



TIMOR-LESTE GENERAL DIVE TRAVEL INFORMATION

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WELCOME TO AN UNTOUCHED DIVING PARADISE!

Located within the famous Coral Triangle, Timor-Leste has some of the most pristine, ecologically diverse and least explored dive sites on the planet.

The marine life is abundant with colourful hard and soft corals as well as a vivid array of reef fish. Open water species such as tuna and mackerel are encountered, along with harmless reef and whale sharks, manta rays, turtles and the more elusive dugongs.

In more sheltered sites you'll marvel at the variety of fascinating smaller critters – nudibranchs, frogfish and seahorses – displaying weird and wonderful shapes and colours.

COMPASS DIVING is one of the larger, trusted, and longer-established dive operators in the country. We are a PADI 5-Star Dive Resort, [GreenFins accredited member](#), and member of the Marine Tourism Association of Timor-Leste. With operations based on both Dili and Atauro Island allowing access to more than 30 dive sites - plus a lot more undiscovered - we invite you to join us and dive Timor-Leste!

TIMOR-LESTE DIVING OVERVIEW

The diving in this country offers a wide array of various topographies and dive conditions that is suitable for all levels. The popular and frequented dive areas are generally divided by three locations:



Around Dili and the coast

Reefs run close to the shore along much of Timor-Leste's northern coast, and immediately in front of the capital Dili, making access easy for divers.

Around Dili, a 15 minute car ride will get you to sites like Dili Rock and TasiTolu. Further along the coast to the east and west, sites such as K41, Lone Tree, and Bubble Beach are a couple of hours away by car.

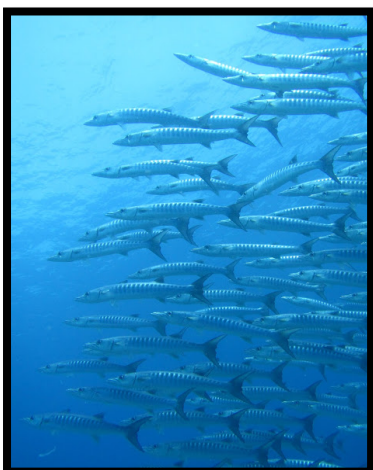
Sites range between more sheltered and gently sloping fringing reefs to wonderful sandy muck diving. Marine life is varied with everything from small nudibranch, seahorses, and frogfish to colourful reef fish, trevally and even the occasional dugong.

Atauro Island

Situated 25 km north of Dili, Atauro Island can be reached in just under two hours by speedboat. The unique waters around the island - the depths, currents and topography - have produced a divers' paradise.

Coral reefs here are dense, strong and healthy, feeding off nutrient rich waters upwelling from the deep channels off shore. In 2016 a team from Conservation International recorded a higher fish biodiversity here than anywhere else in the world - more than 4500 species of fish!

Divers can expect to venture onto pristine coral reefs, deep walls and pinnacles, as well as enjoy exhilarating drift dives.



Jaco Island

Sitting right at the very eastern end of the country is Com coastline, and Jaco Island. Jaco is a culturally sacred, uninhabited island - a tropical paradise with transparent blue waters rich and thriving with marine life due to its protected status. Albeit slightly harder to get to, the reefs around the island and nearby Com coastlines offer amazing underwater encounters for divers and snorkelers alike. After making the long journey over, once there all visitors are sure to be awarded by the island's beauty.

EXPLORE THE UNDISCOVERED

Timor-Leste is one of the youngest nations in the world gaining independence only in 2002, after being colonized for over 400 years. The Timor Sea separates the island from Australia to the south and Indonesian provinces to the west, and stunning underwater landscapes is one of the top highlights of what this country has to offer. So what can you expect when you explore Timor-Leste's oceans with Compass Diving?

Just you and your bubbles! We are a small operation with a 'family-run' feel, preferring to keep things authentic and personal. We keep dive groups small, and with tourism numbers being generally low anyway for the nation, you will find yourself mostly diving on reefs with barely anyone else around! The exclusivity and 'remoteness' of it all adds to your experience of discovery.

