

Directions to Turtle Island Preserve — West Entrance

Just off the Blue Ridge Parkway/Bamboo Gap Exit

(Important: These are **NOT** directions to the commonly used East entrance that were on our website)

From Winston-Salem area:

- Take Hwy 421 North through Wilkesboro, NC
- From Wilkes County you climb, climb, climb the mountain on Hwy 421.
- When you get to the top of the mountain, you will go under a large Blue Ridge Parkway stone overpass over Hwy 421. This is the only overpass. Its large and made of stone. You can't miss it.
- Head towards Boone, as you approach town there will be a Marathon/Kangaroo gas station on your left,
- Turn Left there onto Bamboo Rd. just before this Marathon Gas Station on your left.
- Follow Bamboo Rd. all the way up the mountain, making a left on Little Laurel Rd. – immediately going underneath a parkway overpass. (if Bamboo Rd. turns to gravel, you went too far.)
- See asterisked directions below...

From Charlotte, Lenoir, Blowing Rock areas:

- Take Hwy 321 toward Boone
- 321 becomes Blowing Rock Rd just as you begin to enter the town of Boone, take a Right at the light onto Deerfield Rd (Walgreens is on your left, if you pass CVS on the right you just missed Deerfield Rd.) (You will pass the Hospital on your right once you have turned onto Deerfield Rd.)
As you are proceeding up Deerfield, veer right at the T where Deerfield meets Wilson Ridge
- Take Deerfield Rd all the way until it dead-ends at Bamboo - Go Right onto Bamboo
(Do not turn onto Bamboo at a stop sign, wait until Deerfield DEAD-ENDS onto Bamboo)
- Before Bamboo turns to gravel, Go Left on Little Laurel Rd. (promptly going under a parkway overpass)
(See asterisked directions below for details of last 2.5 miles on Little Laurel)

From Boone – (not taking Blue Ridge Parkway):

- Travel East/South on Hwy 421 (towards Wilkesboro).
- At the eastern edge of Boone there is a Hardees on the left at a traffic light.
- Go about 1.7 miles from Hardees. (You will cross the South Fork of the New River.)
- Take a right at the traffic light onto Bamboo Rd. (A Marathon/Kangaroo Gas Station is on the right)
- Travel on Bamboo Rd. for about 3 miles and look for Little Laurel Rd. on the left.
- Take a Left on Little Laurel Rd. (you'll immediately go under a parkway overpass)
- Stay on Little Laurel Rd. almost 3 miles, until gravel entrance to Turtle Island.
(See asterisked directions below for details of last 2.5 miles on Little Laurel)

***Asterisked Directions* (continued from all points above):**

- * Proceeding under a stone Parkway overpass, follow Little Laurel Rd to its end.
- * At 1.3 miles from Parkway Exit "Bamboo Gap" you will pass *Little Laurel Rd. EXT* on the right. **Do not take it!**
Continue straight on Little Laurel Rd.
- * Look for a log house on the right about a mile past *Little Laurel EXT*
- * Go ½ mile past the log house, downhill on a gravel road to Turtle Island Preserve's West entrance.
- * At the bottom of the hill our driveway is straight-ahead between two residential driveways.
- * Proceed down this gravel driveway, keeping left, continue down under the wooden entrance gate.

Our over-night parking lot is on your right, pass it, and proceed down the gravel road. Pass the sign for "PARKING A", and just after a little shack on the left, you'll go down a steep grade. At the bottom, Park on the old road-bed on your left that has a small white sign reading: "Visitor Parking." (Back up if you see a sign that says WALK ZONE). If you drive into camp and see buildings, you went way too far. Please turn around and park in visitor parking. Park and follow the little turtle signs into the woods where a bridge will take you over to Preston's camp. We will meet you there at your scheduled time. Make sure to stay there at that cabin - so we can pick you up there on time. Thanks for visiting!