



R.A.W.C.S. Ltd.

A.C.N. 003 444 264



ADDENDUM TO VOLUNTEER INFORMATION MANUAL

for R.A.W.C.S. Ltd.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING TEAMS TO EAST TIMOR (to be read in conjunction with the standard VOLUNTEER INFORMATION MANUAL)

SEPTEMBER 2001
UPDATE JULY 2002

The following additional information is provided for R.A.W.C.S. Ltd. Volunteer Training Teams travelling to APPROVED PROJECTS in East Timor.

Please refer to the standard VOLUNTEER INFORMATION MANUAL for the relevant paragraphs.

1.1 PASSPORT

Passports must be carried at all times while in East Timor and shown on demand to check points (Military) and Civilian Police. Make sure you wear your R.A.W.C.S. Ltd. name badge at all times.

1.2 VISA

A Visa is not required for travel to East Timor for stays up to 90 days, except for paid work.

1.3 AIR BOOKINGS

Purchase your East Timor Departure Tax prior to departing Darwin for Dili. Cost is US\$10.00. Flight time Darwin to Dili is approximately one and three quarters of an hour.

2. HEALTH

Medical facilities are limited and evacuation may be required in cases of serious injury or illness. There are no dental facilities available. Japanese Encephalitis is known to exist. Tuberculosis and Rabies may also be present.

Make sure you take your own medication supplies with you.

2.3 WATER

It is advisable to take with you some Water Purification Tablets. ALWAYS boil water for ten minutes before consuming.

Bottled water can be purchased in the local stores but make sure the top has not been broken.

Tap water in Dili is hard and is not safe for your ears, eyes and teeth. Clean your teeth with bottled water.

3. INSURANCE

Check with your relevant Regional Project Volunteer Co-ordinator regarding insurance cover for East Timor.

9. LIQUOR

The Australian Military do not allow their members to carry alcohol into East Timor.

12. PERSONAL GIFTS

Remember that if you do not have enough small gifts to give to everyone it is best not to give.

GENERAL

DRIVING

Driving conditions are frequently hazardous, including in Dili, and drivers should take extra care on the roads. No local licencing or motor vehicle registration system exists at present and there is no Third Party motor vehicle insurance available. Other motor vehicle accident insurance can be arranged for hire cars, however travellers need to ensure they fully understand the conditions which apply to such insurance. **It is strongly recommended that R.A.W.C.S. Ltd. volunteers DO NOT DRIVE WHILST IN EAST TIMOR.**

If you are being driven by a local person and you are concerned about the speed or any other aspect ask him politely to ease up.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Darwin to Dili is restricted to 20 kilograms

REGISTRATION WITH AUSTRALIAN MISSION

All volunteers should pre register through their relevant Regional Project Volunteer Co-ordinator.

MATTERS OF INTEREST

The official currency is the US Dollar. Australian currency cannot be used, so take US Dollars with you from Darwin.

A.N.Z. Banking Group and the Banco Nacional Ultramarino operates in Dili Monday to Friday 9.30am. to 3.30pm. A.N.Z. also operates two Automatic Teller Machines which dispense US Dollars using credit / debit cards that are Cirrus / Maestro linked.

The laws in East Timor are based on Indonesian Law. Travellers must be aware that penalties for breaking the law can be severe, especially for drug related crimes.

The Australian Mission in East Timor is accredited to UNTAET, business hours 8.00am. to 12.30pm and from 1.30pm. to 4.30pm. Monday to Friday.

Do not encourage begging. Tipping is not expected. Do not touch the locals unless they put out their hand. The right hand is used for shaking, giving or receiving items and eating and drinking. Be prepared for repetitive questioning. Do not make promises.

The Rotary Club of Dili meets Thursday evenings 6.30pm. for 7.00pm. at the Turismo Hotel in Dili. Contact is Andrew Leith 0417 763 298 (Dili).

Volunteers must remember that travel at night from Dili to Baucao and Maubara is not possible.

Dili Airport into town by taxi is ten minutes.

Diabetic treatment is available at the Dili Hospital.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Do not travel at night. Slow down and stop at all clearly marked check points and be prepared to show your Passport. Watch the Civilian Police and Military Dress and Mode of movement. If they are wearing flak jackets and have personal and vehicle weapons on display, military vehicles moving in groups of two or more, **STAY INDOORS AND KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.**

BEHAVIOUR

Timorese are renowned for their friendly demeanour.

Visitors to remote areas will attract an unfamiliar amount of attention.

Males regularly hold hands and touch each other if they are close friends. This is not a homosexual display. If it happens to you, do not shirk away from it because it is a gesture of friendship. In contrast, men and women do not touch in public, regardless of their relationship.

In East Timor give and receive all objects with the right hand.

Wait to be invited before eating and drinking at a function.

It is considered polite to ask before taking a photograph of a person.

Standing with your hands on your hips can be misinterpreted as an aggressive stance. Do not raise your voice or lose your temper.

Do not encourage children begging for chocolate or money, this is not part of the culture.

CONTACTS

Dr. Susan Griffiths, Australian Mission, East Timor mob. 0409 697 560.

Ryder Cheshire Foundation, Peter and Helen Newton or Ian and Andrea Swann mob. 0408 480 982 or 0407 878 806.

R.A.W.C.S. Ltd. Co-ordinator for East Timor P.D.G. John McLaren, District 9550 ph. 08 8927 9903 (H) 08 8999 6426 (B) 08 8999 6237 (FAX).

United Nations Civilain Police emergency contact 0408 839 978.

Further Travel Information can be obtained from the Department of Foreign Affairs on:

[http://www.dfat.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/ Advice/Indonesia](http://www.dfat.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Indonesia)

Your Regional Project Volunteer Co-ordinator will assist you with any queries you may have on any matter, do not be afraid to ask.