



Detailed Trip Notes

Explore Timor Leste with Youth Off The Streets 4th – 15th September 2009

Fundraise \$5000 for Youth Off The Streets and receive a trip to Timor Leste

Trip Duration – 12 days

Grade – Introductory

Activity – Adventure touring, day walks and community project

Accommodation – 6 nights hotels and eco lodges, 2 nights local guesthouses and 3 nights Baguia community

Welcome to World Expeditions

At World Expeditions we are passionate about off-the-beaten track travel and about giving our travellers the thrill of coming face to face with untouched cultures as well as wilderness regions of great natural beauty. We are committed to making sure that all our itineraries are well researched, affordable and manicured for the enjoyment of our small groups – philosophies that have been at our core since 1975 when we began operating adventure holidays. Each of our adventures is accompanied by expert guides – people who are dedicated to providing you with the very best travel experiences, who have incredible local knowledge and who share our vision of authentic exchange and real exploration with a responsible tourism approach. We hope you will join us for a life changing experience!



The Trip

Our **Youth Off the Street Timor Leste- A Unique Journey** itinerary provides a great introduction to this untouched land. We spend time in Dili, taking in the sights and history of this

developing capital before heading south to Mt Rameleau, Timor's highest mountain at 3000m. From here we visit coffee plantations and villages before reaching the Youth Off the Streets projects in Baguia. After spending time in Baguia we head to the island paradise of Atauro Island and stay at the eco lodge for some rest and relaxation, before returning for a farewell dinner in Dili. All in all, an unforgettable mix of culture, environment and community interaction.

Why travel with World Expeditions?

When planning travel to a remote and challenging destination, many factors need to be considered. World Expeditions has been pioneering trips to the remote corners of the world since 1975. Our local operators in Timor Leste have a proven reputation for their excellent service, unique itineraries and positive attitude toward environmentally and socially sustainable practices.



Our adventures always aim to benefit the local people we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore and contribute to the sustainability of travel in the regions we experience. We invite you to read more on our Responsible Travel philosophy and projects later in these trip notes.

Explore Timor Leste Trip Highlights

- Exploring **Dili's** native and Portuguese history
- Opportunity to climb **Mt Ramelau**
- Accommodation in traditional **guesthouses**
- **Baguia** community project
- **Atauro Island** Eco resort

Explore Timor Leste Itinerary at a glance:

- Day 1. Depart Darwin and Arrive Dili (D)
- Day 2. Dili to Hato-Builico (BLD)
- Day 3. Mt Ramelau to Same (BLD)
- Day 4. Same to Viqueque (BLD)
- Day 5. Viqueque to Baguia via Baucau (BL)
- Day 6. Baguia community project
- Day 7. Baguia community project
- Day 8. Baguia to Dili (LD)
- Day 9. Dili to Atauro Island (BLD)
- Day 10. Atauro Island (BLD)
- Day 11. Atauro to Dili (BLD)
- Day 12. Fly to Darwin (B)

Explore Timor Leste Your trip cost includes:

- ❑ Return economy flights from Darwin to Dili with Air North.
- ❑ Accommodation on each night of the itinerary (except days 5, 6&7) in hotels and local guesthouses.
- ❑ All national park entrance fees.
- ❑ All meals listed in the itinerary.
- ❑ All internal transport and transfers in private vehicle.
- ❑ Local guides and crew including cook and assistants.
- ❑ Group sightseeing entrance fees as listed in the itinerary.
- ❑ Emergency medical kit

No local payments policy: Local cash payments are becoming increasingly popular with many operators in the adventure travel industry. This policy seems to benefit the tour operators more than the local economies or the travellers, as it avoids local taxes and transfers the costs and risks of cash handling onto the travellers. In accordance with our Responsible Travel practices, we have chosen a policy of not asking for such payments.

Explore Timor Leste Your trip cost does not include:

- ❑ Airport arrival visa and taxes (allow approx \$40USD)
- ❑ Items of a personal nature eg. laundry, bottled mineral water, soft drinks, phone calls.
- ❑ Tips and gratuities
- ❑ Travel insurance (**compulsory**)

Explore Timor Leste Fast Facts

- ❑ Visas required – obtain upon arrival.
- ❑ Vaccinations required – you must consult a GP or www.traveldoctor.com.au
World Expeditions cannot offer you medical advice.
- ❑ Group size – Min 10, Max 18
- ❑ A single supplement is available*
- ❑ Group is accompanied by a local leader and a representative from Youth Off the Streets.

