



Country Profile: East Timor

Occupying 5,743 square miles on the eastern half of an island in the Timor Sea between Indonesia and Australia, Timor-Leste has a population of approximately 1.1 million people. Timor-Leste became independent on May 20, 2002, and is now a democratically governed, independent nation with an elected President and Parliament. In the violence that followed Timor-Leste's 1999 independence referendum, the country's infrastructure, never robust, was totally destroyed and has been only partially rebuilt. In April 2006, violence erupted again in and around the capital, Dili, resulting in further damage to infrastructure and setting back economic growth. Electricity, telephone and telecommunications, roads and lodging remain unreliable, particularly outside of the capital. Timor-Leste's economy relies largely on international assistance and revenues from oil and gas production. Read the Department of State's [Background Notes](#) on Timor-Leste for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	East Timor
Continent:	Asia
Capital City:	Dili
Boundary Countries:	Indonesia
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	
Main Cities:	Dili, Baucau, Ermera, Suai, Pante Makasar, Liquica, Manatuto, Viqueque
Country Size:	15,007 sq km
Population:	1,084,971 note: other estimates range as low as 800,000

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Tetum (official), Portuguese (official), Indonesian, English note: there are about 16 indigenous languages; Tetum, Galole, Mambae, and Kemak are spoken by significant numbers of people
Currency:	US dollar (USD)
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic 98%, Muslim 1%, Protestant 1%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 28 November (1975)
Economic Status:	In the violence that followed East Timor's 1999 independence referendum, its infrastructure, never robust was totally destroyed and has been only partially rebuilt.
Security:	East Timor Defense Force (Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste, FDTL): Army, Navy (Armada)
US Presence:	The U.S. Embassy is located at Avenida de Portugal, Praia dos Coqueiros, Dili, Timor-Leste, tel: (670) 332-4684, fax: (670) 331-3206.
Major Airports:	Airports: 8, Airports w/paved runways: 3 Dili – Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport (DIL/WPDL) Dili Airport, East Timor, Dili, EAST TIMOR Tel: (civil aviation)+670 331 7110 Fax: +670 331 7111

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