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Exploring Jakarta in the Evening by Lek Boonlert

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Those who like to party will find that they are in the right place as Jakarta is famous for its rich and varied nightlife scene. Those who like to shop will find that many of the markets here stay open until late at night, especially is districts such as Chinatown, Jaya Ancol and Jalan Jaksa. Jakarta also offers some of the best clubs in Indonesia and many of the largest venues remain open until at least 05:00.

Warming up:

Dining

Eating is an important part of Jakartaâ€™s nightlife scene and the city boasts literally hundreds of excellent restaurants. Lovers of Chinese cuisine will find a wide range of stalls selling cheap Chinese snacks and dishes in Chinatown, while there are also a number of gourmet restaurants located here. Those in search of traditional Indonesia fare will never have far to look, while a large selection of other types of cuisine can also be found here, including French, Italian and Japanese.

Chinatown

Those in search of a good Jakarta hotel will find plenty of choose from in Chinatown, and many visitors choose to stay in this vibrant district. Established in 1740 when Jakartaâ€™s Chinese community were restrained to this district, Chinatown has grown into one of the cityâ€™s most attractive area where visitors can dine on Chinese delicacies, browse for bargains at the bustling marketplace and perhaps enjoy a drink or two in one of Chinatownâ€™s colourful bars. Chinatown is also famed for its interesting and colourful buildings, and those who come here in the evening will find that this is the perfect time to take a tour of the area.

Having fun:

Ice Skating

Jakarta is one of the few destinations in the whole of Indonesia that offers ice skating rinks and there are several good venues to choose from here. Coming complete with a scattering of shops, restaurants and other entertainment options, these vibrant venues are great places to hang out, while ice skating is reasonably cheap here.

Jalan Jaksa

Located in he very heart if the city, the district known as Jalan Jaksa serves as a focal point for many of the cityâ€™s nightlife activities. A large number of visitors to the city choose to use Jalan Jaksa as a base as an excellent selection of Jakarta hotels can be found here as well as a large number of bars, both international and traditional restaurants and shopping centres. Live music can be heard throughout the week as well as on weekends in many of the bars here and local bands play everything from pop and rock covers to jazz and soul.

Partying hard:

Jalan Wahid Hasyim

Featuring trendy nightclubs such as Tanamur Disco, Jalan Jalan and Garasi, the district of Jalan Wahid Hasyim is the perfect place to play. These clubs attract people from all over Jakarta including a large number of expats and international djs often turn up to play a set or two before heading off to places such as Bali. Jalan Wahid Hasyim is also known for its rich and varied culinary options, while live jazz music is often played in bars here at the weekend.

Jaya Ancol

Home to Sea World, Jaya Ancol is a great place for families to play together in the evening. Animal lovers will want to arrive in time to catch the last shows at Sea World, which features more than 6,000 aquatic animals. Next door, Fantasy Land contains roller coasters and a gigantic Ferris wheel, while there are also plenty of restaurants, shops, bars and cool nightclubs to be found in this section of the city.

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Lek Boonlert - About Author:
Lek Boonlert is an editor and content reviewer at DirectRooms and is responsible for all a Jakarta Hotels content.

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