



**REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR LESTE**  
**MINISTÉRIO DO TURISMO, ARTE E CULTURA**  
**GABINETE DIRECTOR GERAL DO TURISMO**

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15<sup>th</sup> of June 2015

**PRESS RELEASE – Director-General’s Statement – 2015 Darwin to Dili Yacht Rally**

Timor Leste has been blessed with tropical waters rich in marine life, pristine white sand beaches, spectacular mountain ranges, unique Timorese culture, Portuguese colonial heritage and resistance history.

Despite its natural beauty, Timor-Leste also offers a variety of special annual events, such as the Tour de Timor mountain bike race, the Dili Marathon International, Caravana Artistica, and the Darwin to Dili Yacht Rally. All these events aim to show the peaceful conditions and natural beauty of Timor-Leste.

The Darwin to Dili Yacht Rally initiative is a unique and very challenging event for decades. The Rally was re-established in 2010 by the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with the Northern Territory Government after a break of over 35 years and has become an annual event. On it’s fifth year in a row to take place on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2015.

The course Start Line is in Darwin Harbour, Australia and will finish in Dili, Timor-Leste. As participants sail across the Timor Sea, the Rally endeavors to showcase the natural beauty and culture that Timor-Leste has to offer to its participants.

Sailing is the perfect package of performance and pushing limits, while demonstrating high levels of determination. The Darwin to Dili Rally will be a true feat exemplifying human endurance, adventure and courage. It is a sport that strives for environmental responsibility and sustainability through alternative energy development

A key goal of the Rally is to support skills development and capacity building in Timor-Leste’s marine tourism industry. The Rally provides opportunities for Timorese nationals to travel by yacht across the Timor Sea gaining experiences in sail craft and yachting.

For 2015, participating vessels will be equipped with the Yellow Brick Tracking device, allowing friends, families and spectators to follow the Rally’s progress. Special arrangements have also been made with Sail Indonesia for yachts that wish to sail on towards Indonesia.

I wish to invite you to participate in the Darwin to Dili Yacht Rally which will start in Darwin on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2015. Interested participants can apply online through [www.sailtimorleste.org](http://www.sailtimorleste.org).

Silvino Sampaio Goncalves  
Director-General of Tourism

