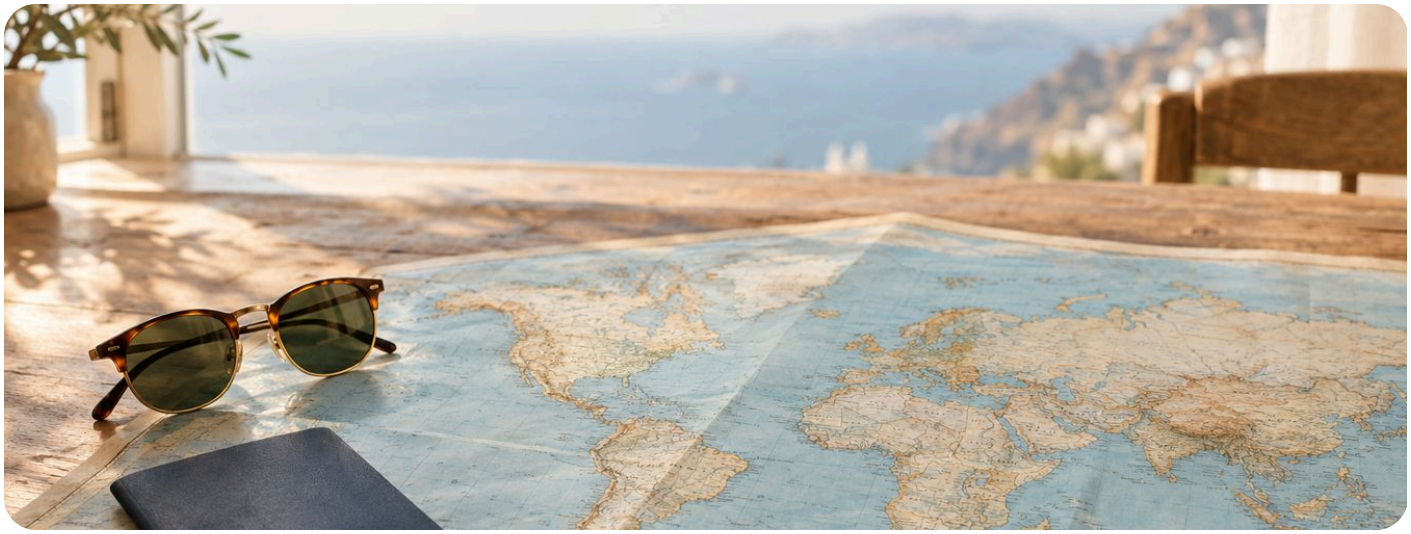
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THE FIELD GUIDE No. 10

# Naturist Travel Around the World

*Customs and Laws by Country*



The same towel-on-the-sand moment can be perfectly legal in one country, tolerated in the next, and a crime that gets you deported in a third. This guide covers how naturism works in the places naturist travelers visit most, and the places where you should keep your clothes firmly on.

**READ THIS FIRST**

Laws change, and local rules (cities, councils and park managers) often matter more than national law. Use this guide as a starting point, then check the State Department's "Local Laws and Customs" section for your destination and the venue's own rules. This guide is not legal advice.

# The world at a glance

| Status | What it means | Examples |
|---|---|---|
| **Broadly legal** | Plain nudity isn't a crime; custom guides where people do it | Spain, England & Wales, New Zealand |
| **Legal in designated places** | Allowed on official beaches and at licensed venues | France, Netherlands, Portugal, Greece, Croatia, Germany (FKK areas), Italy (some regions), Australia (most states), Mexico (Zipolite) |
| **Private resorts only** | Public nudity is illegal, but private, enclosed resorts are fine | Jamaica, Thailand, much of the Caribbean, most of the U.S. |
| **Don't (in public)** | Nudity is illegal in all public places. At most, it's possible inside your own private villa or property | The Bahamas, Indonesia (including Bali) and many conservative countries |

*This table covers the law only. The Courtesy Rating below adds venues, participation and body positivity to give each country one overall score.*

# The Courtesy Rating: how courteous is each country to naturists?

Every country gets one **Courtesy Rating**, from ½ to 5 suns (☀). It combines five things into one well-rounded score:

