

Driving from Caño Blanco to Fortuna

Which dock we use depends on the water level of the rivers. This depends on the rains, and can change even at the last moment. You should be sure to call our operations department in order to determine which dock is in operation on your travel day. Those phone numbers are below.

Office hours (5:30am ~ 8:00pm)

Tel. [\(+506\) 2257-0766](tel:+50622570766)

Tel. [\(+506\) 2521-6099](tel:+50625216099)

After hours, Operations Staff

Mobile. [\(+506\) 8707-5212](tel:+50687075212)

Director of Operations & Lodges, Diego
Blanco

Mob. [\(+506\) 8879-3821](tel:+50688793821)

By far the easiest way to get to Tortuguero is to have us take you there. Talk to your travel planner about arranging transportation or buy a complete package that includes round trip transportation, lodging, excursions and meals. If you are interested in booking a complete package, please click here, [Complete Packages](#) or look on www.tortugalodge.com .

If you are driving on your own to the La Pavona dock en route to Tortuguero, driving instructions are below. Even with these directions, there is a good chance you will get lost if you do not have a GPS. By far the best is EZ Find. There are no addresses in Costa Rica. The GPS operates by points of interest. Go to the Points of Interest on the menu and put in where you want to go. For example, “La Pavona”.

Driving instructions are below, please print them out and after you’ve used them, let us know how it went. We’d love to make it easier for the next guest to follow these instructions.

Note: Road signs and directions in Costa Rica go by kilometers and not miles. One kilometer is just over half a mile. Some benchmarks for doing quick and dirty conversions are below:

1 km = 0.6 mi

3 km = 1.8 mi

5 km = 3 mi

10 km = 6 mi

From Caño Blanco to Fortuna

Total Driving Time: 6 hours depending on traffic

Type of Vehicle: Best done in a 4x4 vehicle

Recommended Time to Drive: Complete this drive in daylight

Fuel: Leave route 32 with a full tank.

Recommended Stop en Route:

Driving Recommendations: You will be driving on a highway that is one of the major points of transit for heavy trucks going back and forth from the Limon dock. Drive carefully and expect large trucks to be traveling at high speed either in oncoming lanes or behind you. Watch for people walking or riding their bikes on the side of the road. Also watch for tractors with trailers turning onto the road with a load of pineapple, oranges or sugar cane. Do not stop on the Caño Blanco - Siquirres stretch of road and as with any other place in the world, DO NOT, pick up hitch hikers.

Driving Instructions:

1. Leaving the Caño Blanco dock, drive 10.2 KMS passing a school and the Tropical Garden on the way.
2. You will come to a pronounced curve in the road, **Stay Right**.
3. Drive 7.1 KMS you will pass three schools; here you will have entered the banana plantations.
4. Continue for 3.6KMS at the end of this stretch you will come to the Del Monte airstrip and a bridge without railing.
5. **Turn Left** for 0.5 KMS, until you come to another intersection; here there will be a white sign that says Siquirres, **Stay Left** for 0.8KMS until you get to a banana packing plant.
6. Continue on this road for 4.2KMS until you come to another intersection, keep going straight ahead for 0.6KMS and you will see the San Alberto airstrip on your right.
7. Drive 2.7KMS and you will come to another intersection where you **Continue Left**, at this point the banana plantations and the gravel road end and the asphalt road begins.
8. Take the asphalt road on the **Left** for 1.5 KMS and you will come to the El Cocal School.
9. Continue for 3.5 KMS and you will arrive at a business on the right, the Almacen Jerusalem, **Turn Right** for 0.1 KMS and cross the railroad tracks.

10. **Turn Left** 0.1 KMS and then **Turn Right** for 0.3KMS and you will come to a T in the road.
11. You will see the Siquirres cemetery ahead of you.
12. **Turn Right** 0.1 KMS and then **Turn Left** 0.2 KMS and you will have arrive at route 32, the main highway connecting San Jose with the Caribbean coast. On your right is the Caribbean Dish, a restaurant that is a good place to use the restrooms and get a snack. **Total Distance:** 35.5KMS, **Total Driving Time:** 1.40 hours.
13. **Turn Right** onto route 32; follow the green signs to Guapiles or San Jose
14. Drive 13 kilometers going over the bridge over the Reventazon River and on the left you will see a gas station, the Gasolinera Pocora. This is the first gas station after leaving the Caribbean Dish and a good place to refuel.
15. Drive 33.4KMS on route 32, you will come to an intersection before beginning the ascent to Braulio Carrillo. At this intersection you will see green signs that indicate the way to Rio Frio and Ciudad Quesada, **Turn Right** here. **Total Distance:** 46.2KMS, **Total Driving Time:** 1 hour.
16. When you **Turn Right** you will see a restaurant on the right hand side, Rancho Roberto's. This is a good place to stop to use the restrooms or get a bite to eat.
17. Drive for 31 KMS passing the La Selva Biological Station entrance and the bridge over the Sarapiqui River. You will come to a T in the road, **Turn Left**. Follow the green signs to La Virgen.
18. Continue on this road for a total of 29.6 KMS following the signs to San Miguel. Keep in mind that there are many one way bridges on this road and you have to yield to oncoming traffic. When you get to San Miguel there will be a gas station on the right, take the **Immediate Right** after the gas station.
19. Continue for 0.1KM and you will come to a Y in the road, there is a police check point here, they will probably not stop you, but if they do they may want to see your passport and look through the windows of the car to see what you are carrying. **Turn Right** and follow the signs to Rio Cuarto and Volcan Arenal.
20. Continue on this road for 22.8KMS, you will pass the towns of Venecia and come to the town of Aguas Zarcas. When you see the Catholic Church in Aguas Zarcas, take the **Right Hand Turn BEFORE** the church.
21. You will see small white signs to Los Chiles, follow those signs for 3.4 KMS, to a point where you see signs to Muelle and La Fortuna.
22. At this intersection **Turn Left** and follow this road for 3.7KMS until you get to another intersection.
23. **Turn Left** and follow the paved road, you will continue to see signs to Muelle and La Fortuna.

24. Stay on this road for 13.7KMS, you will come to the town of Muelle, where there is an intersection and you have a Stop Sign. There is a gas station at this intersection.
25. Continue straight ahead for 1KM and on your right you will see the Hotel Tilajari.
26. Continue for 14.9KMS and you will come to a T in the road.
27. **Turn Left** and follow the signs to La Fortuna and El Tanque.
28. 2.3KMS later you will come to another T in the road, **Turn Right**.
29. Continue for 7 KMS and you will arrive at the Catholic Church of La Fortuna. From here, follow your directions to your Arenal hotel. **Total Distance from Rancho Robertos: 129.5KMS, Total Time: 3 hours.**