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© Copyright San Pedro La Laguna. Todos los derechos reservados San Pedro La Laguna is in Guatemala. It is a fairly laid-back small town across Lake Atitlán from Panajachel. A major mochilero (backpacker) hub. Great food, small and walkable, and safe. Expect anything touristy to be priced touristically. San Pedro is best avoided the last week or so of June and the first week or so of July when simulated artillery shells are set off day and night, and amplified noise never stops. San Pedro la Laguna If arriving by bus, you will be dropped off in the center of town, next to the market. Most hotels are near the lake so you'll need to make your way downhill to find the hotels. When arriving in San Pedro by boat, you'll be greeted by people offering you hotels, kayaks, horseback rides, taxis and drugs. This can be a bit intimidating and overwhelming. If you get them to lead you to a hotel, the hotel owner pays them a commission (normally Q5 per person) based on the number of people who arrive and stay. Some hotels don't pay them a commission so the they will try to get you to go to a hotel that does. The price of the hotel room sometimes becomes more expensive if you let the tout follow you, because the owner has to pay him for supposedly bringing you to the hotel. However, if you already know the location of your hotel it is best to tell the guide that you do not need his help, or inform the hotel owners that the guide merely followed you. The guides may also ask for a large tip. If you want to avoid the touts by the Panajachel dock, you can also ask a fellow tourist or in one of the stores or restaurants nearby, most of them will be happy to tell you how to get to your hotel. The TukTuk (taxi) drivers will try to get you to go to the Hotel San Francisco, which is the furthest away from the main dock. There is no need to take a taxi to your hotel. All hotels take 1-10 minutes to walk to from the main dock. If you take the first left after getting off the dock, there are a lot of hotels along that road. After walking a couple of minutes, just past a tienda, there is a small alley on your right with a lot of signs for restaurants, bars and hotels (you'll notice signs for ZooLa and Al Suave). This is the way to the "main trail", where most tourists are; it widens after the first stretch, follow the paving. At Al Suave, make a left for Jarachik, Buddha and El Barrio bars, hot tubs, and other attractions. The official San Pedro tourist guides' association (ASOANTUR) is next to the Panajachel dock and can provide you with anything, from basic directions to complete full coffee tour around the volcano. From Antigua: There are two shuttle-bus companies that go directly to San Pedro from Antigua. One charges Q60 and the other Q70. The shuttle bus company, La Ceiba, only charges Q50. They may be contacted via telephone at 5974-8753. They take about 3 hours, including a 15-minute rest break at either a petrol station for food, drink, and to use the restroom. This is the most convenient way to get to San Pedro, there is no need to take a boat from Panajachel. There are excellent views of Lake Atitlan from the mountain road approaching San Pedro. Tickets are available at the travel agency across the street from the Black Cat Hostel in Antigua, and perhaps from other agencies -- ask. To go by chicken bus, first go to Chimaltenango, then look for buses towards Xela/Quetzaltenango. Get off at the turnoff to San Pedro, Kilometro 148, where there are minibuses and chicken buses that go the rest of the way. The three bus companies listed below also pass through Chimaltenango. Taking one of those and going directly to San Pedro is the way to go. Crossing the road at highway marker 148 is not recommended. From Guatemala City: Direct buses from the center of Guatemala City are provided by three San Pedro companies: Transportes Mendez, Veloz San Pedrana and Transportes Wendy. Buses leave at 11:00 (Wendy), 11:30 (Mendez), 12:00 (Pedrana), 12:30 (Pedrana), 14:00 (Mendez) and 16:00 (Mendez) and pass along 20a Calle between 4a and 5a Avenida, Zona 1. The 4-hour journey to San Pedro costs Q25. Or in the bus terminal, Trebol, direct buses leave every hour from 06:00 or 07:00 to 17:00 or 19:00. From Quetzaltenango: Direct buses from the terminal de Buses in zone 3, departure every hour or soo, provided by at least two companies: Veloz Pedrana and transportes Mendez, the 2½-hour journey to San Pedro costs Q30 for locals but for foreigners can be Q50 (Jan 2023). By boat or "lancha" from Panajachel: Q10-20 for locals, Q25-30 for visitors. It is best to bring change with you. To enjoy the great views around the lake, use the village guides as the foliage can be dense and the