



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

East Timor Discovery

Tour Duration – 14 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●●○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●●○ | Culture ●●●●○ | History ●●●●○ | Wildlife ●●○○○

Tour Pace

Busy

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Discover the charming, relaxed capital of Dili
- ✓ Climb Mt Ramelau, for superb views from the highest peak on the island
- ✓ Spend time on the idyllic island of Atauro
- ✓ Visit the remote Jaco Island and relax on the white-sand beaches





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Tour Map



Tour Essentials

- Accommodation:** Comfortable hotels, local guesthouses and one night camping
Included Meals: Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary.
Group Size: Private
Start Point: Dili
End Point: Dili
Transport: 4WD vehicles
Countries: East Timor



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East Timor Discovery

East Timor is 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. On this tour we take in its highlights, starting in the relaxed capital Dili, a lovely place to wander around and soak up the East Timorese atmosphere. We climb up imposing Mt Ramelau, with its superb views over the surrounding area, before exploring delightful old colonial towns and spending time on the idyllic Atauro Island, home to a great eco-lodge with good opportunities for hiking and meeting local people. Heading to the east of the island, we relax on gorgeous beaches and visit remote islands before heading back to Dili. This trip shows the curious traveller the very best that this enchanting nation has to offer.

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not just passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. Where possible you will have the same guide throughout your trip but on occasions it may be necessary to change the guide at one or more points during the tour.

Itinerary

Day 1 - Dili

Arrive in Dili. The rest of the time is free for you to relax or explore one of the world's newest capital cities. Overnight Hotel Timor or similar.

Dili

With its old colonial buildings and tropical sea breezes, Dili is a pleasant and relaxed city – in fact the only city in all of the country. Originally settled in 1520 by Portuguese sailors, Dili was briefly occupied by Japanese forces in the Second World War. Neglected by its colonial master, Dili was substantially underdeveloped when the Portuguese left in 1975 and ravaged by Indonesian troops during its long and brutal occupation, but today it is emerging from its former troubles and starting to establish itself once more. The city is small – most of the main sights can be seen in a day – and pleasant to wander around, taking in the old waterfront villas, Portuguese monuments and the sights and smells of fresh fish being grilled on the numerous fish stalls. It is strongly Catholic, and contains many churches as well as the odd statue of Christ here and there. Most of the activity in Dili is centred around the waterfront, with fishermen unloading their catches and traders walking along the beach selling snacks.

Day 2 – Dili

After a relaxing morning, we embark on a tour of the capital city. Dili still sports a few Portuguese reminders 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 Hotel Timor or similar. (B)



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Day 3 - Aileu - Maubisse – Hato Bulico

After breakfast, drive southwards to Dare and Aileu. We continue to Maubisse, where we will visit the Traditional Village of Hatufahe and reach Hato Bulico in the afternoon. We then take a moderate hike to Mt Ramelau, 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. (BD)**

Maubisse

Maubisse is located in the main coffee growing region of East Timor, and is surrounded by stunning mountain scenery. Its market is an important meeting place for villagers from miles around, and contains a wonderful old Portuguese guesthouse, now converted into a hotel.

Day 4 - Mt Ramelau - Dili

Our climb (moderate trek) starts at 6am 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 Hotel Timor or similar. (B)

Mt Ramelau

At 2963m Mt Ramelau is the highest peak on the island of Timor. A couple of hundred metres below the summit is an area where open air religious gatherings are sometimes held. The peak is marked by a statue of the Virgin Mary, and from the summit there are superb views in every direction. With petrified trees and early morning mist, this is truly a magical place to experience as the sun rises over East Timor.

Day 5 – Atauro Island

We travel by local ferry or water taxi 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 and to see some fine coral and marine life before staying overnight at the island's eco-resort. (B)

Atauro Island

Atauro, a majestic mountainous island across the Wetar Strait from Dili, offers you a unique holiday as guest of the community : sleep in the cabins at Nema Resort on the shoreline of a quiet and beautiful bay, wake to the sun rising out of the sea and move slowly through the day – after fresh Timor coffee, local fruit, crusty rolls and wild honey walk on unspoilt beaches, snorkel on beautiful and diverse reefs that fringe the island, glide up the coast in a traditional outrigger, hike through mountain forests and villages, watch community life around you, or just curl up with a good book and let the world go by.

Day 6 – Atauro Island

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

Day 7 – 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. (B)

Baucau

Baucau is East Timor's second town, a delightfully laid back town with many old Portuguese buildings, palm fringed beaches and gorgeous sunsets. Previously named Vila Salazar after the Portuguese dictator, much of Baucau suffered during the struggle for independence. Baucau is also a major religious centre and the home of the Bishop Basilio Nascimento, a legendary Timorese regional and national leader. The town is split into



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two parts, the Old Town where many of the old colonial architecture can still be found, and the New Town, which functions largely as an administrative centre.

