

differences, they were at the heart of the action, and the good time. Despite her professional status and considerable fame, Claire Horgan was sharing music with them as friends and equals. *Craic*, it seemed, was for everyone.

That evening, I began a wonderful month in the south and west of Ireland, where I made friends in every pub I went into. In Irish pubs, people of different sexes, orientations, ages, and races mix in a way we never do in American bars. It doesn't

matter who's queer, and almost everyone's gay in the old-fashioned sense.

That night, as I joined in the singing as best I could, I was moved by the warmth of the Irish people: The people I met that night in The Bridge Bar at The Moorings in County Kerry judged men (and women!) not by the color of their skin, their sexual identification, or their IQ scores, but by the depth of their heart and, maybe, by their willingness to sing openly. (ireland.com)



LOCAL LESBIAN: PATRICIA GENDRE

This gay Dublin-based tour guide with a French accent and French flair offers day trips and multiday tours around her adopted country. Ireland is a traditionally conservative country, she says, and only in the last several decades have gay rights and culture been openly considered. Most of Ireland's big towns have queer-friendly pubs or clubs, according to Gendre, and while there are no spaces specifically for women, she recently joined a women's social networking club in Dublin named Running Amach, which organizes a different meet-up every week. Travelers are more than welcome. Dublin's gay resource center is Outhouse, centrally located at 105 Capel St. For the great Gay-lic craic, try The George (89 South Great George's St.), or Pantibar (7-8 Capel St.) and The Dragon (more disco than pub, plus "drag racing," at 64 South Great George's St.). Also check out the chic Front Lounge pub (33-34, Parliament St.), and on Saturday nights, across the street, the new "Mother" disco/ house party. (Contact Patricia at patriciagendre@hotmail.fr)

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