route can be tricky to find. San Pedro has many roads that cut into hidden areas and so on, and there have been cases of armed robberies on rural roads and hiking trails, so it is best to hire a guide as you hike. There are many of them in San Pedro, and they work for more than reasonable rates. They are friendly, and will gladly find you a horse to ride also. There is much to see from kayak also, and there are available rentals at Q20/hour (by 2023) if you choose to travel by water alongside the coastline. Hikes. There are a number of popular hikes departing from San Pedro, including the hike up the nearby Volcano San Pedro. Visitors will be informed at the base of the trail for the Volcano that they must pay the fee for a guide, regardless of whether they want one or not; this, however, is false. It is a very small town, so you will see people making money in this way, as there is limited opportunity here. Another popular location for hiking is Indian Nose, or Mayan Face (Nariz de Indio o Cara Maya). For both locations a guide is recommended, if for nothing else, personal safety. There have been various cases of hikers being robbed on the trails, especially on Volcan San Pedro. Trek for Kids is a local hiking company that pays their guides fair wages and uses their proceeds to help local children pay for their schooling. Yoga. A locally run yoga space. Classes are run M-Sa. Usually at 09:00-10:30 and 16:00-17:30. Lovely setting to practice yoga under the skies and on the earth. Price Q40 Spanish-Language School San Pedro La Laguna become a language school center around the Atitlán Lake as the beautiful location drawing more and more students each year. Quality of instruction is varied so you might want to shop around. The people of this area speak Tz'utujil as their primary language. They learn Spanish in school which gives them the advantage of knowing the process of learning the language. They also have a noticeably technical way of speaking that is easy to learn as it is simple to understand. Some to check are Flor Del Maiz, Orbita, Cooperativa, Corazon Maya, Casa Rosario[dead link], and San Pedro Spanish School. Private lessons are also available. Jennifer, a qualified local teacher, has an office located just past Buddha Bar on the main trail, and comes highly recommended. "Clases Privadas 'Fe'" offers teachers with significant experience, materials, and activities all included in a very reasonable price. They can be very flexible with scheduling during the off-season, and will tailor lessons to your interests & needs. Kayak rentals available on the far east side of town, on the lakeshore. A pleasant way to explore the lake. Q15/hour. If you go down to the lake and try to rent one, they will usually try to charge you twice as much as it would cost if you bought from an agency. Paragliding At least two instructors operate around the lake, one from Panajachel and one from San Marcos. Ask at the tourist office near the Pana dock or in any tourist agency. The price is around US$90 for 10-40 minutes of flight (depending on the weather : the warmer the better). Climb the volcano San Pedro Guide is "required" but unnecessary. Price Q100 Free Movies (various locations) -The Alegre Pub (located at the main intersection by the Pana dock) shows movies nightly at 19:30 on the rooftop terrace Humums-ya : the best hummus and falafel in town, they also have other Mediterranean food. Cool staff and friendly vibe. Just a few meters away from the main crossroads near the Pana dock, across from the Gym. Smokin' Joes' BBQ. Every Sunday at the Deep End Bar & Pool. Nick's Place: it's by the Panajachel dock. Probably the most popular place in town due to its great location. Meals are reasonably priced. Jarachik: Jarachik is a hostel and a restaurant. Good food here. Every night (weather permitting) there is a bonfire in the garden and restaurant area. Great food. Jarachik is on the path between the Pana and the Santiago docks. ZooLa, path (watch for the red-lettered signs). Tu-Su 09:00-21:00, closed Monday. "Laid back" in Hebrew, offers one of the most comfortable places to lounge around with your friends while you enjoy good food and drink at reasonable prices. Has some Israeli items, including falafel, on the menu but the coffee is locally-grown and doesn't include the ground cardamom that you'll find in some Middle Eastern restaurants. low to moderate. Streetfood (on 7th avenue near the pana dock on the way to the path). Cheapest food in town, roasted sausages and chicken with beans, guacamole and tortillas. Q8. Loles San Pedro is open for breakfast and lunch only, They have great-tasting food for Q15 - 20 a plate. A few meters away from the main crossroads near the Pana dock, under the gym. The Clover (near Buddha Bar, Le Jardin des Saveurs, & Pinocchio Hostel). 