

From Fortuna to La Pavona

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

Driving Instructions:

Total Driving Time: 4.5-5 hours

Type of Vehicle: Best done in a 4x4 vehicle

Fuel: Leave La Fortuna with a full tank.

Driving Recommendations: 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.

When you leave Route 32 (step 30), 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.

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.

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 so far: 129 KMS, Total Driving Time: 3 hours.
28. After the restaurant turn left onto route 32 and continue for 11.6 KMS, at the end of which you will pass the turnoff for Guapiles.
 29. Drive 0.8 KMS further and you will see a gas station called Cervicentro Santa Clara.

30. Turn left, and at this point you will leave route 32. You will see signs for the towns of Roxana and Cariari, drive down this road for 7.1 KMS and you will see the gas station Cervicentro La Rita.

31. Continue on this road for 0.6 KMS and you will come to an intersection with a Train Crossing.

32. Turn left and drive 0.5 KMS, on this stretch you will see the train line on your right. You will cross a bridge without guard rails, where you should yield to oncoming traffic.

33. Arrive at an intersection, where you will see a hardware store (ferreteria in Spanish) named Surtido Jordan.

34. Turn right and cross the train line. Drive on for another 10 KMS.

35. Cross a large metal bridge, you are now in the town of Cariari.

36. Continue on 0.3 KMS and you will see a gas station called Cervicentro Cariari, on your right. This is the last gas station you will encounter on this trip, so you will need enough gas to continue the approximately 29 KMS to the dock, and to arrive back here on your return journey.

37. When driving through the town, stay alert for people walking along the road, or crossing it without warning.

38. Drive on without stopping or turning for 6.6 KMS. You will begin to see banana plantations.

39. You will come to an intersection, where you will see a small bus stop with a ceramic roof, as well as a farm (finca) entrance flanked by brick columns.

40. Turn right and drive 1.2 KMS through banana plantations on both sides to arrive at the small town of Campo Dos.

41. You will arrive at an intersection with a soccer field on your left and signs for the towns of Cuatro Esquinas and Palacio.

42. Turn to the left and drive down the paved road for 6.1 KMS.

43. You will pass the Police Post for the small town of Cuatro Esquinas on your left and a few meters past that point the road will change from paved to gravel.

44. Continue 8 KMS without turning and with increased caution, as there are now various bridges without guardrails. On the gravel it is recommended to not exceed 30 KPH.

45. Arrive at the hamlet of Palacio, marked by a small general store called Pulpería Palacio.

46. At the general store turn left, and drive on 5.2 KMS, passing cattle farms and banana plantations, to arrive at an intersection, with stable on your right and a small farm house on your left. The house will have “Welcome To La Pavona” written on the wall.

47. Turn left and continue 1.2 KMS to arrive at a booth, where they will give directions about where to park your vehicle. The cost for parking is 5,000 colones, the equivalent of roughly 10 US Dollars.

48. In front of you should be the landing’s facilities, which include a restaurant and bathrooms, and expansive parking space with a roof. Park your car where directed. Do not leave any luggage or belongings in your car, and 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 from Rancho Robertos: 60 Kilometers Driving Time: Approximately 1.5-2 hours

Total Distance from Fortuna: 189.5 Kilometers Total Driving Time: 4.5-5 hours