

From Monteverde to Arenal (La Fortuna)

Total Driving Time: 3-4 hours

Type of Vehicle: Best done in a 4x4 vehicle,

Recommended time to drive: Early morning, give yourself plenty of time so that you navigate these country roads during the day.

Fuel: It's best to fill your tank before leaving Monteverde. After leaving Monteverde the first gas station will be in the town of Tilarán 36 KMS from Monteverde.

Recommended Stop en Route: Aroma Tico in the town of Tilarán. 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. They are routinely broken into at road side restaurants.

Driving Recommendations: You will encounter narrow, winding gravel roads. Expect fast moving vehicles and large trucks coming down the mountain. Be especially vigilant on blind curves.

Definition of a Town: As you go through these driving instructions, you will be passing through many places that are referred to as "towns". Please bear in mind that some of these towns are not much more than a soccer field and a convenience store, sometimes not even that. Others will be bigger. Don't worry if the locations seem too small, they are rural Costa Rican towns.

Driving Instructions:

1. At the entrance to Monteverde Lodge & Gardens **turn left** and continue 0.6 KMS to the intersection, **turn right** going into the town of Santa Elena.
2. Drive up the hill and take the second **left hand turn**.
3. Stay on this street for 0.1 KMS and then **turn right**, stay on this paved road for 0.6KMS to the gravel road.
4. Drive 0.3 KMS and **turn left continue on this road, you will pass three side streets on your right, keep going** for 2.6 KMS to a road sign with directions to the town of Tilarán.
5. **Turn right** and drive 2.5KMS to the town of Los Tornos
6. Continue 1.8KMS to the town of Turin, **turn right**.

7. Drive 1.7 KMS to the town of Cabeceras passing through and continue for 5.6KMS until you get to the town of El Dos, which you will know by the sign on a school on your left.
8. Turn right, and drive 2.1 KMS to the town of Florida, keep going for another 2.7 KMS until you get to a Y in the road.
9. Take a left at the Y and drive 3.0 KMS to the town of San Miguel
10. Keep going for 4.3 KMS to an intersection.
11. Turn left onto a concrete road and drive 1.7 KMS to the town of Quebrada Grande.
12. Turn right onto asphalt and continue for 6.1 KMS to the town of Tilarán.
13. Upon entering the town of Tilarán take the second left and drive 0.1 KMS and turn right, drive 5 blocks to a Y in the road.
14. At this point you have reached the restaurant and souvenir shop, Aroma Tico and the gas station. Time for a break!
15. To continue to Arenal, take the right fork in the road following the signs to La Fortuna.
16. Drive 27.5 KMS around the lake to an intersection in the town of Nuevo Arenal.
17. Turn left and continue 26.5 KMS where you will come to Lake Arenal. The entrances to the Lost Iguana Hotel, the Arenal Lodge and the Arenal Hanging Bridges are on the left just before the lake, there will be signs.
18. Continue 2.8KMS and pass the entrance to Arenal Volcano National Park.
19. Starting at this point there will be hotels on both sides of the road all the way to Fortuna. Find out exactly where your hotel is located before leaving Monteverde Lodge so that you can be on the lookout at the right place and don't end up having to back track from La Fortuna.
20. Continue 13.1 KMS to the town of La Fortuna