

Itinerary: Our tour begins in Dili where we spend our first day visiting projects, museums and the statue of Jesus overlooking Dili harbour. On day 2 we'll take leisurely drive west to visit the famous Maubara basket weavers. On day 3, we head east along the coast road with its breathtaking ocean views and spend the night in Baucau, the second largest city in East Timor. On day 4 we head further east and inland to Los Palos, renowned for its strong culture and traditions. Here is where our journey in to the culture of Tais weaving begins with the first of the weaving workshops. On day 5, we'll make our way through the hills to the isolated and picturesque sub-district of Iliomar. The tranquil villages of Iliomar will be our base for four days. We'll meet the community and hook up with local weavers for two days of workshops. Participating in and connecting with the local way of life will be a rich cultural learning experience. On day 7 after a sojourn of site-seeing around Iliomar, we'll share a celebration feast with the community in appreciation for their hospitality. On day 9 we say goodbye to Iliomar and make our way through the remote communities of Utacarbau and Uatolari, crossing sacred rivers and sites along the way. From the volcanic sand beaches of Beacu on the south coast, we head up into the mountains arriving at Viqueque in the early evening to stay at the Loihuno resort with its stunning waterfalls and fresh-water rock pools. On day 10 we visit Japanese caves and hot springs in Venilale as we make our way back to Baucau to stay at one of the charming hillside hotels. Day 11 we take in the sites of Baucau before heading back to Dili and day 12- our last full-day in East Timor- will be spent visiting projects such as the Arte Moris free Art School. We'll see our last sunset over dinner and drinks on the beach and our tour concludes on the morning flight to Darwin on Day 13.

The ETWA Weaving Tour aims to give cross-cultural experiences to members, supporters and the broader community. With a focus on Indigenous weaving and fair trade development, we will discover how women live in traditional society and also as citizens in an emerging democracy. Making extended visits to development projects and to communities in the eastern corners of the island, we will be immersed in village life and learn about traditional weaving in a series of participatory workshops.

But the tour also aims to give something back to the communities who will be our hosts. As a way of expressing our appreciation to the women who will share their knowledge and experiences with us, we ask participants to fundraise a minimum of AU\$1,000 each so the tour helps our East Timorese friends in their efforts to weave sustainable businesses.

**It's not difficult and ETWA can help with ideas! Please contact us:
email: office@etwa.org.au
or phone 0422 435 517**

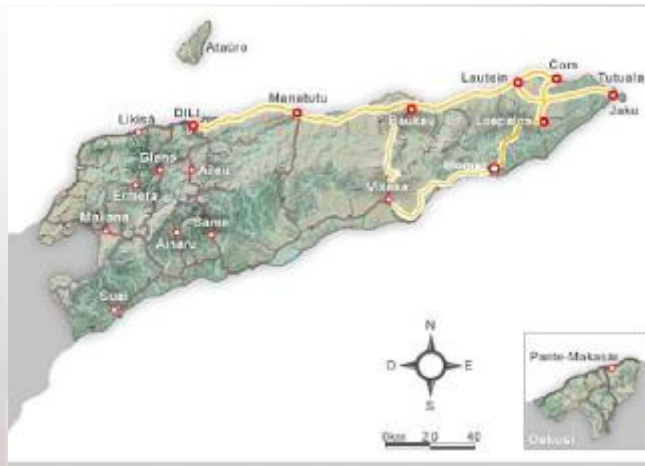
July 2010 & Sept 2010

www.etwa.org.au

ETWA
East Timor
Weaving Tour

Workshops: Four days will be spent in the company of local weavers in Los Palos and Iliomar discovering the complexities of traditional Tais weaving; this is the highlight of the tour. Master weavers will take us through the weaving process and there'll be plenty of time for discussion about techniques and cultural/symbolic value. We will share stories with women and their families; participate in and become accustomed to village life. When the local telegraph spreads news of our presence, there will be ample opportunities to purchase new Tais directly from producers, and so we will also play a role in cultural preservation and poverty alleviation.

