

## 2017 Festival Kafe Timor Origin Trip

### Schedule

Date	Day	Schedule	Location
24 Oct 2017	Tuesday	Noon – 3p, guests arrive. 4p Welcome and briefing at hotel, Cropster Cup demo 6p Photo exhibition / memorial 8p Dinner (hotel or walking distance)	Dili Discovery Inn Hotel Xanana Reading Room
25 Oct 2017	Wednesday	Breakfast at hotel 9a Cupping, rounds 1-3 1p Lunch 2p Afternoon activity (choices) 7p “The Coffee Man” screening with the film’s director + snacks 8p Dinner (hotel or walking distance)	Dili ACTL Lab Agora Food Studio
26 Oct 2017	Thursday	Breakfast at hotel 9a Cupping, rounds 4-6 1p Lunch 3p Balibar road show (30 min drive) 6p Coffee cocktail night, barista competition award ceremony	Dili ACTL Lab Balibar Rolls & Bowls Restaurant
27 Oct 2017	Friday	Pack to travel Breakfast at hotel Long road day, visit to Railaco, Letefoho, farmer meetings. Arrive at Maubisse Group splits in two for overnight accommodations.	Dili Railaco Letefoho Maubisse Green School restaurant / guest houses, and Café Maubisse restaurant / hotel
28 Oct 2017	Saturday	Festival Kafe Timor Festival program and awards ceremony (program details to be provided separately) Celebration night (food, music, dancing)	Maubisse
29 Oct 2017	Sunday	Breakfast Morning, return to Dili (2.5 hrs) Departure flights 1p-5p	Maubisse to Dili

## Contacts:

- Charline Bodin (Evecom Events): email, phone (Timor-Leste)
- David Freedman (ADB): email, phone (Timor-Leste)
- Andrew Hetzel (ADB): email, phone(Timor-Leste), alternate phone (USA, elsewhere)

## Entry requirements

A visa is required to enter Timor-Leste. Visas are issued on arrival for a fee of US\$30. Please bring U.S. funds, as there is no ATM in the arrivals hall and credit cards are not accepted. For more information and some exceptions for EU, Indonesian and Portuguese nationals at <http://www.migracao.gov.tl/html/sub0301.php>.

## Currency

Timor-Leste's currency is the United States Dollar. Credit cards are accepted at hotels and restaurants in Dili, but generally not in smaller towns or small shops / tourist markets. ATM's are available in Dili, but not to be relied on and may charge high transaction fees. Bring some U.S. currency for souvenirs and discretionary purchases. For those not originating in the U.S., exchange is usually available in major airports, like Singapore Changi or Bali Denpasar.

## Accommodations

Tuesday through Thursday, we will be staying at the Discovery Inn Hotel. Discovery Inn is presently the [#1 hotel on TripAdvisor in Dili](#). The rooms are simple and clean, and service is helpful. The hotel's restaurant is among the best in Dili. Laundry service is available for a fee. Internet service is free but slow.

### **Discovery Inn Hotel**

84 Rua 30 de Agosto  
Aldeia Grilos, Dili Timor Leste  
Tel: +670 331 1111  
E-mail: email

Accommodations on Friday and Saturday night will be in Ainaro, Maubisse. The group will split into two and stay at either the Green School or Café Maubisse, both of which are guesthouses with restaurants and private guest rooms or bungalows.

## Communication

Local SIM cards and prepaid plans are inexpensive. Voice and internet data services are reliable within Dili and larger towns. SIM cards can be purchased at shops nearby the hotel on Tuesday afternoon. You will need an unlocked international GSM phone. You can [check device](#)

[compatibility with TL's networks here](#). Note that internet access will be limited or unavailable for most of Friday and Saturday.

### **Arrival / Departure**

We have your flight information and will arrange for your arrival and departure transfers from Presidente Dili Nicolau Lobato Airport. Someone representing the Timor-Leste Coffee Association or a driver from the Discovery Inn hotel will have a sign outside arrivals to greet you. It is a small airport, so you will not get lost.

### **Transportation**

We will arrange most ground transportation. If at any time you need a taxi in Dili, use Corotrans Blue Taxis. Blue Taxis may be flagged down or ordered by phone (in English) at 7742-7777 or 7724-1156 using a local +670 SIM. Travel by Blue Taxi is metered and inexpensive around Dili, normally less than \$5 to any destination. Other taxi services are less reliable and not recommended.