08:30-23:00. With magical views of Indian Nose and the lake from the patio and bar, the only Irish bar and restaurant has international food and real Irish stew (a big bowl full of meat, potatoes and carrots in a thick sauce - tasty and filling). All meals include large portions, made from delicious ingredients, great drink specials, live music on weekends. Cafe Atitlan (Behind Buddha Bar on 7th Avenue). 07:00-23:00. Follow the trail of colorful coffee beans painted on the cobblestone beside Buddha Bar, and you'll discover one of San Pedro's most secluded and peaceful restaurants. The garden offers privacy beneath a big palapa with comfortable seating, as well a table with a big umbrella. Upstairs, the Canadian-style house (lots of wood) has indoor seating and a long terrace with a beautiful view of the lake and lots of flowers and trees. Even better, you get a free espresso with any meal or drink, plus there is free Wi-Fi for customers. Art Café El Colibri, Zona 2, Xetagual (behind Zoola and Colegio Bethel), ☏ +502 4570 8835. Very nice and tranquil place with beautiful garden near the lake. Serves breakfasts and snacks. It has WiFi, computers and laundry too. It is connected with charity project to help local students to go study university. By painting a cup, you can support this project. The Alegre Pub, Panajachel dock. British pub that also serves good food. Free movies on the roof at 19:30. Nick's Place (just left of the Panajachel dock). See under Eat. Shanti Shanti (100m from the Panajachel dock). Inexpensive place to chill; good view of the lake. The Pool Bar & Grill (beside the Santiago Dock), ☏ +502 4252 7227. Daytime chill place. Free pool use for customers. Bar food and lots of drink options. Free pool table, Boccie (pétanque) and a great treehouse. Famous for its Sunday BBQ with Smokin' Joes' barbecue. El Barrio. A cozy and laid-back bar and eatery on the main path, toward the Santiago Dock. A favorite with local expats. [dead link] Art Café El Colibri, behind Zoola and Colegio Bethel (Xetaual), ☏ +502 5115 0927, colibrisanpedro@hotmail.com. 08:00-23:00. Very nice and tranquil place with beautiful garden near the lake. Serves breakfasts and snacks. It has WiFi, computers and laundry too. It is connected with charity project to help student to go study university. By painting a cup, you can support this project! Basic accommodation is easily found when you arrive as you will likely be approached at the dock. Average pricing is Q50. Some specific places include: Hotel San Francisco, 5a avenida 2-32. A popular location as some rooms have a kitchen and a bathroom, and the showers are warm (but not hot). Most rooms come with a great view of the lake and a balcony. This hotel is on the other side of the hill but all the locals know where it is, so start asking around once you reach the top of the hill. Because the quality of the rooms vary, ask to see a few before committing. You can bargain for cheaper rates if you stay 2 or more nights, say that you will look at other hotels to get the best rate. Q30-40. Casa Elena (After Nick's Place). Clean room with twin beds on the lakeshore. Owned and operated by a friendly Maya family. Relatively basic accommodations but with hot water and decent WiFi. Jarachik (along the "main trail", a walkway that starts about 250 m (820 ft) left of the Pana dock). Locally-owned Jarachik offers inexpensive dorms and rooms (Q35/45 dorm, Q55 private room w/bathroom; Q75/100 private rooftop room w/bathroom, triple room w/ private bath was Q135 in Dec 2011), a rooftop terrace to chill on, great food and a bonfire most nights, but the owner sometimes puts it out when there are not enough customers. Some rooms are nice, others smell musty so be sure to inspect the room carefully. Hotel Paraiso, path. One of the cheapest places to stay, the dorm rooms adjoining the office are only Q10 per person if 2 or more share them (Q15 for an individual). The showers are connected with the 115VAC directly to the plumbing, so it is strongly recommended to turn off the breaker and take a cold shower, otherwise touching the valve handle or the shower head can be deadly. Q10-Q30. 