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Contact: Yennifer Álvarez / Communications Director  
Email: [Yennifer.Alvarez@DiscoverPuertoRico.com](mailto:Yennifer.Alvarez@DiscoverPuertoRico.com)  
Phone: (787) 710-8280 / Cell: (787) 610-0202

Contact: Mily Hernández, APR  
Email: [mily.hernandez@comstatpr.com](mailto:mily.hernandez@comstatpr.com)  
Tel: (787) 507-4919

## **Puerto Rico Awarded LGBTQ+ Destination of the Year Award**

*The award is granted by GayCities.com, one of the most important travel guides for the LGBTQ+ community*

**SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (December 4, 2018)**—Puerto Rico is the Destination of the Year for the LGBTQ+ community, according to GayCities.com, one of the most important travel guides for the community.

Destination of the Year was awarded to Puerto Rico for its determination and resiliency after Hurricane María, a natural disaster that ravaged the island on September 2017.

The award highlights Puerto Rico as a remarkable and inclusive tourist destination. LGBTQ+ travelers are welcomed to come and visit as there's an array of experiences for them to enjoy.

Best of GayCities is an annual travel awards program where members vote in 15 different categories to select their travel favorites. This year, Best of GayCities is presenting two special awards that were picked by the editors: Innovator Award (Fred Dixon from NYC & Company) and Destination of the Year (Puerto Rico).

This is the second time that Destination of the Year is awarded. Last year Orlando, Florida won the award for its compassion and resilience in the wake of the Pulse Nightclub massacre.

"We're extremely honored to be named 'Destination of the Year' by GayCities.com. It's a true testament to our tourism industry's efforts towards inclusivity. We are committed to collaborating with leaders of the community to enhance the experience for LGBTQ+ visitors.", said Brad Dean, CEO of Discover Puerto Rico.

“With 135 hotels open, 110 daily flights via 28 airlines, and a passport-free travel for U.S. citizens, there is no better time to discover the Island’s dynamic culture, rich heritage and local flavors.”

According with Gaycities.com, San Juan welcomes a rainbow of visitors, boasting multiple lively gay clubs, beach-front boutique hotels and some of the best local cuisines in the world.

Best GayCities Awards encouraged travelers to support the rebuilding efforts of the Island while enjoying an unforgettable trip that is just a short plane trip from the east coast.

The GayCities Awards were held yesterday in partnership with the LGBTQ+ research firm Community Marketing and Insight’s 19th annual LGBTQ tourism forum. Leah Chandler, Chief Marketing Officer for Discover Puerto Rico, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

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#### **About Discover Puerto Rico**

Discover Puerto Rico is a newly established private, not for-profit Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) whose mission is to make Puerto Rico visible to the world as a premier travel destination. The DMO will bring prosperity to the people of Puerto Rico by collaboratively positioning the Island’s diversity and uniqueness for leisure, business and events. It is responsible for all global marketing, sales and promotion of the destination and works closely with key local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders throughout Puerto Rico’s visitor economy and community at large to empower economic growth.