

Driving from Caño Blanco to Puerto Viejo

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 Puerto Viejo

Total Driving Time: 3-4 hours depending on traffic

Type of Vehicle: Best done in a 4x4 vehicle

Recommended Time to Drive: Complete this drive in daylight, leaving Caño Blanco no later than 2pm.

Fuel: Leave San Jose with a full tank, there are several places where you will be able to fill up on the next leg of your trip.

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 or on the Limon – Puerto Viejo stretch 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 Left** onto route 32; follow the green signs that lead to Limon.
14. Your first opportunity to refuel is 1KM after turning onto route 32 on the right side of the road.
15. Drive a total of 58.6 KMS on route 32 heading to Limon. You will pass the entrances to many small towns on the way, stay on the main road. As you get closer to Limon you will start to notice big lots with semi trailers stacked up to 4 rows high. Continue towards Limon, you will reach an intersection with a stop sign, a few meters before the intersection you will see a green sign indicating the way to Puerto Viejo and Cahuita.
16. **Turn Right** at the intersection. **Total Distance from Caribbean Dish 58.6 KMS, Total Driving Time: 1:15 hours.**
17. Stay on this road, after 3.2 KMS you will pass the Limon airport on the left. Next you will see the Atlantic Ocean on the left.
18. Be aware that there are many one way bridges on this road and you have to yield to oncoming traffic.
19. Continue for 7KMS until you come to a Y in the road, take the **Left Fork** and continue for 23 KMS until you come to an intersection.
20. **Turn Left**, at this intersection there is a gas station if you need to refuel. There will be one more opportunity to refuel after this.
21. Continue 1.9 KMS and you will come to a police check point. You may or may not need to stop. If the wave at you, stop and show them your passports. They will usually look in the windows of your car and let you go. They are looking for contraband from Panama and drugs. If they ask to look in your bags, smile cooperate and let them see whatever they want to see. Do stay with them and your belongings at all times.
22. Continue for another 6 KMS and you will pass the entrance to Cahuita National Park.

23. Continue for another 10.1KMS and you will come to the Hone Creek gas station, this is your last opportunity to refuel. You will most likely be driving quite a bit when you are in Puerto Viejo so it's a good idea to go in with a full tank.
24. 0.5 KM after the gas station you will come to an intersection where you go straight following the green signs to Puerto Viejo.
25. Continue 5 KMS to the town of Puerto Viejo.
26. From here follow your directions to your hotel. **Total Distance: 58.10KMS, Total Driving Time: 1.23 hours.**