuesday - Bling Blang Blung with
Laquisha Jonz. Orange - PA by
Theresa.



Wednesday - 'Beauty and the Beast'
Fancy Dress Ball, Nightingale
entertains - with Phil Oldershaw

Thursday - Fleurettes; Winners of
Drag Idol. Milk and Sugar - Holland's
hot club.

CRASH

Friday - Pool Party, Rocky Horror and
fireworks. Crash - with Steve Pitron.

BEYOND

Saturday - Sunset Tea Dance, Diva
Explosion. Beyond.



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