

## From La Pavona 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](http://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

**Total Driving Time:** 4.5-5 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.

**Driving Recommendations:** Until you get on Route 32 (step 20), you will be on an isolated road, we recommend that you do not stop for hitch hikers or any other people on the side of the road. When on 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.

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.

The first part of this drive is on unpaved road, with many bridges built without handrails. It is recommended not to exceed 30 KPH.

#### Directions

1. Leave the La Pavona parking area
2. Drive 1.2 KMS to arrive at an intersection, where you will see a stable opposite you.
3. Turn right, on your right you should see a small farmhouse with "Welcome to La Pavona" written on one wall.
4. Continue 5.1 KMS, passing through cattle farms and banana plantations, to arrive at the small town of Palacio, where you will reach an intersection.
5. Turn right and drive 8 KMS
6. You will arrive at the Police Post for the town of Cuatro Esquinas, where the paved road begins.
7. Continue on 6 KMS and you will arrive at an intersection in the small town of Campo Dos. You will see a soccer field on your right.
8. Turn right, staying on the paved road and drive for 1.2 KMS to arrive at another intersection, this one with signs for the towns of Cariari and Guapiles.
9. Turn left, and drive 5.9 KMS, following the signs for Cariari.
10. Arrive at the town of Cariari. Take extra precautions when driving through the town, as traffic can be high and people may try to cross the road without warning.
11. When you see a small restaurant called Soda Emanuel, the road you have been driving on will turn to a one-way road, and you will have to turn right.
12. Drive 0.2 KMS to arrive at a T intersection,
13. Turn left, and stay on the paved road for another 0.5 KMS and you will get to another T intersection with a stop sign
14. Turn left and drive 0.3 KMS and you will get to a third intersection with a stop sign.
15. Turn right, and very shortly you will see a gas station called Servicentro Cariari.
16. Continue without turning for 10.3 KMS to arrive at an intersection with a train crossing.
17. Cross the train tracks and turn left.

18. Continue for 0.6 KMS, driving with the train line to your left, to arrive at another intersection. Proceed with caution, as you will have to cross a one-lane bridge without guardrails.
19. Turn right at the intersection and drive for 7.8 KMS, to arrive at an intersection with a stop signal. On your right will be the gas station Servicentro Santa Clara.
20. You will now be getting on Route 32, this is the principle road connecting San Jose with the Province of Limon. Drive carefully, as this is one of the major points of transit for heavy trucks going back and forth from Limon.
21. From the intersection turn right onto Route 32. Drive for 12.4 KMS to arrive at an intersection, where there will be signs indicating the towns of Rio Frio.
22. Turn right and get off route 32. At this point you will see the Restaurant Rancho Roberto's on your right, a good place to stop and use the bathrooms and of course a great place to eat lunch or rest and have a good cup of coffee.

Total Distance so far: 60 Kilometers

Total Driving Time so far: Approximately 2 hours

23. After Rancho Roberto's, continue for 31 KMS passing the La Selva Biological Station entrance and the bridge over the Sarapiquí River. You will come to a T in the road, Turn Left. Follow the green signs to La Virgen.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. At this intersection Turn Left and follow this road for 3.7KMS until you get to another intersection.
29. Turn Left and follow the paved road, you will continue to see signs to Muelle and La Fortuna.
30. 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.
31. Continue straight ahead for 1KM and on your right you will see the Hotel Tilajari.
32. Continue for 14.9KMS and you will come to a T in the road.
33. Turn Left and follow the signs to La Fortuna and El Tanque.
34. 2.3KMS later you will come to another T in the road, Turn Right.
35. 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 Roberto's: 129.5KMS, Total Time: 2.5-3 hours.

Total Distance from La Pavona: 189.5 Total Time: 4.5-5 hours

