

Driving from Puerto Viejo 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 Puerto Viejo to Caño Blanco

Total Driving Time: 4 hours

Type of Vehicle: Best done in a 4x4 vehicle

Recommended Time to Drive: Complete this drive in daylight

Fuel:

Recommended Stop en Route:

Driving Recommendations: Do not stop on the Puerto Viejo - Limon stretch of road or Siquirres – Caño Blanco stretch. As with any other place in the world, DO NOT, pick up hitch hikers. 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.

Driving Instructions:

1. Starting at the Bank of Costa Rica in downtown Puerto Viejo, drive north heading towards Limon.
2. Be aware that there are many one way bridges on this road and you have to yield to oncoming traffic.
3. Drive 4.9KMS on paved road until you come to an intersection where you have a Stop sign.
4. Continue straight ahead following the green signs to Limon.
5. 0.5 KMS after the stop sign you will come to the Hone Creek gas station, if you need to refill this is a good place to stop.
6. Drive 10 KMS and you will pass the entrances to Cahuita National Park, keep going.
7. Drive another 6.1KMS 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.
8. Continue for 1.9KMS until you come to a Y in the road.
9. Take the **Right Fork** and drive 22.7KMS until you come to a second Y in the road.

10. Take the **Right Fork** in the road and drive 7.2KMS until you pass the Limon airport on the right side of the road.
11. Keep going another 3.1KMS and you will come to an intersection with a stop light, you are now in Limon.
12. **Turn Left** at the intersection. **Total Distance: 56.8KMS Total Driving Time: 1.23 hours.**
13. You are now on route 32 heading towards San Jose. You will drive on this road for 56.4 KMS, watch for the signs for the town of Siquirres which is where you turn off. When you cross the bridge over the Pacuare River, continue for 2 KMS, on the left hand side of the road you will see a gas station, Servicentro Siquirres, this is the last gas station before the next leg of your drive. If you haven't filled your tank already, you should do so here.
14. After Servicentro Siquirres, continue for 1 KM, you will start to see brown signs pointing the way to Parque Nacional Tortuguero.
15. **Turn Right** off of route 32 and into the parking lot in front of the Caribbean Dish restaurant. This is a good place to use the restrooms and get a snack. You are in the town of Siquirres. **Total Distance: 57.4KMS, Total Driving Time from Limon: 1.15 hours.**
16. 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.
17. **Turn Right** at the T and drive 0.1KM
18. **Turn Left** and drive 0.3 KM and turn to your left again, drive 0.1 KM, **Turn Right** and cross the train tracks.
19. You will come to another intersection where you **Turn Left.**
20. From this point on, follow the brown signs that say Parque Nacional Tortuguero.
21. 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.
22. 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.**
23. 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.
24. 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.

25. 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.
26. 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.**