If you are travelling as a single, then we will do our best to twin share you with someone of the same gender unless you specify on your booking form that you would like to occupy a single room. In the case of the latter, or if we are unsuccessful in matching you up with another traveller, we are obliged to charge a single supplement fee.

Cost:

You must fund-raise a minimum of \$5000 to be eligible to participate in the Explore Timor Leste trip. Trip nett cost is \$2950, so everything in addition to this cost will be money directly donated to Youth Off The Streets.



Explore Timor Leste Detailed Itinerary

PRE-DEPARTURE: As the flight leaves from Darwin at 7am on Day 1 we can organise a package for you to stay in Darwin overnight. The package includes: 1 night at the Travel Lodge Mirambeena* plus a transfer to the airport at 5:00am.

Cost: \$ 176 per couple and \$155 per single.

* subject to availability

DAY 1 Depart Darwin/ Arrive Dili. City tour

This morning you will be transferred to Darwin International Airport and fly to Dili on TL 500 at 7am. Upon arrival in Dili you will be met by a World Expeditions representative (holding a World Expeditions sign) at the airport and taken to the group hotel. After some time in the morning to relax and get your bearings we will take a city tour in the afternoon.

The three hour tour will take us to the main monuments and symbolic areas of the city, such as the statue of Christ (Cristo Rei) at the White Sand Beach, the Santa Cruz cemetery, the Taibesse Bazaar, the Dili cathedral, the *Tais* market, the former colonial garrison, the Farol residential quarter and the new residential zone of Praia dos Coqueiros where the main embassies are located. There will be a Welcome dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

Accommodation: Hotel Esplanada (D)

DAY 2 Dili to Hato- Builico

This morning we travel south through the mountains to Dare, a place of rare natural beauty on the brink of Dili. We continue through coffee plantations to Becilau, then surrounded by white eucalyptus we reach the historic and picturesque village of Aileu. We will visit some of the most significant monuments in Aileu and then journey to Maubisse to have lunch at the Pousada de Maubisse, a Portuguese style rest house. After sampling the divine Timorese coffee, we travel to Hato-Builico. (BLD)

Accommodation: Local guesthouse

DAY 3 Mt Ramelau to Same

An early morning wake up call this morning (optional) at about 3am for the magnificent climb up Mt Ramelau. From the summit we will gain unforgettable views over Timor Leste as we watch the sun come up. Return to Hato-Builico for brunch then travel to Same by the windy road, for breathtaking cliff views and spectacular valleys. We will have snacks and drinks in Same upon arrival and spend the afternoon at leisure. Same is the Capital of the Maufahi district. (BLD)

Accommodation: Local Hotel

DAY 4 Same to Viqueque

After a city tour we proceed to Betano, on the south coast. We then head east to the agricultural area of Natarbora and enjoy a picnic lunch. After lunch we continue to Viqueque. There will be numerous river crossings on the way before arriving in Viqueque. (BLD)

Accommodation: Borala Guesthouse

DAY 5 Viqueque to Baguia

Today we will journey through Loi-Huno and Ossu, places with strong history linked to the Resistance times. We continue to Venilale. Venilale is known for its noble families. We stop for a visit at the School of the Kingdom of Venilale and the caves dug by the Japanese Army during World War II.

We will arrive in Timor's second largest city, Baucau for lunch at the Pusada de Baucau. In the afternoon we will travel to Baguia to meet the Youth Off The Street community project. (BL)

Accommodation: Accommodation and dinner provided by YOTS.

DAY 6 YOTS – Baguia project

Today will be spent in the village of Baguia on the community project.

Accommodation: Accommodation and meals provided by YOTS.

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DAY 7

Today will be spent in the village of Baguia on the community project. No meals today

Accommodation: Accommodation and meals provided by YOTS.

