



**Blue
Economy**
My Sea, My Timor



Diving Map Timor-Leste



Timor-Leste boasts pristine coral reefs, incomparable marine biodiversity, and unmatched underwater landscapes that captivate divers who come to enjoy the wonders that lie beneath the Timor Sea / Tasi Timor.





The Channel (Whale Highway)

The channel is located between the capital Dili and Atauro Island, and it is a channel of some 3000 metres depth. This channel hosts annually what is reported to be the largest seasonal migration of pygmy blue whales. From May to July and from October to December, the channel becomes a major migratory highway for different species of cetaceans including sperm whales, orcas, melon-headed whales, short-finned pilot whales, and various species of dolphins, that can be sighted in the warm Timor waters.



Dili (Capital)

Great dives are to be found at any of the 11 (at least) diving spots in and around the capital Dili. Heading West from the Government Palace (0KM), you will quickly arrive at the popular diving sites of Pertamina Jetty, Tasi Tolu, and Dili Rock. Heading East, it is a short drive to Cristo Rei, where you will be able to dive either at the front or the back of the hill. Diving in and around the capital you will see plenty of fish and critters including seahorses, Spiny Tiger and Ocellated Tozeuma Shrimp, in among the corals and large barrel sponges. An abundance of marine life to explore at your accommodation's doorstep.



Atauro Island

Just to the north of the capital Dili you will find Atauro Island with its famous reefs that house some of the highest biodiversity in marine species in the world. Dive in any of the 24 (at least) diving spots for the dazzling marine life including colourful hard and soft corals, sponges and fans, and rainbow reef fish. Glide along the bursts of coral colours decorating Atauro's famous walls and underwater cliffs or along the more sheltered and gently sloping fringing reefs with critters of all shapes and colours. Atauro Island is scheduled to be declared a Marine National Park, which will safeguard the pristine conditions of its diving sites.



Liquiça & Maubara

These two locations to the West of the Capital Dili offer 6 (at least) stunning diving spots. Although suitable for beginner divers, these sites can be exposed to strong currents from all directions. Dives in and around these locations are for the more experienced divers. The sloping reefs open to depths of 30 meters and more very quickly. You will find a mix of sandy sloping bottoms, seagrass beds, and coral garden sections. Expect to see flute fish, pufferfish, and the occasional barracuda and critters like nudibranchs, crabs, lobsters, pygmy pipe horses and bobtail squids. With luck, a turtle or the shy and elusive dugong may also be spotted while feeding.



Manatuto

Heading East from the capital Dili towards the Municipality of Manatuto, along scenic coastal roads you will pass 12 (at least) dive spots. Blink and you might miss them though, so, ask directions to the local community as most dive spots are short walks down tracks from the main road. Popular dive sites along this stretch includes the Secret Garden that consist of a sponge garden with colonies of different species of fish such as purple anthias and silvery glass fish. Past the Secret Garden is K41, also very popular with divers and snorkellers who enjoy the descending wall, the hard and soft of coral, plenty of fish including barracuda, and critters scuttling along. You will also be able to see the eel garden and numerous anemones with their resident clown fish.



Jaco Island & Tutuala Beach

Located in the Nino Konis Santana National Park, Valu beach is a 7-hour drive from the Capital Dili. Opposite to Valu Beach is Jaco Island with its white-sandy beaches and turquoise warm sea water. Sacred and uninhabited, visitors can only visit Jaco Island during the day by catching a ride with local fishing boats for a small fee, departing from Valu Beach. Snorkelers can access Jaco Islands pristine reef systems but must be weary of ocean currents. Diving is slightly less accessible on Jaco Island as it requires greater logistical pre-planning, but once underwater, a treasure trove of marine life awaits.

DIVING OPERATORS IN TIMOR-LESTE

Independent diving is discouraged for the time being in Timor-Leste due to limited rescuing and emergency facilities in the country. Divers of all levels of experience are encouraged to book their diving expeditions with established diving operators:

Aquatica Dive Resort
Compass Diving
Dive Timor Lorosae
Dreamers Dive Academy

www.aquaticadiveresort.com
www.compassdiving.com
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