

Same-sex marriage in Spain



Same-sex marriage in Spain was legalized on the 3rd of July 2005 by the social democratic government led by President José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. It followed in the footsteps of the Netherlands and Belgium making it the third country in the world to recognize same sex marriages.

Although the ratification of this law came up against some criticism, 66% of the population were in favor, along with the King of Spain who gave his Royal Assent.

Under Spanish law, the country's same-sex marriage law permits a Spanish citizen to marry a non-Spaniard

irrespective of whether the partnership is recognized in that persons homeland.

In order to marry, at least one partner must be a Spanish citizen. However, two non-Spanish citizens can legally marry if they both have legal residence in Spain.

Unfortunately, two non-resident foreigners cannot legally marry in Spain.

There is fear however, that Rajoy and his conservative Popular Party could pose a serious threat to the nation's same-sex marriage legislation.

Rajoy has said "he supports civil unions for same-sex couples, but does not think they should be called marriages".

The Popular Party has lodged an appeal against the nation's 2005 law allowing gay marriage in the Constitutional Court. This

has caused a rapid increase of same sex marriages in Spain due to fear of the legislation being changed.

Gay marriage is recognized in Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain and Sweden. It's also recognized in some states of the USA, Brazil and Mexico.

Civil unions and registered partnerships are recognized in Andorra, Austria, Brazil, Columbia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greenland, Hungary, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay and some states of Australia, Mexico, United States and Venezuela.

Why choose Gran Canaria for your Same Sex Wedding?

Gran Canaria is perfectly placed as the ideal location for a same sex union abroad. The island is renowned for its liberal, open-minded attitude towards the gay & lesbian community and the vibrant gay tourism sector on the island has flourished as a direct result of this.

The cosmopolitan and wide reaching gay communities and social scene, coupled with the blissful year-round sunny weather, make Gran Canaria the perfect choice for a same sex wedding ceremony.

You will also find apartment complexes, bars, restaurants and beaches in Gran Canaria, which are focused around the gay and lesbian community.

There are two options for a Same Sex Wedding in Gran Canaria:

A Legal Civil Partnership/ Same Sex Marriage

If you cover all the previously mentioned requirements to legally marry in Spain, a legal civil ceremony conducted at the Civil Registry Office or Town Hall can be arranged.

Requests can also be made for authorized Town Hall personnel to conduct ceremonies in establishments other than the town hall buildings.

A Blessing after a Civil Partnership or Marriage Ceremony

A blessing is a short ceremony that takes place after a legal civil partnership or same sex marriage ceremony, which would take place here or your country of origin.

Unlike a 'gay marriage' or civil partnership, a blessing is not legally binding; it's a way of publically symbolizing your commitment to one another.

Many people view a blessing ceremony as their 'actual wedding', as this is the moment they express their love and union to one another in

front of their family and friends.

Why choose a Blessing Ceremony?

You would choose a blessing ceremony in Gran Canaria if you or your partner are not Spanish citizens or are non-residents of Spain, but would like to hold your wedding ceremony on the island.

A blessing ceremony is the perfect way to introduce a spiritual or religious element to your celebrations after a legal civil ceremony.

Blessings in Gran Canaria can also be conducted in a multitude of venues, from onboard luxury yachts, to country hotels, private villas, or even overlooking a white-sand beach, giving you flexibility and endless options.

If you are looking to express your love and commitment to one another in an open-minded and non-judgmental environment, with sunshine, beautiful beaches, stunning local scenery and a rich local culture alongside, Gran Canaria is the perfect choice for your same sex wedding abroad.

If you would like more information regarding same sex ceremonies in Gran Canaria then please contact me on the following email and I would be more than happy to answer any questions or queries you may have.

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