1. **The law:** Broadly legal, designated places only, private resorts only, or not accepted
2. **A national naturist federation:** For example, an International Naturist Federation member
3. **Venues:** How many naturist resorts, campsites and beaches there are (see our directory)
4. **Participation:** How many people have actually been nude at a naturist site or beach. For example, 25% of Germans and 22% of Spaniards have, compared with 6% of Britons, according to a 2025 YouGov survey. Other figures come from a 2016 Expedia survey.
5. **Body positivity:** How much people appreciate their own bodies, from the Body Image in Nature Survey of 56,968 people in 65 countries

## Rating key

- **Suns:** 4.5–5 Naturist haven · 3.5–4 Very welcoming · 2.5–3 Welcoming in the right places · 1.5–2 Resort-only · ½–1 Keep it covered · **Prohibited by law** (no suns). Any sun at all means some level of acceptance.
- ☠ **Skull and crossbones:** Shown next to the ½ sun where public nudity is prohibited by law and can bring jail time. Where you'd get a warning or a fine, it's just the ½ sun.
- ⚖ **Illegal in public places:** In some countries, nudity is fine inside a naturist resort but against the law outside it, even when the country earns suns for its resorts.
- **Private-only rule:** Where public nudity is illegal everywhere, **1 sun** = allowed only at a private nudist resort (and one exists) · **½ sun** = allowed only in your own private fenced villa or property · **no suns, Prohibited by law** = not allowed even in private.

- **Not rated:** A country with nowhere to go (no legal or tolerated beach and no naturist venue) gets no rating at all. It simply shows "Not rated." Any legal warning is still noted for reference.
- **Data confidence:** High = recent surveys · Medium = older survey · Provisional = no survey yet, rated without participation data.

| Country | Courtesy Rating | Rating | Data confidence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 5 ☀ | Naturist haven | High |
| Austria | 4 ☀ | Very welcoming | High |
| Denmark | 4 ☀ | Very welcoming | High |
| Germany | 4 ☀ | Very welcoming | High |
| New Zealand | 4 ☀ | Very welcoming | Medium |
| Norway | 4 ☀ | Very welcoming | Medium |
| Croatia | 3.5 ☀ | Very welcoming | Provisional |
| France | 3.5 ☀ | Very welcoming | High |
| Italy | 3.5 ☀ | Very welcoming | High |
| Netherlands | 3.5 ☀ | Very welcoming | Medium |
| Portugal | 3.5 ☀ | Very welcoming | Provisional |
| Saint-Martin (FR) | 3.5 ☀ | Very welcoming | Provisional |
| Sweden | 3.5 ☀ | Very welcoming | Medium |
| Australia | 3 ☀ | Welcoming in the right places | Medium |
| Greece | 3 ☀ | Welcoming in the right places | Provisional |

| Country | Courtesy Rating | Rating | Data confidence |
|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 3 ☀ | Welcoming in the right places | High |
| United States | 3 ☀ | Welcoming in the right places | High |
| Brazil | 2.5 ☀ | Welcoming in the right places | Medium |
| Canada | 2.5 ☀ | Welcoming in the right places | Medium |
| Mexico | 2.5 ☀ | Welcoming in the right places | Medium |
| Thailand | 2.5 ☀ | Welcoming in the right places · ⚖ illegal in public | High |
| Jamaica | 2 ☀ | Resort-only · ⚖ illegal in public | Provisional |
| Antigua & Barbuda | 1.5 ☀ | Resort-only · ⚖ illegal in public | Provisional |
| Bonaire | 0.5 ☀ ☠ | Keep it covered · Prohibited by law, jail possible | Provisional |
| Bahamas | 0.5 ☀ | Keep it covered | Provisional |
| Indonesia (incl. Bali) | 0.5 ☀ ☠ | Keep it covered · Prohibited by law, jail possible | Provisional |

THE SURPRISE IN THE NUMBERS

A strong naturist culture doesn't always mean high body confidence. Germany, France and the U.S. are very naturist-friendly but score low on body appreciation, and Australia and the UK score lowest of all 65 countries surveyed. That's why Germany drops from a perfect law-and-venues score to 4 suns. Research suggests naturism itself can help close that gap (see **Field Guide No. 5**).

*Ratings are reviewed every October. They're a guide, not a guarantee, so always check local rules before you go.*

## Check the law before you go

In some countries, nudity is fine inside a naturist resort but against the law everywhere else, and in a few it can bring jail time. Here are links to the laws in some of the least accepting countries: Jamaica · Antigua & Barbuda · Bonaire · Bahamas. Every resort, campground and beach on our map shows its country's Courtesy Rating, and our Destinations list shows them all at a glance.

