

East Timor (Timor Leste) Country Guide

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Country Guide: East Timor (Timor Leste)

Due to the current coronavirus/COVID-19 situation and restrictions in various countries, the below information may not be accurate. This pandemic is a fluid situation. Check with authorities for local laws and restrictions concerning movements.

Updated: November 16, 2016

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Find a foreign embassy in East Timor (Timor Leste).

Find East Timor (Timor Leste)'s embassies in other countries

Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Copy of passport
- Original bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)
- Packing list
- Tax exemption certificate (obtained by the owner of the goods' employer)
- Employer's tax identification number (TIN)
- Letter of request for duty-free import (diplomats, employees of an aid organization)

Specific Information

- Foreigners may import household goods and personal effects into East Timor duty free if having diplomatic status or working for a registered aid organization; if these criteria are met, only one sea and one air shipment are permitted duty free.
- All foreigners and returning Timorese nationals, who do not have diplomatic status or work for a registered aid organization, may import household goods and personal effects subject to duties.
 - The first USD 300.00 of value is duty free; thereafter duty will apply.
 - The duty amount varies and is often subject to negotiation with the Customs department.
- While the owner of the goods does not have to be physically present in East Timor during Customs clearance, a copy of the owner of the goods' passport must be presented to the East Timor government at the time of clearance.

Should any issues arise, it is best if the owner of the goods is in the country to assist.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Copy of passport
- OBL
- Letter of request for duty-free import (diplomats, employees of an aid organization)

Specific Information

- Only diplomats or employees of an aid organization may import a vehicle into East Timor duty free.

A letter must be sent, similar in format to the one required for household goods, to the Customs department requesting duty free import.
- Non-diplomats, foreigners, and Timorese nationals may import motor vehicles into East Timor subject to duties.
- Cars must be less than 5 years old and be right-hand drive.
- All motorbikes / motorcycles must be less than 5 years old and have an engine size less than 600 cc.

Pets

Documents Required

- Vaccination record / card
- Veterinary health record

Specific Information

- Most pets, including dogs, cats, and birds, can be brought into East Timor with no quarantine period.
- The veterinary health certificate cannot be issued more than 7 days prior to import.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

Fruits and vegetables and byproducts (a phytosanitary certificate is required)

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics
- Firearms and ammunition
- Pornographic materials

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

Cultural and Other Information

[CIA World Factbook](#)

[Wikipedia Entry for East Timor \(Timor Leste\)](#)