



## 4 'Second City' Alternatives to Queer Favorites

*From treehouses to lavish suites, these are the perfect spots to stay at on your wedding night.*

*By Kyle Jackson*

We all know that places such as New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, Washington, DC, and Miami/Fort Lauderdale are considered to be some of the queerest cities in America, if not on earth! The abundance of Pride festivals, LGBTQ+ clubs, resorts, and so forth, make these cities a top choice for many queer travelers.

Sometimes your budget may not allow you to plan an expensive getaway in Miami, or perhaps you just want to find a new, fun, exciting city to explore. Well, that's why some travelers are ditching major metropolitan areas as vacation options to choose another city nearby. That's where "Second Cities" come in. This year, the "Second City" travel trend already seems to be increasing, as many travelers are starting to realize there are so many great destinations with fewer crowds, a slower pace, and a myriad of experiences to uncover!

Here are four "Second Cities" for you to explore, along with some lovely hotel options!

### **Virginia: Instead of Visiting Washington, DC, Visit Charlottesville**



*Downtown Charlottesville (Photo Credit: Visit Charlottesville)*



*Paramount Theater, Charlottesville (Photo Credit: John Lee/Unsplash)*

With a host of queer events scheduled year-round and the future location of the next World Pride, DC is becoming the nation's favorite new queer city! But have you ever considered Charlottesville?

According to [gayrealestae.com](http://gayrealestae.com), "Charlottesville is a city with a thriving and diverse LGBTQ community." Just over two hours from America's capital, Charlottesville offers travelers a bit more of a quiet and quaint backdrop to explore the historic landmarks that were crucial to America's foundation. With bucolic hills set against the towering Blue Ridge Mountains, Charlottesville is home to sprawling wineries, the University of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, the historic Mitchie's Tavern, the Kluge Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum, and more.



*Blue Ridge Mountains. Photo Credit: John Lee/Unsplash*



*University of Virginia. Photo Credit: Ryan Ledbetter/Unsplash*

While visiting, stay at the recently renovated [Keswick Hall](#), a beautiful luxury resort featuring an 18-hole championship golf course, a brand-new spa, the farm-forward restaurant Marigold by Jean-George, a resort farm, a magnificent infinity pool, clay tennis courts, and more.



*Keswick Hall. Photo Credit: Keswick Hall*