14.694109-91.268071 Mikaso Hotel, near Santiago Atitlan dock. A Quebec family built this hotel in 2004-2005 right at the lake with a terrace. It offers excellent cuisine and housing facilities in safe and peaceful surroundings, providing 12 rooms for 2, 3 or 4 people, and a dormitory for 6 persons. Each room has its own bathroom with shower and hot water. Meals presented as self-service are served on the terrace on the third floor overlookong the lake. There is also a guest kitchen. Mikaso is a 10-min walk from the market and any bar and is therefore ideal for travellers who seek quiet nights in this party village. dorm Q60. Zoola, path (take the first left from the pana dock, take a right on the path next to a shop, a, left, and you will see it), ☏ +502 5534 3111. Good food, and very chill atmosphere. Staff have a reputation around town for being rude. Israeli themed and run. (Q100 for private double room en suite). Walk-in only, no reservations. Hotel Casa Felipe, Zona 2, San Pedro La Laguna (the easiest way is asking a guide to take you (the hostel tips them) or with your back to the lake, walk left on the main street (where the shuttle arrives or the first street up from the lancha); keeping going for two blocks; turn right at a narrow passageway after the tienda; take the first left and keep going until you reach a T-junction with Coco's bar straight ahead of you; look to your right). Check-in: anytime, check-out: 11:00. 3 communal areas and garden. Cook your own meals in the kitchen (with fridge, stove/oven & a personalised basket for your groceries), beers on-site, pool table for free, hammocks. Q30 for a dorm bed, Q40 for a shared private and Q50 for a room. Literally one minute from the bar strip - close enough to crawl home, yet slightly removed from the hustle and bustle. Ask about discounts for longer stays. Q30-50. Hotel Tepepul Kaan, 6 Calle 5-10, Zona 2. San Pedro (Take the street that t-bones into Casa Elena and you will find Tepepul Kaan at the top of the street.), ☏ +502 4301-2271. Tepepul Kaan is above the "calle Turistica" above Junior's Travel Agency about 100 m left of the Pana dock. Locally owned Tepepul Kaan offers inexpensive rooms (Q50/75 all with private bathrooms), and a rooftop terrace to chill on. The hotel offers clean rooms at better prices than in Guate, and is one of the newer (and cleaner) hotels in San Pedro. Backpacker and family friendly. Tepepul Kaan is also the only hotel that donates a portion of its money (25%) to a local children's charity. Q50. Hotel Pinocchio (behind Les Jardin des Sauveurs & across from Buddha Bar). Private rooms (some with shared & others with private bathrooms) in 2 buildings around pretty yard & gardens. Hammocks on patio in front of most rooms. 24-hr security. Guest kitchen shared. Wi-fi internet included. Bottled water provided. Great lookout over lake from roof of 3-story main building. Charged Q50 per person (Q150 total) for private bath triple room on 3rd floor (Dec 2011) for 1 night. Hotel Peneleu (a few hundred meters up from the Santiago pier in a side street on the left; there is a big sign that you can see coming up from the pier). Two tall yellow concrete buildings with multiple balconies and terraces with tables and hammocks. Singles start at Q100 for walk-in but Q85.40 for booking (Jan 2023]. Friendly owner and kitchen available. Good Wi-Fi and electric sockets all over the place. Mikaso hotel is quite expensive, considering it's way off the beaten path closer to the Santiago dock than most of the other places listed, but the coffee is only Q5 a cup and you can use the wifi free on their terrazza overlooking the lake. The restaurant Jarachik also has free WiFi for those who buy something to eat. They have a very friendly staff, and great food. For coffee lovers try Cafe Cristalinas. They have free WiFi, and an internet cafe for those who do not have computers. The menu is limited, but the coffee is roasted on site. Ask the staff about when they roast their coffee and an explanation of the process. Cafe Atitlan offers wi-fi internet to customers. Pinocchio (hotel/hostel) offers wi-fi internet to guests. Orbita Spanish School has free wifi. The prices in most of food stores, everyday consumables, have fixed prices. Fixed prices may also be found in the public buses (chicken buses). However, stores and street vendors selling art or craftwork expect people to engage in bargaining. Arriving at an agreeable price is simply part of the process, and you congratulate yourself on your bargaining abilities. The same holds true in the market place in San Pedro, and indeed throughout Guatemala. However, not all prices are subject to bargaining. For example, hotel rooms, and shuttle buses. All hotels and tour companies must register their services and their prices with INGUATE, the national tourism board, and must pay taxes based on those prices. The business owners are no different from other business owners around the world. They have loans to pay off, investments to recuperate, etc. Remember, "Act locally, but think globally." The best way to get to Antigua is to take a minibus. Minibuses are available at 08:30 in front of the travel agency, Maya Tztujil. It is best to book your space at least one day in advance. At Maya Tzutujil it only costs Q50. There is also