Day 8 – Venilale

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 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 a good quality guesthouse. (B)

Day 9 – Laga - Lauteem - Lospalos

We continue our tour, first heading east to Lospalos, home of the Fataluku people. We will visit Nunira Traditional Village in Laga and the ruins of the old Fort in Lauten. Overnight at ADM Guesthouse in Lospalos or similar (B)

Day 10 – Lospalos - Tutuala - Jaco Island

After breakfast we travel 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. Overnight at Pousada Tutuala or similar. (B)

Day 11 - Jaco Island

A full day to relax and enjoy the laid back atmosphere and serenity at Jaco Island. Overnight at Pousada Tutuala or similar (B)

Day 12 - Jaco Island - Tutuala – Com

Morning departure to Com past traditional Graveyards and Pitileti Rocky Village on the way down to Com where we also visit the Fossilized Lagoon before lunch. After lunch will be a free afternoon to stroll around the village visiting traditional weavers. Overnight at Kati Guesthouse (B)

Day 13 – Dili

A morning departure by road to Dili, with a stop en-route at Canossian Training Institute and Development in Baucau or St Anthony's Statue on the hill with a view of Manatuto. We have the afternoon in Dili to relax, before you are invited to a typical Timorese dinner at a local Dili restaurant. Your last evening in East Timor will be a memorable one and a fitting end to your adventure. Overnight Hotel Timor or similar. (BD)

Day 14 – Dili

Tour ends. (B)

Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers
All accommodation
Services of English-speaking guide / tour leader
Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary





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Excluded:

International flights
Any airport taxes
Travel Insurance
Visas
Drinks

Important Information

Foreign Government Travel Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At the time of writing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not advise against travel to any of the areas within East Timor that we visit on our tours. Please feel free to contact us should you have any specific concerns or if you would like to know in detail what measures are being taken to ensure visits remain trouble free and without incident.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis please contact us.

Accommodation Rating

On this tour we use a mix of comfortable hotels, local guesthouses and camping. In general you will find your hotel has a restaurant and/or bar.

We welcome solo travellers and single rooms will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into consideration.

Food & Drink

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash



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Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch USD 10-15

Dinner USD 10-15

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Bottle of Beer USD 2-3

Water USD 1-2

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is not that common in East Timor but is very much appreciated. If your local guide has been helpful then you could think about tipping. This amount can obviously be left to you. When tipping a driver, a guide or hotel staff a few dollars will always be gratefully received.

Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: We recommend that you bring cash as ATM machines are not always working and we would not recommend relying on them

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are not widely accepted

Local Currency: US Dollars

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Pound Sterling, Euros

Where to Exchange: Our advice is to exchange sufficient funds in Dili, as banks and foreign exchange bureaus are limited outside of the capital. However given that US dollars are readily obtainable in your home country, it's better to obtain them there.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

Our advertised prices do not include the cost of international flights. Please contact us if you would like a quotation to book a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a free airport transfer, both on arrival and departure. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we



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have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

Most nationals, including those from the UK, EU and US require a visa for entry into East Timor. A 30-day visa is issued on arrival for a charge of US \$30, payable in cash. The process is simple and fairly quick.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to the UK.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.

Vaccinations & Protection

As with travel to most parts of Asia, we strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice and the necessary vaccinations. For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Meningitis. Anti-malaria medication is also required and the use of a DEET-containing insect repellent is highly recommended.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

Preparing for your tour

Climate

You might say that to date East Timor does not have a clearly defined peak tourist season. To avoid significant rainfall a good time to visit is May to November, when the weather is at its best. December to April is wet season and due to the poor state of many of the roads, unbridged rivers can hamper travelling at this time.



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Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and warmer ones at night as it can get very cold in the mountains. A hat is also advised to be worn through the day to protect from the sun, along with at least one piece of waterproof clothing for any days that the weather may be wet or windy.

Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared: adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have. If you will be using a camera which needs film, it is recommended that a supply is taken with you, as it is not always available in East Timor. For those with digital cameras, we would advise you to take a spare battery. As our tour in East Timor involves camping, a torch (flashlight) is essential.

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on this tour. Comfortable walking shoes/boots are recommended.

Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 20kgs (44lbs). One large suitcase/rucksack, and one small hand luggage rucksack is acceptable.

Electric Supply & Plugs

Electrical supply is 220V/50 Hz and plugs have two-pronged connection with round rather than flat pins holes. Three-pronged flat pin plugs are also accepted, so it is advised that you take a selection of adapters.

Wifi connections are available at hotels in Dili, but rare outside the capital.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were prepared 30 January 2023.