

# Timor-Leste

**Continent:** Asia

**Languages Spoken:** Tetum, Portuguese, Indonesian, English

**Population:** 1,300,000

**Currency:** United States Dollar (USD)

**Area:** 14,874

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Jaco Island', 'writeup': 'A pristine island known for its untouched beaches and rich marine biodiversity, part of Nino Konis Santana National Park.'}
- {'name': 'Cristo Rei of Dili', 'writeup': 'A large statue of Jesus Christ overlooking the capital city, symbolizing peace and faith.'}
- {'name': 'Mount Ramelau', 'writeup': 'The highest peak in Timor-Leste, offering hiking opportunities and cultural significance.'}
- {'name': 'Tais Market', 'writeup': 'A vibrant market in Dili where traditional woven textiles called tais are sold.'}

## Head of State / Government:

José Ramos-Horta (President)

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Independence Day', 'writeup': 'Celebrated on May 20th, marking Timor-Leste's independence from Indonesia in 2002.'}
- {'name': 'Giant Reed Dance', 'writeup': 'A traditional dance event involving young women, symbolizing cultural identity and community.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Timorese cuisine features a blend of indigenous, Portuguese, and Indonesian influences, with staples like rice, corn, and root vegetables, often accompanied by spicy sambal and seafood.

## Brief History:

Timor-Leste was a Portuguese colony until 1975, followed by an Indonesian occupation until 1999. After a UN-administered transition, it gained full independence in 2002, becoming Southeast Asia's youngest nation.

## Important People:

- Xanana Gusmão - First President and key independence leader
- José Ramos-Horta - Nobel Peace Prize laureate and current President
- Mari Alkatiri - First Prime Minister

## Current Conflicts:

Timor-Leste is generally peaceful but faces occasional political tensions and challenges related to economic development and resource management.

## Youtube Links:

- Timor-Leste: Asia's Youngest Nation Explained
- Exploring the Natural Beauty of Timor-Leste
- History and Culture of Timor-Leste
- Timor-Leste Travel Guide: What to See and Do
- Traditional Food and Festivals of Timor-Leste