Los Palos and Iliomar: Los Palos is on the eastern tip of East Timor. Located approximately 8 hours drive from Dili; Los Palos is the capital of the Lautem district. There is a range of things to see and do and although the focus of our stay is to spend time with the Feto Ki'ak Buka Moris (Little Women Looking for Life) Weaving Collective, we'll also visit local sites and projects in and around Los Palos central. **Iliomar** is an isolated sub-district, in the mountains inland from Los Palos. Makalero is the local dialect of Iliomar and many women do not speak Tetun. Women play a key role in traditional and contemporary social order, quietly bearing the onus of domestic work, caring for their often large families and imparting cultural knowledge, particularly through the weaving of Tais. We will spend in the company of weavers from two weaving collectives in the picturesque villages of Fuat and Kainliu. The time spent in these communities will help us learn about the lives of women, their daily routines, work, responsibilities, experiences and dreams for the future.



ITINERARY (subject to change):

- Day 1** Arrive Dili. Visit local projects. Stay in Dili
- Day 2** Day trip to Maubara. Stay in Dili
- Day 3** 9am depart. Arrive Baucau 2pm; visit local sites and beach. Stay in Baucau
- Day 4** Dept 8am depart for Los Palos, arrive 11am. **Workshop #1 in Los Palos.** Stay in Los Palos
- Day 5** 10am depart for Iliomar, sight-seeing on the way. Arrive 2pm. Stay in Fuat
- Day 6** **Workshop # 2 in Fuat.** Stay in Fuat
- Day 7** Church and site seeing in Iliomar. Celebration feast with community. Stay in Cainliu
- Day 8** **Workshop # 3 in Kainliu.** Stay in Cainliu
- Day 9** 9am depart Iliomar. Lunch in Ualtolari. Arrive Viqueque 6pm. Stay at Loihuno resort
- Day 10** 9am depart. Stop at caves, hot springs etc. Arrive Baucau 2pm. Stay in Baucau
- Day 11** Site seeing in Baucau. Arrive Dili 4pm. Stay in Dili
- Day 12** Morning visit to Arte Moris etc. Stay in Dili
- Day 13** Morning flight to Darwin

Cost: \$2,850.00/ person (Melb- Dili return)

Includes air fares, basic insurance, tour guide, some meals, accommodation and local travel (taxi & 4WD with an experienced driver). Participants are also required to raise \$1,000 for our supported projects in East Timor.

Other Costs:

Meals etc: Allow AUS \$200
(restaurants & communal meals)

Visas: Approx AUS\$45 (USD\$30)

Taxes: Departure tax approx AUS \$15 (USD\$10)

Spending: Allow \$300
(Total approx AUS\$560.00)

Details:

Accommodation: Major cities: Mostly Hotel, twin/ shared facilities.

In Los Palos/ Iliomar: Bare basics, shared facilities

Spending Money: Local currency is US dollars. How much extra money you need will depend on what you plan to buy, however a minimum of AU\$500 should be sufficient to cover meals, bottled water etc.

Travel: Travel in and around Dili is easy by taxi but extra care must be taken at all times. Outside of Dili is slow going. The terrain is hilly; roads are narrow, in very poor condition with many sharp and often hazardous bends. If you are prone to motion sickness, taking appropriate medication is a must.

Local Conditions: The tour will take place in during the wet and dry seasons. It is humid but not too hot in July with temperatures between 25° and 30°; the mountains of Iliomar are cool, particularly in the evening. It warms up in Sept with temperatures reaching 35°. Outside of Dili there will be limited access to mobile phone networks, hot water etc. Local produce is organic so we will try to purchase our main supplies in Dili. As mosquitos thrive in East Timor's climate, Malaria is widespread. Consult your travel doctor before departure about anti-malaria medication. Wearing insect repellent and protective clothing at all times is essential.

Conduct: Tourism is just beginning in poverty-stricken East Timor and life in rural communities is very difficult, especially for women. In light of the generous nature of East Timorese people, you must commit to making an active contribution, respect and abide by local protocols and etiquette. Payments made to local vendors and purchases of new Tais will help build sustainable communities.

Liability: The tour is coordinated by ETWA to maximize the group experience and individual participants agree to take responsibility for their personal safety and the safety of all belongings. ETWA accepts no liability for cancellation of flights, injury or loss of property.

Terms: The tour will be postponed and rescheduled if it is unsafe to travel to East Timor due to political or civil instability. Prices have been calculated to maximize group discounts and may increase if discount airfares are not available or if the Australian dollar decreases against the US dollar. 60% non-refundable deposit must be received two months prior to departure to secure both discounted airfares and your place on the tour. Balance paid no less than four weeks prior to departure.