another one that leaves from in front of Casa Verde every day at 09:30. It costs Q70 and takes about 3 hours, including a 15 minute restroom break. With a group you might negotiate the price till Q50. It is best to buy your ticket the day before you leave, at Casa Verde, the green building near the main dock. (Tel: 58379092) There is a travel agency inside. They use newer Toyota minibuses. This is cheaper and faster than paying Q25 to take a boat to Panajachel, and then Q70 to get from Panajachel to Antigua. The cheapest way to get in/out are the buses leaving to Xela Monday till Saturday mornings at 04:30, 05, 05:30, 06:00, 07:00, 08:00 and 11:00 across the street from the Catholic church downtown (top of the hill) Q20-30, or to Guate (Guatemala City) other hours starting from 03:00. if travelling to Antigua let the bus attendant know where you are going and he will let you know where to change buses in Chimaltenango. The Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors' Picks.Browse Editors' FavoritesExperience AI-Powered CreativityThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors' Picks.Browse Editors' FavoritesExperience AI-Powered CreativityThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors' Picks.Browse Editors' FavoritesExperience AI-Powered Creativity San Pedro antiguamente no existía y se cree que fue una herencia donada por el Rey a su hijo el Príncipe heredero del trono al trasladarlo por las riberas del lago como buscando la parte Occidental del Imperio Tz'utujil y su primer asiento fue por Pana-lú... San Pedro La Laguna, un municipio que ha hecho de la panadería una tradición y cultura... Disclosure: This blog is reader-supported, and some posts contain affiliate links. If you make a booking, I may earn a small commission—at no extra cost to you. Thank you for keeping me writing and doing what I love! With its colorful Indigenous Tz'utujil Maya community, challenging volcano hikes, international backpacker vibes, and fun water activities, there are so many things to do in San Pedro La Laguna, Guatemala! As one of the more understated towns perched on the shores of Lake Atitlán, San Pedro buzzes with life – both local and foreign. For years, it has been a popular pitstop on many backpacker's itineraries when traveling in Guatemala and Central America. While it has a reputation as a hostel party town, San Pedro has managed to maintain its authenticity despite international influence. Wander the streets, hearing the Maya language echoing through the streets and exploring more of the Tz'utujil Maya culture. After living in San Pedro La Laguna for two months as a digital nomad, I explored the city and discovered its popular and off-the-beaten-track activities. Here's what you must see and do in San Pedro La Laguna, Guatemala! 20 Things to Do in San Pedro La Laguna The Tzunun'Ya Museum is one of the first things you should do in San Pedro La Laguna. It provides a brief yet thorough overview of the town and its Maya history, culture, and symbolism. Here, you can also get your Maya symbol, or Nahual, explained and printed out according to your birthdate on the Maya calendar. The museum only takes 15-20 minutes to explore. Its three showrooms focus on geology, history, and culture. There are plaques you can read, or, you can opt to have the museum operator give you a spoken tour in Spanish. Lola was very helpful and easy to understand as she spoke slowly and clearly for us! There's also a sweet little video film at the beginning of the tour that shows what local life in San Pedro La Laguna looked like in 1943. The cost to enter the Tzunun'Ya museum is only Q35 per person. It's open from 9-5 pm, Monday through Friday, and is located on 6a Av across from Zoola. Overall, it's a quick and underrated way to understand the geology of Lake Atitlán as well as the history and culture of the Tz'utujil Maya. Fun fact! The towns around Lake Atitlán were all converted into Saint names after the Spanish conquest. Before, Lake Atitlán was called Tzunun, which means hummingbird in the Mayan language (colibri in Spanish). The women at Teixchel Weaving Association radiate the beauty and culture of the Tz'utujil Maya people. Understanding a bit of Spanish will make your time in San Pedro all the richer, and you'll understand why if you stop here. Speak with Mama Bertha, who runs the association with her family (her daughter is pictured above sewing a blouse). She took her time to explain the association to us as well as Mayan beliefs, the Maya calendar, and the Maya goddess Ixhcel. Mama Bertha also looked up our birthdates and showed us the corresponding Nahual Maya symbols. I bought a handmade little purse with my "future" symbol on it – Kej – for Q25. At Teixchel, you can learn