

## **From Monteverde to San Jose**

**Total Driving Time:** 3-4 hours, depending on traffic.

**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 to drive:** Early morning is best, if at all possible try to avoid doing this drive on a Sunday afternoon, when you will meet a long line of vehicles with Costa Ricans headed home after a weekend at the beach.

**Fuel:** The easiest place to refuel is just as you leave Monteverde, there is a gas station on the left. The other option is at the Rancho Grande gas station before turning onto Highway 1; however you will see another Shell gas station on the left hand side of the road at the entrance to the town of Miramar (about 15 minutes after you turn onto Highway 1). Once you are on Highway 27, there are no gas stations until you get to San Jose.

**Recommended Stop en Route:** Once you hit Route 1, you will come upon El Caballo Blanco on the left hand side of the road, it has a big statue of a white horse at the entrance. 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:** Heading from Monteverde to Highway 1 you will encounter narrow, winding gravel roads that have cliffs on the left hand side. It's important to anticipate that there will be fast moving vehicles and trucks coming up the mountain. You will want to be especially vigilant on the curves and stay as far right as is safe.

### **Driving Instructions:**

1. Turn left at the Monteverde Lodge entrance heading down the hill, **bear left** when you get to the cross roads to Santa Elena and continue down the mountain.

2. When you arrive at the paved road **take the immediate left** following the sign to Sardinal. **Driving Time: 1.15 hours**

3. When you get to the town of Sardinal, you will come to a soccer field on the right, take the next **right hand turn**. This will take you all the way to Highway #1 which is the Pan-American Highway and the Rancho Grande Gas Station. **Driving Time: 30 minutes**

4. Approximately 20 minutes after turning onto Highway 1, you will a gas refinery reserve on the right, the sign says RECOPE, and you will see their very large tanks. After passing RECOPE, take the **next exit to the right**, here you will see the signs to

Caldera, follow these signs. You are now on Highway 23. Follow Highway 23 until it connects with Highway 27. **Driving Time: 20 minutes**

5. Stay on Highway 27 and follow the signs to San Jose. You will pass through four toll booths so **be sure to have your change ready.**

- First Toll, Pozon ¢460
- Second Toll, Atenas ¢ 610
- Third Toll, Guacima ¢ 340
- Fourth Toll, Escazu ¢ 300

When you enter San Jose you will be at the La Sabana Park and the National Gymnasium on the left, you will see a McDonalds on the far right corner. From here follow directions to your final destination. **Driving Time: 1. 15 hours.**