## Europe: the heart of naturism

🇫🇷 **France: the naturist capital.** French law punishes deliberate *sexual* display in public, and naturism is permitted on authorized naturist beaches covered by a municipal by-law. There are also long-tolerated traditional spots. Home to Cap d'Agde and big naturist villages along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts. **Tip:** Many centers expect a naturist license (a membership card from a naturist federation), so get one from the French federation or your national group.

🇪🇸 **Spain: nudity is legal on any beach.** Spanish law doesn't prohibit nudity on any beach, and the Spanish Naturist Federation says it's "perfectly legal" on the country's 3,000-plus beaches. **Tip:** Even where it's legal, not everyone on a mixed beach expects to see nudity, so you'll feel most at ease on beaches known for it, like Vera Playa or those in the Canary Islands.

🇬🇧 **England & Wales: not a crime to be naked.** British Naturism notes it isn't a criminal offense simply to be naked, and prosecutors' guidance recognizes naturism. Police guidance separates genuine naturism from behavior meant to cause alarm or distress. **Tip:** Scotland has its own laws, so check before you go.

🇳🇱 **Netherlands: designated or remote places.** Under the Dutch Criminal Code, nudity isn't an offense in places designated for it, or places remote enough that no one can reasonably object. On regular beaches or in city parks, expect a fine of €100–200.

🇩🇪 **Germany: FKK culture.** *Freikörperkultur*, or "free body culture," is a long tradition. Look for FKK areas on beaches, at lakes, in spas and even in parks. **Tip:** Many German saunas are nude-only, and swimsuits may be the faux pas there.

🇭🇷 **Croatia: follow the FKK signs.** Public nudity is technically illegal, but it's permitted on designated FKK beaches and long-established naturist sections. Huge naturist campsites line Istria. **Tip:** Singles may need an INF card.

🇵🇹 **Portugal: official beaches by local vote.** Portugal's first naturist law passed in 1988. Today Law 53/2010 lets municipalities authorize naturist beaches, and plain nudity isn't a crime.

🇬🇷 **Greece: licensed centers and designated beaches.** Nudity is allowed only on designated beaches or at licensed naturist resorts. Elsewhere, it can count as "public indecency". Fines can reach €1,500, though some spots have long been tolerated. Nudity on a licensed center's grounds and the beach in front of it is legal.

🇮🇹 **Italy: it depends on the region.** There's no national naturism law, but six regions have passed their own: Piedmont, Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, Abruzzo and Sardinia. These laws promote and recognize naturist tourism. They let towns designate and sign public beaches, woods and other natural areas for naturism, and authorize private naturist venues. Look for beaches with an official ordinance from the council or park authority.

## The Americas

🇺🇸 **United States: a patchwork.** There's no federal nudity law. It comes down to state law, local ordinances and the landowner. Most states prohibit public nudity, so private clubs and resorts are the heart of U.S. nudism. Official beaches like Haulover are rare (see **Field Guide No. 7**).

🇨🇦 **Canada: a "lawful excuse" country.** The Criminal Code bans being nude in public "without lawful excuse," and defines nude as dressed so as to offend public decency or order. In practice, naturist parks (such as those near Toronto) and long-established beaches such as Wreck Beach in Vancouver are the places to go.

🇲🇽 **Mexico: one legal beach, plus resorts.** Playa Zipolite in Oaxaca is Mexico's first and only legal public nude beach. Elsewhere, nudity is limited to private resorts, many of them on the Riviera Maya.

🇧🇷 **Brazil: strict but established.** Official naturist beaches like Tambaba have firm rules. Single men need to arrive with a woman or hold an INF card. **Resorts and clubs:** Private naturist clubs and resorts are the other legal option. Most belong to the Brazilian Naturist Federation (FBrN), follow its naturist code of ethics and set their own entry rules, so check each one's policy for singles and membership before you go. Elsewhere, public nudity can be treated as *atentado ao pudor* (an offense against decency), and the FBrN advises sticking to officially recognized places.

