

East Timor (Timor Leste) Country Guide

iamovers.org/ResourcesPublications/CountryGuides.aspx

Updated: November 16, 2016

[Find movers in East Timor \(Timor Leste\) now!](#)



Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Copy of passport
- Original bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)
- Packing list
- Tax exemption certificate (obtained by the owner of the goods' employer)
- Employer's tax identification number (TIN)
- Letter of request for duty-free import (diplomats, employees of an aid organization)

Specific Information

- Foreigners may import household goods and personal effects into East Timor duty free if having diplomatic status or working for a registered aid organization; if these criteria are met, only one sea and one air shipment are permitted duty free.
- All foreigners and returning Timorese nationals, who do not have diplomatic status or work for a registered aid organization, may import household goods and personal effects subject to duties.
 - The first USD 300.00 of value is duty free; thereafter duty will apply.
 - The duty amount varies and is often subject to negotiation with the Customs department.
- While the owner of the goods does not have to be physically present in East Timor during Customs clearance, a copy of his or her passport must be presented to the East Timor government at the time of clearance.
 - Should any issues arise, it is best if the owner of the goods is in the country to assist.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Copy of passport
- OBL
- Letter of request for duty-free import (diplomats, employees of an aid organization)

Specific Information

- Only diplomats or employees of an aid organization may import a vehicle into East Timor duty free.
 - A letter must be sent, similar in format to the one required for household goods, to the Customs department requesting duty free import.
- Non-diplomats, foreigners, and Timorese nationals may import motor vehicles into Timor-Leste subject to duties.
- Cars must be less than 5 years old and be right-hand drive.
- All motorbikes / motorcycles must be less than 5 years old and have an engine size less than 600 cc.

Pets

Documents Required

- Vaccination record / card
- Veterinary health record

Specific Information

- Most pets, including dogs, cats, and birds, can be brought into East Timor with no quarantine period.
- The veterinary health certificate cannot be issued more than 7 days prior to import.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- Fruits and vegetables and byproducts (a phytosanitary certificate is required)

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics
- Firearms and ammunition

- Pornographic materials

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

Helpful Website(s):

<http://www.timorlesteembassy.org>

<http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?lang=en>

<http://www.state.gov/p/eap/ci/tt>

Cultural and Other Information

[CIA World Factbook Entry for East Timor \(Timor Leste\)](#)

[Wikipedia Entry for East Timor \(Timor Leste\)](#)