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DAY 8 Baguia to Dili

Today we will say goodbye to our project partners and depart Baguia by 10am. We will stop for lunch in Baucau and then proceed onto Dili, stopping at the ancient church in the Laleia Village. The rest of the day is at leisure in Dili before a dinner at a local restaurant. (LD)

Accommodation: Hotel Esplanada

DAY 9 Dili to Atauro

This morning we will transfer from the hotel to the harbour for the morning ferry service to Atauro Island. The ferry will take approx. 3 hours. We will be spending the next 2 days on the island relaxing and exploring. (BLD)

Accommodation: Atauro Eco Koin Resort

DAY 10 Atauro Island

Relaxation of Atauro Island (BLD)

Accommodation: Atauro Eco Koin Resort

DAY 11 Atauro Island to Dili

Today we will return to Dili on the ferry service. Timing will depend on the weather conditions for the day. The rest of the afternoon/evening is at leisure before a final Farewell Dinner at a local Dili restaurant.

Accommodation: Hotel Esplanada

DAY 12 Depart Dili and return to Darwin

This morning your trip concludes with an early morning transfer to the airport. We will say goodbye to Timor Leste and travel on TL 501 at 9am from Dili to Darwin International Airport. Arrive in Darwin at 11am after an unforgettable adventure.

Note: *This itinerary may change at any time due to weather, trail conditions and other factors beyond our control. Our guide will always make a final decision after assessing the situation and liaising with our local guide and the group members.*



Accommodation

This trip does not have any camping involved. Accommodation in Dili is at the Hotel Esplanada www.hotelesplanada.com or similar. This is a lovely traditional style property mixed with modern amenities. It is a 4 star property.

In rural areas we will be staying at local hotels and guesthouses. Most hotels and guesthouses will have private facilities. **Please remember** that you are visiting a developing nation and the services and facilities will be basic. Your guides will do everything they can to make you comfortable and ensure you have all the necessities covered.

COUNTRY INFORMATION TIMOR LESTE

As one of the world's newest nations, Timor Leste is still coming to terms with its independence. After many years of neglect under Portuguese rule, and 24 years of Indonesian occupation, the long awaited transition to self-rule has brought much joy to the people of Timor Leste. There is however still a long road ahead with many challenges to be faced. Timor Leste is the poorest country in Asia, and one of the poorest countries in the world. It is also a very beautiful country. It has a population of around 927,000, half of which are under 16 years of age. Illiteracy is high. Most of



the population is deeply religious, with over 90% of the population being Roman Catholic.

GEOGRAPHY

Timor Leste is made up of the eastern half of the island of Timor, which lies at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago, less than 400km north of Australia and separated by the Timor Sea. It also includes the enclave of Oecussi (also known as Ambeno) on the north coast, 70km (42mi) to the west and surrounded by Indonesian West Timor. The total area of Timor Leste is 15,007sq.km and is part of the Australian continental shelf. Apart from the lowland hills in the southwest around Kupang in Indonesian West Timor, rugged mountains run the length of the island. The highest peak is Mount Ramelau is 2963m, and there are many other mountains in this chain over 2000m. On the south side of Timor Leste, the coastal plains are 20km-30km wide, whereas on the north side of the island, there are many stretches of coastline where the mountains fall directly into the sea. The mix of rocky soil and low rainfall makes agriculture difficult, resulting in food and water shortages in the dry season.

Climate

East Timor has extreme wet and dry seasons. During the months of May – November, East Timor experiences a dry season where there is little rainfall. This is an ideal time to travel in East Timor when the north coast gets virtually no rain. The cooler central mountains and south coast can experience occasional rain at this time. Temperatures during this time can get up around 30-35°C during the day and can drop to 15°C at night in highland areas (or lower at higher altitudes)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Adventure Travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most from your adventure it is important to be flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are

uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

Responsible Travel

The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence.

World Expeditions were the proud recipients of the inaugural Australian National Travel Industry's Environmental Achievement Award for our *Responsible Travel Guidebook* in September 2001. This detailed guide to responsible and sustainable travel is provided to all World Expeditions clients before they travel. Please ask your consultant if you have not received your copy of our award-winning book. Alternatively, you may like to download a copy from our website www.worldexpeditions.com

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BOOKING THIS ADVENTURE

Please contact Ina from Youth Off The Streets at inam@youthoffthestreets.com.au to obtain a registration form. Please send the registration form, with your \$500 registration fee, to:

Ina Mullin – Charity Challenge
Youth Off The Streets
PO Box 6025
ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015

Or email to the above address. For more information please call Toll Free: 1800 06 22 88. Or visit www.youthoffthestreets.com.au.



Important Note:

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price.

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