about how they create their Maya textiles, shop their little store, try on kimonos, and take a weaving workshop to make your own eco-dyed scarf using the backstrap loom (the workshop lasts 6 hours, but you can spread it out across several days). You'll find Teixchel, located just up the road from the main dock (right across from Café Cristalinas). The forested hills surrounding Lake Atitlán are covered in coffee plants and fields. Coffee is one of Guatemala's main exports, thanks to the rich volcanic soil that allows it to flourish. For coffee tours, check out Café Cristalinas. You can walk in and reserve a tour in the morning either on foot (2-3 hours) or on horseback (1-2 hours). You can find this great little cafe just up the road from the main dock in San Pedro. They have delicious coffee and chocolate! There are plenty of opportunities to try the rich and flavored coffee with a tour around the Maya towns beyond San Pedro. San Juan La Laguna is, in particular, a colorful and tranquil municipality beside San Pedro, where you can take local coffee tours as well. Hiking up to the Indian Nose summit is one of the most popular things to do in San Pedro La Laguna. The Indian Nose is a mountain summit that resembles the face of a sleeping Mayan man and looks out over the lake, volcanoes, and towns. It juts out above the city, so you can't miss it as you're walking through town. In many ways, this hike is a rite of passage for those who visit Lake Atitlan. Several tour agencies offer sunrise hikes up to Indian Nose from San Pedro. These typically start with taking a chicken bus to the town of Santa Clara La Laguna in the early hours of the morning and then hiking up the back of the mountain for 35-45 minutes to reach the summit overlooking Lake Atitlan and the surrounding volcanoes. Alternatively, you can opt to do the long version of the Indian Nose hike, which departs from the base of San Juan La Laguna. If you're interested I talk about this option more in-depth in my guide to the Indian Nose hike. Swimming in San Pedro La Laguna isn't the best, especially right near the main boat dock, where many locals wash their clothes, bodies, and dishes. However, there are a few secluded beaches further away from town where locals and tourists can escape on weekends to spend a day splashing in (somewhat) cleaner water. To get to the beautiful black sand beach that I prefer, known as Playa La Finca, ask a tuk-tuk to take you to the end of La Finca, near the basketball court. You can also say after Refugio del Volcan, which is a well-known AirBNB. Once at the trailhead, you will follow the natural path around the base of the San Pedro volcano. The trail leading down to the beach forks from the main path to the left. Despite the lack of signage, you can't really miss it. You'll pass by an abandoned coffee farm (with a large slab of concrete where they used to dry the beans), before passing a local's home and descending down a semi-steep slope until you reach the beach. Once at the beach, there is plenty of swimming space and spots to lounge on a towel while enjoying amazing views of Volcan Tolimán and Volcán Atitlan. San Pedro La Laguna and Lake Atitlan, in general, are famous for their top-quality Spanish Language Schools. Because many Guatemalans speak relatively slowly and don't have thick accents, people from all over the world come to Guatemala to learn Spanish. The schools here are renowned for their classes and family homestays, where you can pay to live with a local family while learning Spanish. The cost to take a Spanish class at one of the schools varies. Prices may also depend on how many classes you want to take. As a rule of thumb, the more classes you take in a week, the less expensive each one will be. Since I couldn't attend class in a normal setting during my time in San Pedro, I opted for a private Spanish tutor through the Semilla Spanish School. My instructor was a young 20-year-old woman named Billie. Every day for a week, she came to my temporary home to teach me B1-level Spanish for two hours. I absolutely loved working with Billie, who happily spoke with me about life in Guatemala, her family, and the unique customs and traditions of the various Mayan towns surrounding Lake Atitlan. Should you like to learn Spanish with Billie or stay with her family for a homestay, feel free to reach out for her contact info or get in touch with the school. What better thing to do in San Pedro than pick up a bit of Spanish? I can say from firsthand experience that having a little Spanish under your belt will truly enrich your trip! Acrylic and oil paintings hang in art galleries in many of the Maya towns around the lake. Each town seems to have its own style and an array of local artists. What