

The two French girls

Both Flo and Salomé are happy being on Copenhagen's gay scene. They frequently visit the bars and take part in the international gay subculture around Pangea, Sabaah and BLUS.



Flo and Salomé are part of the Pangea group.

Written by Thomas R. Kristensen

Salomé and Flo are two young lesbians with a French background. Salomé has a French-Moroccan father and a Danish mother, while Flo is an exchange student from the French city Nantes.

Flo is doing an internship at the French Embassy in Copenhagen, while Salomé is studying Mathematics at Århus Akademi and working for the student organisation AIESEC. Her stay in Århus is temporary, and she will return to live in Copenhagen in June.

Cold or shy?

Salomé has lived in Denmark since the age of five, but Flo is a newcomer to the Danish culture. So is it true that it is difficult to make friends amongst the Danish?

"Danish people are often a bit difficult. I don't think Danish people are cold, but maybe it's because they are shy. Actually all my gay friends in Denmark have an international background," says Flo.

However Flo does not seem to mind the fact that her friends are all international rather than Danish:

"I like Copenhagen's gay community as there is so much going on. In Nantes where I come from, there are only three bars for gay men and nothing for lesbians."

Salomé has both Danish and international gay friends. But almost all of them are living in Copenhagen, while Salomé is currently living in Århus.

"I know I'm not going to stay in Århus for too long, and as a result I haven't made any real effort to make friends in the gay community. I have been to Blender and I have a profile at girlfriend.dk but I prefer to go to Copenhagen as often as possible," says Salomé.

Going out

So where do the two girls like to hang out?

"I go to Vela, Chaca, Masken, Foxy, BLUS, Sabaah, Pangea..." says Flo.

"And I go most of the same places," says Salomé.

Flo came to the gay scene for the first time, while she was still living in France. But Salomé made her coming out in Denmark.

"I already had male gay friends and I had been to Oscar. But one day I went online and searched for lesbian bars. I found Vela and went there with a straight friend of mine. Obviously the first time people looked at me and I guess they thought: 'Who is the new girl?' But that didn't scare me. I'm not the type of person that complicates matters," says Salomé.

International groups

Both Flo and Salomé are part of the international LGBT group in The Danish

National Association of Gays and Lesbians, LBL. Pangea, the group is called, and it offers different activities from parties and other social gatherings to meetings and discussions.

"It's easier to make friends in the organisations than at the bars. In the organisations people are expecting something from you, and you meet people with some of the same interests," says Flo.

"I got involved in Pangea and Sabaah because I am very interested in people with international backgrounds. I have met people from backgrounds where it's very difficult to be gay and that's interesting to learn about," says Salomé. She also adds that she likes some of the music at the parties as it reminds her of her own French-Moroccan background.

Advice to newcomers

So what is the advice to a newcomer on Copenhagen's gay scene? What would Salomé and Flo say if any of their gay friends from abroad considered moving to Denmark to study or work?

"I would prepare them to the culture choc," Salomé laughs.

"Well, I would of course introduce them to my network and tell them which bars are best," says Salomé.

"I would definitely say: Come and enjoy it. Make the most out of it. Here in Copenhagen there are so many opportunities that I didn't have where I came from," says Flo.

Links:

internationalgroup.lbl.dk
sabaah.dk
blus.dk