Open all year round! Despite there being a distinct wet and dry season, due to our long-running experience diving in these waters and understanding what areas are great to dive at different times of the year, our operations remain open all year round. You can trust in our advice and recommendations to give you the best dives possible based on the time of year you intend to visit.



Whales and dolphins! The coastal waters of Timor-Leste is recognized as a 'global cetacean hotspot', with scientific surveys identifying a total of 13 different species of whales and dolphins found in these waters, including the blue whale, sperm whale, short-finned pilot whale, melon-headed whale, Curvier's beaked whale, Risso's dolphin, Fraser's dolphin, spinner dolphin and more. Some of these species are migratory, appearing in season roughly between October-December, whilst the rest can be spotted year round. You will have plenty opportunities to encounter these beautiful animals on our boat rides between Dili and Atauro.

And a beautiful young nation to get to know! Ocean wonders are not the only thing this country has to offer. Timor-Leste is home to a rich tapestry of history, culture, and architecture to explore. Your visit will not be complete without at least visiting some land-based attractions such as a visit to nearby districts, coffee plantations, community-development F&B outlets, or museums. You will also experience true Timorese hospitality when you are greeted by the huge smiles of locals on your many interactions with them throughout your stay.

HOW TO GET HERE

Destination City & Code: Dili (DIL)

Airport : Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport

Direct flights from:

- Bali Denpasar (DPS) : [Citilink](#) or [Sriwijaya](#). *Daily flights*
- Kupang El Tari (KOE) : [AirTimor](#). *Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays*
- Singapore (SIN) : [AirTimor](#). *Sundays and Thursdays*
- Darwin (DRW) : [AirNorth](#). *Daily flights*

Atauro Island is an additional 1.5 to 2 hours by speedboat from Dili, departing daily at 7.30am from Dili and 3.00pm from Atauro. Special departure times may be arranged, weather dependent, via private charter arrangements.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE ARRIVING

- Cash currency is in US Dollars. Note that most places only trade in cash terms.
- Only VISA debit/credit/ATM cards are recognized in country. There are no Mastercard/AMEX facilities. Compass accepts VISA credit/debit payments with an added 3% bank fee.
- We highly recommend that you [check on latest tourist visa requirements](#) based on your passport nationality before booking your flight tickets.
- Timor-Leste power outlets can be a mix of [Type-C, Type-E, Type-F, and Type-I](#). It is recommended that you come with an international multi-adapter for your electronic charging needs.
- A power bank highly comes in handy as intermittent power outages are fairly common, and some locations may not have 24-hour electricity
- For those who do not intend to visit more inner rural areas, anti-malaria precautions are not deemed necessary around Dili and Atauro Island areas. Basic mosquito repellent is sufficient and especially recommended during wet season to lower the risk of exposure to dengue fever.

CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE COMPASS TRIBE!

- We greatly encourage you to bring your own reusable water tumblers - to reduce single-use plastics we provide drinking water via reusable tumblers and refill stations.
- Good quality sunscreen is hard to come by in Timor-Leste. Please bring enough for your stay, and for the love of our coral reefs please only use [reef-safe sunscreens](#)
- There are no decompression chambers in country. With this in mind, Compass Diving has a location-specific emergency action plan and adheres to safe and conservative diving practices. We implement a strict NO DECO DIVE rule to all our recreational divers.
- We also implement a NO TOUCH policy on our reefs therefore gloves and pointer sticks are greatly discouraged (unless necessary for medical/mobility reasons).
- Compass Diving respects the huge diversity of our group of divers, and will do our best to cater to any special needs & assistance, dietary requirements, faith-based restrictions, etc. Do inform us of your concerns and we will work towards addressing your needs.
- Tipping is not mandatory but is appreciated. You are free to tip appreciated staff directly, or allocate to the manager/trip leader for equal distribution to the team.

Dive Sites of Timor-Leste