you see in San Pedro La Laguna will be different from what you see in Santiago Atitlán or even San Juan La Laguna, which is just next door. Painting classes are a fun and affordable way to get familiar with the landscapes, towns, and communities around the lake. Classes cost approximately Q65 per 1-1.5 hours. The price also depends on the materials you choose to use (i.e. canvas size, paint, brushes, etc). Lake Atitlan is the perfect place to rent a kayak or paddleboard. The lake's calm water makes for the perfect sunrise or sunset adventure! Luckily, there are many places around the lake where you can rent both. You'll find a few local kayaking and SUP shops around San Pedro La Laguna. For paddleboarding, check out our friends at San Pedro Paddle. They offer certified SUP lessons, fitness classes, and tours! You can find them on the outskirts of town, on the road to La Finca (about 10 minutes away by tuk-tuk). This is a great place to paddle because there are no boats (like near the embarcaderos – boat docks) and you can paddle out just far enough to see the magnificent San Pedro volcano, the Tolimán Volcano, and its Cerro del Oro cone. For kayaking, head down the steps below the popular Sababa Restaurant and speak with the elderly man sporting a traditional hat there. He rents out kayaks for as little as Q20/hour. He has both single and double kayaks. They're certainly nothing fancy, and are even a bit bulky, but what more do you need to spend a few hours enjoying the lake? Be wary of incoming and departing boats as you begin paddling just left of the Pana dock. You can also book a kayaking tour online with Salvador. I recommend avoiding going around mid-day as it gets windy and the water is choppy. San Pedro La Laguna has hot springs, similar to thermal pools or outdoor hot tubs, where you can sit and relax. Before you get too excited, these are not naturally heated by the nearby volcanoes. For that, check out the naturally heated aguas termales in Santa Catarina Palopó over by Panajachel. In any case, soaking in the "Los Termales" was a fun thing to do in San Pedro La Laguna and was a weekly activity for us and our friends. We'd go every Wednesday night after work at 6:30 PM sharp. It was a great way to split our workweek in half as we were living in San Pedro as digital nomads. To reserve your hot tub, you must contact the owners (who are very sweet) no sooner than 30 minutes—1 hour before your arrival. The price is Q50 per person (about 6.50 USD or 5 EUR). The path to Los Termales is located near the El Barrio restaurant in the little backstreets of San Pedro. There are 5 pools in total, with an outdoor shower and a rustic toilet. The owners live on-site in case you need anything. For now, they don't offer beverages or snacks, but you are welcome to bring your own from the local minimarkets up on the main street. I'd highly recommend going mid-week to have the place to yourself. On weekends, it can get busy and can turn unpleasant, especially when people play their music loudly, smoke right next to you, or in some instances, strip down and get butt naked (lol). San Pedro volcano calls adventure enthusiasts, beckoning them to hike up its steep slopes to reach its staggering peak. However, hikers beware! Unfortunately, there have been reports of armed robberies at the top of the hike, near the summit camp. Please be cautious as it seems this is fairly common. You can read testimonials on Tripadvisor and AllTrails for this hike. There are accounts of successful trips, where no robberies or assaults took place, and also first-hand accounts of such incidents. It would be wise to go with a hired armed guide or a large group of hikers, but not alone. Luckily, there are other hikes around Lake Atitlán you can do. If it's a volcano summit you wish to conquer, then consider hiking up Tolimán or Atitlán volcanoes. San Pedro La Laguna comes alive during festivals, holidays, birthdays, and a variety of other events. During these times, you can catch street food vendors selling their goodies on the main avenue. If you do get the chance to eat street food in San Pedro, make sure to eat where the locals go, an indicator that it's clean and trustworthy. We got lucky one evening while strolling around town and saw a lady whipping up veggie pupusas and mini tostadas (forgot the name) and decided to try it out. Filled with zucchini, beans, cheese, cream, and onions, it was delicious and super cheap at only Q10. San Pedro has its own ziplining canopy park! While small, with only 3-5 lines, it is still a fun thing to do in San Pedro if you enjoy adrenaline-packed outdoor activities. There is also a really cool tire swing with a viewpoint from up here! Book this experience on Viator. Learn to cook traditional