

NATIONAL PARK · COSTA RICA · LIMÓN, CARIBBEAN COAST

Tortuguero

at a glance

Canals instead of roads: the largest green turtle nesting beach in the Western Hemisphere.

BEFORE YOU GO



76,937 hectares

That is the park's size according to the ICT, 26,653 hectares on land and 50,284 at sea.



Since 1970

Declared a national park on 24 September 1970; the boundaries were extended in 1980, 1995 and 1998.



Via Cariari to La Pavona

From San José take Route 32 to Guápiles, continue to Cariari and on to the La Pavona landing.



Green turtle: July to October

That is when they are most numerous on the beaches, according to the ICT. The night tours to the nests run in this period.



Red light on the beach

On the turtle tours only red-light torches are allowed so the animals are not disturbed; cameras and drones stay behind, according to the ...



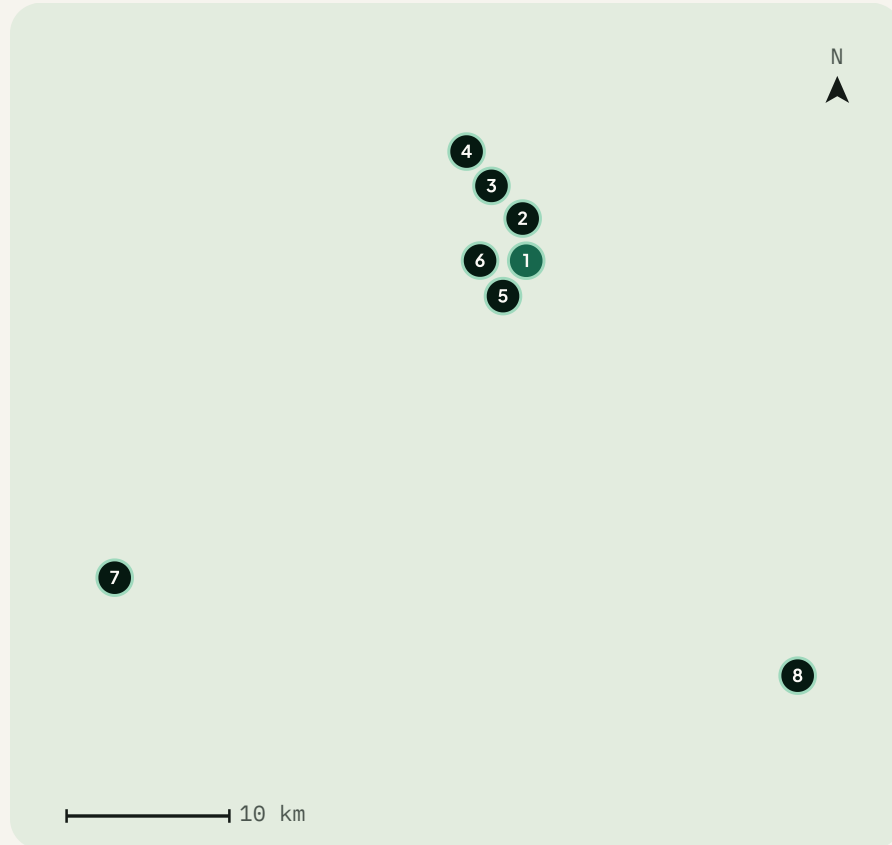
Keep your distance

Groups go with a guide and keep their distance from the animals; there is a short introduction to the rules first.



Fees and opening hours, up to date

Fees and times change. The park page lists them with source and date: nationalparksatlas.com/en/costa-rica/tortuguero



- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1 Cuatro Esquinas Station (Puesto Cuatro Esquinas) | 5 Caño Mora |
| 2 Museo de la Tortuga | 6 Caño Chiquero |
| 3 San Francisco | 7 Cariari |
| 4 Cerro Tortuguero | 8 Barra de Parismina |

Green: entrances. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL).



THE CANALS



THE GREEN TURTLE



CAÑO HAROLD

THINGS TO DO

Canoe on the canals

Paddle quietly into the park's side channels with a guide: caimans, sloths, monkeys and herons on the banks.

Hatchlings

In the early morning or just before sunset, nature guides lead you to nests where hatchlings are emerging ...

Birds

The ICT counts about 442 bird species in the region, including great green macaws, toucans and hawks.

Manatees and tapirs

According to the ICT, manatees, caimans, tarpon, wild pigs, pacas and tapirs live in the region.

[More on the park page](#)

Turtles at night

In small groups with a guide to the beach when green turtles lay their eggs.

Cerro Tortuguero

The trail up the hill starts in the hamlet of San Francisco north of the village; from the top you look out ...

Four sea turtle species

Green turtle, leatherback, hawksbill and loggerhead nest on these beaches.

Palm swamps

According to the ICT, the region's plants include the yolillo palm in the swamps and sea grape and cocoplum ...

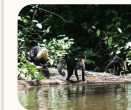
TOURS AND GETTING THERE · AD



FROM SAN JOSÉ · 3 DAYS
· FROM PICKUP AT HOTELS
IN SAN JOSÉ

**From San José: 3-day
Tortuguero trip with
transfer, lodge and canal
tour**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ↗



CANOE IN THE NATIONAL
PARK · 2.5 HOURS

**Tortuguero: canoe tour in
Tortuguero National Park**
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EVENING ON THE BEACH · 2.5 HOURS

Tortuguero: turtle nesting night tour

ON GETYOURGUIDE ↗



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