



The Blue Whales in the Untouched Underwater Paradise of Timor Leste

General Information

Timor Leste is the youngest state in Southeast Asia and offers an almost inconceivable wonderland for water lovers. The reefs, which are directly accessible from the beaches, captivate with incredible colours and healthy corals, which can only still be found in a few places in the world. Off the coast, blue whales, the largest living creatures on the planet, move along, while large schools of dolphins ride in the bow waves of the ships. The hilly landscape also offers fantastic views over the deep blue ocean.

During the whale season from mid-October to mid-November there is plenty of sunshine. Temperatures during the day rise to around 32 degrees, at night it cools down to between around 24 degrees. The water temperatures are very pleasant with 25 degrees. Everyone can swim without a wetsuit.

Our accommodation is located at the seafront of the capital Dili. From the hotel's restaurant there is a fantastic view over the Strait of Wetar (waterway between Dili and the island of Atauro). With a little luck the high blows of the blue whales can already be seen from the hotel.

Whales

The absolute highlight of our trip to Timor Leste is the encounter with the blue whales. These gentle animals are the largest creatures that have ever roamed the planet. Every year between October and December these gigantic marine mammals migrate through the Strait of Wetar to reach the nutritious Antarctic waters. We often encounter these fascinating giants in groups and with a little luck they may even have calves with them. But that's not all. There are more giants swimming in the area, the sperm whales. They hunt for giant squid in this deep ocean canyon. The seabed drops only a few dozen meters off the coast, perfect conditions for the descendants of Moby Dick.

During our trips we usually also encounter a more playful species. Big dolphin schools share the waters around Dili with pilot whales all year round. In the reefs around the capital also curious dugongs can be found. It is always an experience to watch these peaceful animals in their element.

For our tours we use comfortable motorboats, which make it easy to dive in and climb out of the sea. Snacks and drinks on board are provided.

Accommodation

During your time with us you will stay in the beautiful Resort & Spa Novo Turismo, which is located directly at the sea. The resort is located in the capital Dili, so many restaurants and bars are not far away. Also, the port of the capital, which we use for our trips on the ocean, is within walking distance.

The resort captivates by a nice restaurant at the sea with an enchanting garden. A beautiful pool with bar and the spa area with fitness centre complete the offer.



Meals

The breakfast buffet of the hotel is rich, but also special wishes are catered for. While we have lunch in the hotel, we often leave the resort in the evening to discover other menus of the surrounding restaurants. Timor Leste's cuisine is influenced by various ingredients. The Portuguese past is as recognizable as the location in Southeast Asia. Of course, many dishes are based on fish, but the culinary variety also provides enough options for veggie or meat lovers.

Let us know about special requirements such as intolerances or allergies. We will do our best to cater for any wishes.

Our weekly program

The week begins with your arrival on Sunday. We will be happy to welcome you at the airport or directly at your accommodation. The accommodation offers you to check in from the early afternoon. Everyone who has already arrived will meet on Sunday evening for a relaxed dinner and to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

Starting from Monday we will go out to sea in the morning. Since there is often a wind coming up in the afternoon we usually come back to land at 3 or 4pm. In the middle of the week, we also visit the National Museum about the eventful political past of the country. Besides, we will also visit the Cristo Rei statue, from where we can enjoy the most beautiful sunset of Timor. In the remaining free time there is the possibility to do something by yourself or to relax.

The official program is rounded off with a dinner together, during which we review our experiences and encounters. Our week ends with the check-out on Saturday morning and a possible transfer to the airport.

This is just an example itinerary. The weather has a big influence on our activities, which we adapt to the conditions.

Make the most of your time. Relax for a few days in neighbouring Bali or plunge into the hustle and bustle of cosmopolitan Singapore. Also if you are staying in Timor for a long time, for example to dive on Atauro, we are happy to help you with the organisation!

Other activities

In addition to the marine mammals, Timor Leste offers a wealth of opportunities to nature lovers, especially divers. A large part of our time will be spent searching for the giants at sea, but we do not want to withhold the beauty of the island from you.

We are happy to help you organize a diving trip, as Timor's underwater world is unique in many ways. Only a few meters away from the beaches there are incredibly beautiful, healthy reefs with an impressive variety of species. We are happy to advise for your time before or after our week together. A few days on the neighbouring island of Atauro, for example, are definitely worthwhile.

Together we will discover some more highlights of the island. The view from the monumental statue Cristo Rei over the sea and Dili is breath-taking, especially at sunset. Besides, the National Museum informs about the eventful political past of this young nation.

Arrival

The airport president Nicolau Lobato International (DIL) near Dili offers direct connections to Bali, Singapore and Darwin (Australia). Citilink, Nam Air and Sriwijaya Air (all part of Garuda Indonesia) fly from Bali to Dili. Airnorth connects Timor with Darwin and Drukair offers direct flights from Singapore.



Equipment

For our excursions we provide diving goggles, snorkel and fins. If you prefer to bring your own equipment, this is of course also possible.
Due to the pleasant water temperatures a wetsuit is not necessary. If you wish, we can equip you with one nevertheless.

Clothing

The high temperatures invite you to wear short clothes. Even in the evening short clothes are no problem, but we recommend a polo shirt or a light shirt for dinner. Do not forget to pack sunscreen!

Visa

East Timor has concluded many travel agreements in recent years, so most tourists can enter without a visa. These include, for example, the Schengen countries.

Further information can be found here:
<https://migracao.gov.tl/html/sub0301.php>

Travel advice

Travel advice for Timor Leste of the UK government can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/timor-leste>

Information on vaccination can be found on the website of the CDC:
https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/east-timor?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001

Insurance

Travel, liability and health insurance are the responsibility of the participants.

Included:

- German and English speaking tour guide on site
- Airport transfers
- Boat tours
- Snorkeling gear
- Accommodation
- All meals and drinks consumed in the group
- Shore excursions in the group
- Sim card incl. data volume
- Donation to the Whaleman Foundation & One Tree Planted
- CO2 tax for our emissions during the week

Not included:

- Flights
- CO2 tax for your journey (recommended)
- Meals and drinks consumed on your own
- Independent activities
- Underwater camera (GoPro 6 or newer) rental for the week (CHF 100)
- Photos of the week



Dates

2024

Sunday, November 10th - Saturday, November 16th, 2024

2025

Sunday, November 09th - Saturday, November 15th, 2025

Tours will be held if there is a minimum of 4 participants.

Prices & Services

Price per person per week: **CHF 3'590 (approximately 4'200 USD)** in a double room

Single-Room surcharge: CHF 600

Room upgrades on request

We are happy to receive your inquiry via email on info@experiencegiants.com or through our website.

