

Driving from Fortuna to Caño Blanco

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 Fortuna to Caño Blanco

Total Driving Time: 6 hours

Type of Vehicle: Best done in a 4x4 vehicle

Recommended Time to Drive: Normally the shared boat from Caño Blanco leaves the dock at 11:30am, in order to get there in time; you will have to be leaving La Fortuna at 5am. If you have a private boat scheduled later in the day, plan on leaving with at least 6 hours of driving time.

Fuel: Leave La Fortuna with a full tank.

Recommended Stop en Route:

Driving Recommendations: 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. When you get to route 32, 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. Do not stop on the Siquirres – Caño Blanco stretch of road and as with any other place in the world, DO NOT, pick up hitch hikers.

Driving Instructions:

1. Starting on the north side of the Catholic Church in La Fortuna, drive east for 0.6KMS to a **Yield Sign** (CEDA in Spanish).
2. **Turn Right** and drive 0.1KMS
3. **Turn Left** and follow the signs to El Tanque.
4. Be aware that there are many one way bridges on this road and you have to yield to oncoming traffic.
5. Drive for 1 KM, you will come to a gas station on the right where you can fill your tank before leaving the area.
6. Drive 5.4KMS to the town of El Tanque.
7. After passing the Catholic Church, **Turn Left**.
8. Drive 2.3 KMS until you come to another intersection, **Turn Right** and follow the green signs to El Muelle.
9. Drive 15.9KMS, you will pass the Hotel Tilajari and 1KM later you will come to a Stop sign.
10. After passing the Stop sign, continue straight for 13.6 KMS following the signs to Aguas Zarcas. You will come to a T in the road.
11. **Turn Right** and drive 3.7KMS to another intersection.

12. **Turn Right** again and drive 3.4KMS to the town of Aguas Zarcas.
13. You will come to a stop sign. **Turn Left** and follow the white signs to the town of Venecia.
14. Drive 10.2 KMS until you come to a Y in the road.
15. Take the **Left Fork** in the road for 0.4KMS, on your right will be a gas station, Gasolinera Venecia.
16. Follow this road for 6.9KMS following the green signs to Rio Cuarto. On your left you will see another gas station, Estacion de Servicio Rio Cuarto.
17. Continue for 5.3KMS and follow the signs to San Miguel.
18. When you get to San Miguel, you will come to a Stop sign at an intersection.
19. **Turn Left** and drive 0.1KM to a yield sign.
20. **Turn Left** and follow the greens signs to La Virgen.
21. Continue for 12.1 KMS to the town of La Virgen.
22. You will see a restaurant on the right hand side, Restaurante Tia Rosita, this is a good place to stop for restrooms and something to eat.
23. Continue on this road for 17.1 KMS following the signs to Puerto Viejo.
24. When you get to the town of Puerto Viejo, you will come to an intersection.
25. **Turn Right**, and follow the signs to Horquetas and Guapiles.
26. Continue on this road for 30.8 KMS, following the signs to Horquetas and Guapiles. You will pass the entrance to the La Selva Biological Station on your right, the entrance to Horquetas on your left and the entrance to the town of Rio Frio.
27. You will come to a T in the road; here you **Turn Left** onto route 32. Directly before the T is a restaurant, Rancho Roberto's, this is a good place to stop for restrooms and a bite to eat. **Total Distance:** 129 KMS, **Total Driving Time:** 3 hours.
28. Continue on this same highway for another 12.2 KMS. Watch for people walking on the sides of the road or riding their bikes and also for tractors and trailers turning onto the road with a load of pineapple. You will see the entrance to the town of Guapiles on your left. Continue for 8KMS, on your left you will see a sign for a restaurant, Restaurante Toro Macho. This is a good place to stop to use the restrooms, stretch your legs and get a bite to eat.
29. Continue on highway 32 for 13.2 KMS on the right hand side you will see a gas station, Gasolinera Pocora, this is the last place to fill your tank before your final destination.
30. Continue for another 12.8 kilometers, after passing the bridge over the Reventazon River, watch for a restaurant on the left hand side of the road, The Caribbean Dish, **Turn Left** into the parking lot.
Total Distance so far: 95 KMS **Total Driving Time:** 2 hours. If you would like to

use the restroom or buy something to drink or eat, the Caribbean Dish is a good place to do that. You are in the town of Siquirres.

31. Pull out of the Caribbean Dish parking lot **and Turn Left** onto the side street heading away from the highway. Drive 0.2KMS until you get to a T in the road.
32. **Turn Right** at the T and drive 0.1KM
33. **Turn Left** and drive 0.3 KM and turn to your left again, drive 0.1 KM, **Turn Right** and cross the train tracks.
34. You will come to another intersection where you **Turn Left**.
35. From this point on, follow the brown signs that say Parque Nacional Tortuguero.
36. Continue 3.5 KMS and you will see the Cocal School on the right hand side of the road. Continue for another 1.5KMS until you come to a Y in the road where the asphalt ends and the gravel road begins. Take the **Right Fork**; here you will begin to see the brown signs, Parque Nacional Tortuguero, again.
37. Continue for 3.3KMS, you will pass a banana packing plant on the left had side of the road and a small airstrip on the left. You will come to another Y in the road, take the **Right Fork**.
38. Follow the brown parks signs for 0.5 KMS and **Turn Right**. You will go over a bridge that doesn't have any railing on it and immediately after you will see a Del Monte airstrip on the right side of the road.
39. Keep following the brown parks signs for 1.3KMS until you come to another Y in the road. **Turn Left** and follow the brown parks signs for 2.2KMS, here the banana plantations that you have been driving through will end.
40. Continue for 7.1 KMS you will pass three different schools. You will come to a pronounced curve in the road, **Stay Left** and you will see the brown parks signs again.
41. Continue on this same road for 10.2KMS and you will arrive at the Caño Blanco dock. Here there are restrooms and a convenience store. Leave your car inside of the Caño Blanco parking lot and pay the fee. Do not leave any luggage or belongings in your car take all of your things to Tortuguero with you. This will decrease the chances of having your car broken into. Look for your uniformed Tortuga Lodge & Gardens Boat Captain, he will be happy to assist you. **Total Distance: 35.26 KMS, Total Driving Time: 1.40 hours.**