### **Weather / Clothing**

The weather in Dili is expected to be hot (90F+/32C+) during the day and warm at night (75F+/23C+) with possible rain and thunderstorms. Maubisse will be cooler, with highs in the 80's F / 26C and evening temperatures dropping to 60F/15C. The hotel in Dili, cupping room, and most venues we will visit are air conditioned. Please pack for warm weather, possible rain, and cool evenings on Friday and Saturday.

### **Food and Drink**

If you have any dietary requirements, allergies, or restrictions, please let us know and we will make special accommodations. Tap water should not be consumed in Timor-Leste, bottled water will be provided on the tour.

### **Safety**

Exercise ordinary caution and common sense in Timor-Leste, as one would in any coffee producing country. For additional information, please visit the U.S. State Department travel page for Timor-Leste at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/timor-leste.html>.

### **Medical precautions**

Vaccinations are recommended for travel to Timor-Leste, similar to other developing countries in Southeast Asia. Malaria is present in the country and antimalarial prophylaxis is recommended. Bring mosquito repellent containing DEET, long sleeves and pants, and other

mosquito prevention supplies for maximum protection. For additional information and recommendations, visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control website at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/east-timor>.

### **Travel insurance**

Travel medical insurance and evacuation insurance are recommended in case of unexpected accidents or illness. In the United States, policies are offered by [MedEx Assist](#), [Blue Cross Blue Shield Geoblue](#), [AIG](#), [Berkshire Hathaway](#), and evacuation/security by [MedJet Assist](#). The cost of foreign medical treatment or evacuation is high and may not be covered by your domestic insurance carrier; short term one-trip policies can be purchased quickly online and are inexpensive.

### **Language and culture**

Tetun and Portuguese are the two official languages of Timor-Leste. Indonesian and English are working languages. English is not common outside of those engaged in international business, tourism or government. Approximately 97% of the population is Roman Catholic. For more information, visit the [CIA World Factbook page for Timor-Leste](#).

### **Background**

Coffee has been grown in Timor-Leste for over 200 years and is its largest non-oil export, accounting for 98% of non-oil merchandise exports. It provides a primary source of income for approximately one quarter of Timorese households, most of whom live in poverty. In an effort to improve the wellbeing of the tens of thousands of families working in coffee, new emphasis is being placed on rehabilitation for an industry that lags in productivity, quality and value.

From 1702 until 1975, Timor-Leste was a Portuguese trading colony. Coffee was first planted in Portuguese Timor in 1815 and heavily regulated by the Portuguese and later by Indonesian colonial administrations until 1994. By the 1860s, coffee had replaced sandalwood as the colony's main export. The first large coffee plantation covering 9,000 Ha was established in 1897 and this and other plantations were consolidated into a privately owned joint stock company called SAPT.

In 1927 the natural Arabica and Robusta crossbreed *Hibrido de Timor* (HDT) was discovered in Suco (village) Fatubese, in the municipality of Ermera. This hybrid was the backbone of Timorese coffee production for decades. Due to its favorable flavor profile, combined with resistance to *Hemillia Vastatrix*, coffee rust disease, it became a popular variety for cultivation elsewhere around the world, including Indonesia where it is known as "Tim Tim." Other varieties later emerged with genetic lineage to HDT, including *Sarchimor* in Brazil, *Ruiru 11* in Kenya, *Colombia* in Colombia, *Cost Rica 95* in Costa Rica, and *Catimor*, which also borrows the Timor name.

East Timor declared itself independent from Portugal on November 28, 1975, but was invaded by neighboring Indonesia nine days later. Following the invasion, interests linked to the Indonesian military took control of SAPT's plantations and established a monopoly on coffee

marketing. This monopoly continued until 1994 when the American National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) was allowed to begin operations in East Timor.

In 1994, the NCBA established a producer cooperative with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This cooperative grew from 800 members in 1994 to 17,000 members in 1999. It was structured as a provincial level co-op with links to 16 cooperatives at the district and sub-district level. Organic certification was received in 1995 and the company made its first sales to Starbucks and other premium consumers that year. In 2000, the umbrella cooperative was reincorporated as the Café Cooperativa Timor (CCT) and the 16 primary cooperatives were rebranded as community level cooperatives. CCT's membership has now stabilized at approximately 21,500 members.

