



Timor Leste - Discover East Timor

Be one of the first to discover the world's newest nation. East Timor is a land of amazing variety; of crumbling Portuguese churches, misty mountains, pristine reefs, and an inspiring people who would not accept anything less than an independent homeland. This unique tour is the perfect introduction to East Timor, reaching many remote areas, with plenty of opportunity to meet the incredibly friendly local people. There will also be plenty of time to relax at a beach and enjoy snorkelling in crystal-clear waters. We aim to meet as many of the local people as possible, who greet every traveller with a wave and the warmest of welcomes. East Timor promises to be a rewarding experience for those travellers who like to explore and discover a people totally untouched by tourism.



Today's Timor is a fascinating blend of colonial history, natural history and of course, the more recent, and tragic past. Evidence of its colonial era is surprisingly very much evident even today. You will come across fading Portuguese pousadas, as well as several forts, almost a symbol of Portuguese colonialism.

The interior is covered by a mountainous terrain, the highest peak being Mount Ramelau at 3,000m. An early morning climb rewards the traveller with the most spectacular of sunrises. Down on the coast are some wonderful, almost deserted, beaches.

As for more recent history this too is clearly evident and the lack of sometimes-basic infrastructure can be a testing experience for even the hardest of travellers.

For details on travel to East Timor, contact.....

Guidepost Discovery Tours

Phone: 1300 733323

Email: bob@guidepost-travel.com

Group Tours in 2009 with Undiscovered Destinations

8 May 2009 to 17 May 2009

17 July 2009 to 30 July 2009

16 October 2009 to 29 October 2009

Group Sizes – Minimum 4, Maximum 12

Private Journeys (Weekly departures)

Please contact us for prices if you are interested in making this tour as a private journey for individual travellers

Included

All hotel accommodation, based on twin share, with private facilities

All transport using air-conditioned 4WD vehicles

Daily breakfast when in East Timor and other meals as shown in the itinerary

Excursions by boat to Atauro Island and Jaco Island

Local English speaking guide/driver throughout

Not Included

International Flights to Dili, East Timor

Visa costs

Travel Insurance

Drinks

Single Supplement is available (Optional sharing available on group tours)

On our group tours, there is no single supplement - we will match you with a roommate of the same gender.

Our policy is to avoid supplements unless requested by you

East Timor Discovery - Itinerary

A proud nation now at peace after many years of an independence struggle. A land of amazing variety with many fine examples of its Portuguese colonial past awaiting discovery by the intrepid traveller.

Tour Rating: Traveller

Day 1 (Friday) Australia to Dili

This morning fly to East Timor. Direct flights to East Timor generally leave from Darwin with connections from other cities around Australia, arriving in Dili mid afternoon. On arrival in Dili you are met and transferred from the airport to your hotel.

Overnight at the Hotel Timor

Day 2 (Saturday) Dili

After a relaxing morning, you will be taken on a tour of the capital city. Dili still sports a few Portuguese accents like the villa-lined beach roads, the former colonial garrison built in 1627 and the church built on the waterfront. But new shops, restaurants and bars are opening all the time, bringing a new energy and style to this once sleepy city.

Overnight at the Hotel Timor

Day 3 (Sunday) Dili - Aileu - Maubisse - Hato-Builico

After breakfast, drive southwards to Dare and Aileu, where we visit Quinta de Portugal, an agriculture farm. We continue to Maubisse and reach Hato Builico in the afternoon, where we camp. Enjoy a leisurely evening BBQ in a wonderfully tranquil setting, at the foot of Mount Ramelau (2,963m), the summit of which is our destination for tomorrow.

Overnight camping (equipment provided)

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 4 (Monday) Hato-Builico - Mt Ramelau - Dili

Our climb (moderate trek) starts at 0300am to ensure we reach the summit, weather permitting, for the most spectacular of sunrises. We spend time enjoying the magnificent views before starting our journey back down. After our descent we head back to Dili.

Overnight at the Hotel Timor

Day 5 (Tuesday) Dili - Atauro Island

We travel by local ferry (2½hrs) to Atauro, a coral island, 30km across the Wetar strait. During the crossing we hope to see schools of dolphins and pilot whales (it is said locally, that sightings occur on nine out of ten 10 crossings). There will be time to snorkel (equipment provided) and to see some fine coral and marine life before staying overnight at the island's Eco Resort.

Overnight at the Atauro Eco Resort

Day 6 (Wednesday) Atauro Island

A full day to relax and enjoy the island. Spend your time on the beach or snorkelling among the pristine coral.

Overnight at the Atauro Eco Resort

Day 7 (Thursday) Atauro - Dili - Baucau

We return to Dili by local ferry and join our 4WD vehicles to follow the stunning coastal road to Baucau.

Depending on our group size we plan to stay at the colonial Pousada de Baucau. Alternatively, we stay at a comfortable and very welcoming local guesthouse.

Overnight at either the Pousada de Baucau or good a quality Guest House

Day 8 (Friday) Baucau - Venilale - Baucau

We head inland through some wonderful mountain scenery, passing rice paddies on terraced hillsides before reaching Venilale. The town is known for its Portuguese architecture, particularly the 'Escola do Reino de Venilale' that we will visit. On our return to Baucau, time permitting; we visit the Fatumaca Catholic School. (school visits subject to local confirmation)

Overnight at either the Pousada de Baucau or good a quality Guest House

Day 9 (Saturday) Baucau - Laga - Lauteem - Com

We continue our tour, first heading south to Lospalos, home of the Fataluku people and then through the hills to Com, where we stay the night at a comfortable beach resort.

Overnight at Com Beach Resort

Day 10 (Sunday) Com

A full day to relax and enjoy the laid back atmosphere of Com

Overnight at Com Beach Resort

Day 11 (Monday) Com - Lospalos - Tutuala - Jaco Island

After breakfast we travel via Lospalos to Tutuala, and the Ili Kere Kere caves, East Timor's most important archaeological site. The walk from the road to the caves can be hot and difficult but it is worthwhile to see the fascinating cave paintings, which have been dated at more than 13,000 years.

From the cliff top position of Tutuala we have superb views of the uninhabited Jaco Island. Local fisherman will take us the short distance across to the island. With their agreement we may be allowed the rare opportunity to camp overnight on the island. All equipment will be provided. Our staff will prepare lunch on the beach, followed by a BBQ dinner.

Alternatively, we will return to Tutuala and camp overnight on the beach, opposite Jaco Island.

Overnight - camping Jaco Island or Tutuala beach (equipment provided)

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 12 (Tuesday) Jaco Island - Tutuala - Com

After lunch on Jaco Island local fisherman will take us back to the mainland for our return road transfer to Com. If we have been unable to stay overnight on the island, then lunch will be taken in Tutuala, before returning to Com.

Overnight at Com Beach Resort

Day 15 (Wednesday) Com - Baucau - Dili

A morning departure by road to Dili, with a stop en-route at a community project Silk Worm factory. We have the afternoon in Dili to relax, before you are invited to our special evening 'Farewell Party' (subject to minimum number of travellers). Join our local guides and staff in Dili for a Cultural Evening of local food and dance. Your last evening in East Timor will be a memorable one and a fitting end to your adventure.

Kindly note: *The Cultural Evening will be dependent on sufficient numbers in our group. Therefore, we may offer a typical Timorese dinner at a local Dili restaurant for smaller groups or individual travellers.*

Overnight - Hotel Timor

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 16 (Thursday) Dili departure

We transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Contact Guidepost Discovery Tours

for any travel arrangements and bookings throughout Timor Leste (East Timor)