

Hatobuilico turn-off

In 2010 signs were rare in Timor Leste outside of Dili. Everyone local knew which roads led where, and which building was a shop or a guest house. Everyone not local was connected to someone local, by family, friendship or business... What need for signs?

We were having dinner with the priest, Father Adrian, one night when he told us that the next day he and others were off to the intersection to make a sign to Hatobuilico, and he would pick us up if we wished to go too. As this was something we had raised in tourism development planning meetings as a barrier to tourism (as visiting malai had expressed frustration at the lack of signage at the turn off) we were keen to be part of this happening.

The team turned up ready with cement, a stencil and spray paint, and made quick work of rendering smooth a piece of wall, and spraying the stencil.

Visitors arrived the day after the sign was completed and were most impressed, having been warned they would need to look sharp for the turn off, but instead finding it easily!