Although Indonesia made substantial investment in infrastructure during its occupation in East Timor, dissatisfaction remained widespread among the Timorese population. Timorese groups in favor of independence fought a campaign of resistance against Indonesian forces. Between 1975 and 1999, there were an estimated 102,800 conflict-related deaths from killings, starvation and illness. In 1999 a majority of Timorese voted for independence in a United Nations referendum. It was achieved in 2002.

Following independence, the government tried to revive the plantation sector by granting some of the land that had been owned by SAPT to new investors. However, attempts to redevelop the plantations met with resistance from smallholders who occupied the land and claimed ownership or harvest coffee from the overgrown plantations. A 2009 report estimated that of the 52,000 Ha that has been planted with coffee in Timor-Leste, approximately half is actively cultivated by smallholders while the other half is mostly abandoned, large scale plantations that were established during Portuguese rule.

### **Recent initiatives, ACTL and Festival Kafe Timor**

Low rates of productivity and smallholder farmer earning have been studied since 1997 or earlier. The government, aid agencies and private businesses have pursued solutions to improve Timor-Leste's coffee industry since independence but thus far have achieved only limited success.

In 2015, an innovative new initiative spearheaded by the Asian Development Bank was proposed: bring together representatives of all segments of Timor-Leste's coffee industry to form and work collaboratively through the country's first private sector led coffee industry association. Working as a volunteer association bound by shared beliefs in the pursuit of common goals, it was hoped that this new entity may make progress implementing positive change beneficial to all participants of Timor-Leste's coffee industry; particularly so for its smallholder farmers that would share equal representation within the association leadership.

Feasibility of the plan was studied in early 2016 in consultation with industry stakeholders, including smallholder farmer representatives, farming cooperative leadership, commercial exporters, and retail/roasting businesses alike. The led to a widely supported recommendation to proceed. The group, later to be known as Asosiasaun Café Timor-Leste (ACTL) in Tetun, or the Timor-Leste Coffee Association in English, began the task of formation. Soon after, volunteers

went to work identifying leadership, defining rules of governance and establishing activities beneficial to members.

The first of these activities was Festival Kafe Timor (FKT), held in November 2016. The goal of the event was to generate interest and awareness about Timor-Leste's coffee industry among stakeholders and consumers, demonstrate the potential that exists from advancement (international speakers, training sessions and other activities) and announce the formation of the association in order to enlist support and membership. Hundreds participated in speaker sessions, training sessions, and other festival events held in the capitol city of Dili. Hundreds or thousands more joined in festival outreach activities held in communities around the country.

Festival Kafe Timor was also host to the first national cup quality competition. Sixty-two samples were collected from farming groups in the country's six main coffee growing districts and were evaluated by six international and three national judges using Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCA) sample roasting and cupping protocols. Forty-seven of the coffees received were evaluated at 80 points or higher.

Smallholder farmers cultivating Timor-Leste's signature heirloom Hibrido de Timor coffee variety led the field in the country's inaugural national cup quality contest, with Tunufahi village in the Letefoho district of Ermera achieving the top score of 84.45 points.

The first Festival Kafe Timor was a positive experience for those who participated, motivating and educating farmers, roasters and baristas alike, and fostering a spirit of cooperation that can be built on to improve our industry. Based on its success a second event was planned.

The 2017 FKT includes a national cup quality competition, barista competition, field visit to rural coffee producing communities for international coffee professionals, cup quality, roasting and retail training sessions, and a lecture program concluding in an award ceremony for competition winners held in Suco Maubisse. The cup quality competition has been expanded to permit up to 200 entries, which will be cupped first by national cuppers under the direction of an international head judge, followed by a finals round of the 50 best, scored and ranked by the international judges.

Since last year's festival, many other initiatives were put in motion. In March of 2017, ACTL participated in its first international trade event as an entity (Café Asia, Singapore). In June, ADB contracted the Coffee Quality Institute to study and develop a plan for national coffee sector development. The analysis is underway and expected to be completed in early 2018. The result of their work will guide future revitalization effort in collaboration with the national government and private industry coffee association. Also in June 2017, a new ACTL cupping lab was launched at the association's provisional headquarters. The facility was inaugurated with a first series of international cup quality evaluation courses, and a curriculum of ongoing cupper training events. Improvements to the facility are in progress through the end of this year.