

La Pavona to Puerto Viejo (Limon)

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

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, leaving La Pavona no later than 2pm.

Fuel: There are several places where you will be able to fill up on this leg of your trip.

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.

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 sign. On your right will be the gas station Servicentro Santa Clara.
Total Distance so far: 47.1 KMS Total Driving Time: 1.5-2 hours
20. Turn left towards Limon. 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. Drive 7.2 KMS and you will see a restaurant called Toro Mocho on your left. This is a good place to stop and use the bathroom, get something to eat or have a cup of coffee
22. After the restaurant, stay on route 32 and follow the green signs that lead to Siquierres. Drive for 28 KMS and you will arrive to the town of Siquierres. On your left side you will see a restaurant called the Caribbean Dish.
23. Continue on route 32, for a total of 58.4 KMS. Heading always towards 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.
24. 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.
25. Turn right at the intersection
26. 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.
27. Be aware that there are many one way bridges on this road and you have to yield to oncoming traffic.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. Continue 1.9 KMS and you will come to a police check point. You may or may not need to stop. If they 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.
31. Continue for another 6 KMS and you will pass the entrance to Cahuita National Park.
32. 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.
33. 0.5 KM after the gas station you will come to an intersection where you go straight following the green signs to Puerto Viejo.
34. Continue 5 KMS to the town of Puerto Viejo.
35. From here follow your directions to your hotel.

Total Distance From Servicentro Santa Clara: 150 KMS Total Driving Time: 3 Hours
Total Distance La Pavona to Puerto Viejo: 197.5 Total Driving Time: 3.5-5 Hours