Boracay a Guide by Night by Lek Boonlert

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Bars and clubs

The bar scene is a vibrant one and visitors can expect to get a taste of everything here.

1) Karaoke is great fun and many of the locals enjoy visiting the karaoke bars

2) Beach bars are popular for their cheap beer

3) Fire dancers and other performers are commonplace

4) There are clubs and discos as well as bars

There are often bars located within Boracay hotels and these are perfect for those who want to spend time where they are staying rather than venture out and about. Beach bars often play live music played by local bands and the genre ranges from rock through to soft pop. These types of bars are also popular with locals and many choose to come at the weekends from the mainland to spend a weekend listening to the bands on the island and partying until the early hours.

Clubs are at their busiest at the weekends during the peak season and this is also when they are most likely to charge an entrance fee. Sometimes the entry fee can be redeemed inside for free drinks and the discos and clubs are usually filled with locals rather than tourists although everyone is welcome. It is common to stay in the clubs until 03:00 or later and some even shut during low season as they get far fewer visitors.

Where and what to eat

Seafood, seafood and seafood is widely on offer over the island and it can be served up in a variety of ways from barbecued fresh on a barbecue to fried in local spices. The top Boracay resorts often boast fabulous dining experiences, that even if the budget is tight, should be experienced once on a visit here. Cheaper options can be enjoyed at the hawker stalls where one can enjoy freshly made food including:

- Soups

- Fried chicken

- Noodle and rice dishes

- Spicy meals

- Kebabs

- Pastries

- Fruit

- Fish and squid balls

Most of the beach bars sell snacks and simple foods and others may choose to wine and dine on a plush cruse round the bays on a yacht or boat. Trips like these often include a candlelit dinner for two and celebratory fireworks at the end.

What to do and not to do in Boracay after dark

DO:

- Leave your valuables in a hotel safe if partying the night away on a beach

- Protect yourself against mosquitoes

- Try the local seafood

- Take a torch if walking from beach bar to bar

DONâ€™T:

- Go out until the early hours alone in isolated areas â€“ stay in groups

- Donâ€™t forget you are a visitor and pick up your rubbish at night

- Argue the prices down on everything and keep your haggling in perspective

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