🇯🇲 **Jamaica: resorts only.** Jamaica has no public nude beaches and strict nudity laws, but Negril has the Caribbean's longest-running naturist resort scene. Stay inside the resort boundary. Outside it, indecent exposure "in any thoroughfare or public place" is an offence under the Towns and Communities Act, with up to 30 days in jail for a repeat conviction.

🇧🇸 **The Bahamas: don't.** Public nudity is illegal and local culture is conservative. Even topless sunbathing at Cable Beach, Junkanoo Beach or Cabbage Beach can bring a warning or a fine. The only clothing-optional option is renting a whole private island in the Exumas. One travel report warns that nudity isn't accepted at clubs or on shared private beaches. **Only nude experience:** Private-island beach days on chartered nude cruises, such as the Big Nude Boat's stops at Norwegian Cruise Line's private island, Great Stirrup Cay. The whole ship is chartered, so the island is closed to anyone else that day.

CARIBBEAN TIP

Rules vary island by island. French islands like Saint-Martin and Guadeloupe follow French custom, while many English-speaking islands are much stricter. Check each island before you go.

## Asia and the Pacific

🇹🇭 **Thailand: behind the resort gate only.** Public nudity is illegal, but it's tolerated inside private resorts where guests can't be seen by the public. Stepping past the gate unclothed, onto a road, jetty or the shoreline, becomes a prosecutable offense.

🇮🇩 **Indonesia (Bali): don't.** Under Indonesia's new Criminal Code (Law 1/2023, Article 406, in force from 2026), public nudity can bring up to 1 year in prison or a fine of up to IDR 10 million. Tourists have been expelled for posting nude photos taken at temples. (That's why skyclad travel removed Bali from our directory.) There is no legal nude beach anywhere in Indonesia, including secluded coves like Nyang Nyang. The only lawful option is an enclosed private pool villa. Sources disagree on topless sunbathing in Kuta and Seminyak. We suggest safety first and recommend keeping it "all on" in this country.

🇦🇺 **Australia: state by state.** Nude bathing is legal in designated areas across most of Australia, but rules are set by each state. Queensland has no designated nude beach. Its Summary Offences Act makes it an offense to wilfully expose yourself in a public place without a reasonable excuse, so even well-known unofficial spots can bring a fine. South Australia's Maslin Beach became the first designated nude beach in 1975.

🇳🇿 **New Zealand: any beach where it's "known to occur."** New Zealand has no official nude beaches because nudity is legal on any beach where it's known to happen. There's no law banning plain nakedness in public. Use common sense, and choose known spots.

## Places to keep your clothes on

Many countries have strict decency laws. In much of the Middle East, North Africa and parts of Asia, even topless sunbathing can lead to arrest. If a country isn't on the skyclad travel map, assume nudity isn't accepted, and check the State Department's Local Laws and Customs section.

## Universal rules that work everywhere

1. **Designated means protected.** Stick to official beaches and licensed venues.
2. **Tolerated means discreet.** Stay in the usual area and keep a low profile.
3. **Resort means inside the fence.** Dress before stepping outside.
4. **No photos.** Especially at temples, landmarks and public places. Several countries prosecute this.
5. **Watch local custom, not just the law.** If everyone around you is dressed, follow their lead.
6. **Carry your naturist card.** A national federation card, like AANR's (accepted at its 260-plus member clubs in the U.S. and Canada), opens doors close to home. An INF card, from a federation that belongs to the International Naturist Federation (FUNN in the U.S.), gives access to INF-approved clubs worldwide. Some venues require one, especially for singles.
7. **When in doubt, ask** the venue, the local naturist federation or the tourist office.

## AROUND THE WORLD QUICK CARD

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- **Broadly legal:** Spain · England & Wales · New Zealand
- **Designated places:** France · Netherlands · Germany · Croatia · Portugal · Greece · Italy (some regions) · Australia (most states) · Mexico (Zipolite)
- **Private resorts only:** U.S. (mostly) · Canada (mostly) · Jamaica · Thailand · much of the Caribbean
- **Don't (in public):** Bahamas · Indonesia/Bali · conservative countries (private villa or island only)

**Top Courtesy Ratings:** Spain ☀ 5 · Austria, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand and Norway ☀ 4

*Always confirm before you go. Laws and enforcement change.*

*Laws and enforcement change often. This article is general information, not legal advice. Always check official sources and venue rules before you travel. skyclad travel never publishes nude images.*