

From Liberia to Monteverde

Total Driving Time: 3 hours

Type of Vehicle: Best done in a 4x4 vehicle or a vehicle that is high off the ground. You will want plenty of clearance to navigate the gravel roads.

Recommended time of day to drive: It's best to do this drive by daylight with at least two hours to spare.

Fuel: Leave San Jose with a full tank, you will pass many gas stations (they are full service) on the way and you can also refuel once you are in Monteverde.

Recommended stop en route: Immediately after crossing the bridge over the Corobici River, there is a restaurant called Rincon Corobici, this is a great place to grab a bite to eat, use the restrooms and stretch your legs. As with all stops in Costa Rica, DO NOT leave your vehicle unattended. Take turns using the facilities and never leave your vehicle alone. Put all of your belongings in the trunk and out of sight. Vehicles are routinely broken into at road side restaurants.

Driving Recommendations: Highway 1 is an important route for large trucks. Be extremely vigilant, especially when passing. Note that in Costa Rica it is not uncommon for drivers of buses, trucks and smaller vehicles to pass on blind curves or places that have a double yellow line. Once you leave Highway 1 and are on the last leg of this drive, heading to Monteverde, you will encounter narrow, winding gravel roads that have cliffs on the right hand side. It's important to anticipate that there will be fast moving vehicles and large trucks coming down the mountain. You will want to be especially vigilant on the curves and stay as far right as is safe.

Driving Instructions:

1. From the main intersection in the City of Liberia, head south on Highway 1 which is the same as the Pan-American Highway following the signs to Puntarenas or San Jose.
2. Drive 1.20 hours or 102 KMS on the Pan- American Highway until you reach the Rio Lagarto bridge and directly after the bridge a turn off on your left. About 1 hour after you leave Liberia you will be coming up on the bridge over the Lagarto River, there will be signs to Monteverde there **TURN LEFT**. Note that in Costa Rica, if the bridge has a sign saying which river it crosses, that sign will be on the right side of the bridge. **Driving Time:** 1.20 hours
3. When you hit paved road again you will have arrived in Monteverde. When you come to a fork in the road, **take the right fork**, and drive 500 meters to the entrance of Monteverde Lodge on the right-hand side.

Driving Time: 1.25 hrs

Total Distance from Liberia 139 KM

If at any point you are doubtful about being on the right path, you can stop and ask the people on the road, they are friendly and will point you in the right direction. As in any country in the world, it's not a good idea to pick up hitch hikers.

Keep in mind that the roads are not in good condition and distances that you might think will take you 30 minutes judging by distance may in fact take you a couple of hours. Normally we judge routes by time to get there rather than distance.