Mayan dishes with Anita, a local woman who puts her heart and soul into the culinary arts. Located near San Pedro's dock, this cooking class is easy to get to and makes for a wonderful way to remember your time in Guatemala, and transport friends and family through their tastebuds once you're back at home. Classes are offered Monday through Saturday. You'll choose which recipes you want to cook ahead of time, and each class is three to four hours long. These recipes can also accommodate vegetarians! There is a unique and relatively unknown café above town called Mirador y Café Bella Vista. It has arguably the BEST panoramic view of San Pedro La Laguna and the entire southwestern shores of Lake Atitlán. You can find it by hopping in a tuk-tuk and asking for "Mirador café bella vista," showing the GPS, or by hiking up the hill to get there yourself. The road is paved and steep, but not difficult to find. Follow the road all the way up to the top (the road on the GPS seems to disappear, but know that it's indeed there). Keep following the small roads around local houses. Eventually, you'll get to a 3-story building with a sign on it that says Café Mirador Bella Vista. They serve specialty drinks and snacks that you can enjoy with one of the best views of San Pedro. We ordered a chilled lemonade, which was super good! One thing that you'll quickly notice when visiting San Pedro La Laguna is its colorful street art. The town isn't as colorful as neighboring San Juan La Laguna, and certainly no match for Santa Catarina Palopó across the lake, but it still has at least a dozen or more elaborate street art murals depicting local life and Maya textiles and motifs. One of my favorites is near the Santiago Atitlán dock and the other is down a tiny street near the church up the hill from the main dock. You'll notice a lot of small murals with religious quotes and symbols as well. I think I counted at least two dozen the last time we crossed town. Exploring local markets is one of the best ways to immerse yourself in the daily lives of the local culture and community. In San Pedro La Laguna, it's no different. Here, the Tz'utujil Mayas sell their fruits, veggies, beans, textiles, shoes, etc., on the street. It all comes together to create a bustling market scene. If you live in San Pedro or are planning to stay awhile, you'll find the best prices here compared to the produce stalls in town. Market days are typically every day from morning to lunch, but they're especially a sight to see on weekends. I highly recommend walking around this part of town on foot to discover a few hidden treasures, including art murals, mini plazas, cute streets, and scenes of authentic local life. To reach them, follow the road all the way up from the main dock or ask a tuk-tuk to take you to the market. Horse riding is affordable and fun in San Pedro. Even if you don't end up riding yourself, you will no doubt see horses during your time here. Only a handful of locals own the horses, and you'll likely see the same guides riding through town. Several horse riding tours can take you around San Pedro and the surrounding area, including the coffee and maize plantations, viewpoints, and beaches. The cost varies per group size, but as a couple, we paid Q60 per person for a two-hour ride. We took the path to the viewpoint at the base of the San Pedro volcano, which overlooks the town of Santiago Atitlan and the Tolimán and Atitlan volcanoes. You can also combine coffee tours with a horse riding excursion, in case you want to knock out both activities in one go. For that, inquire at Café Cristalinas, just up the road from the main dock in San Pedro (the Pana dock). Right in the heart of San Pedro sits a beautiful garden and park — the Parque La Puerta Hermosa. Whether you want to take photographs or just escape the tuk-tuk crazy streets, the park is the perfect place to escape to. You can find it by meandering off the market road. It's hard to miss as it's the only bit of vivid greenery in the town. The plaza is decorated with trimmed bushes, plants, a statue and fountain, and a small white church. Locals play traditional music, making the experience all the more whimsical. The Sababa Cafe and Restaurant is one of the best places to eat in San Pedro La Laguna. Its airy ambiance and simple yet delicious food—especially the lava cake—make it one of my favorite spots. The atmosphere is welcoming and inspiring, and the awesome view of the lake and the Indian Nose summit is the cherry on top. There's a ground floor with sofa benches and a swing bar and an upstairs loft with more tables and an even better (and breezier) view. Last but not least, you can't visit San Pedro without also sharing your love for some of the other towns around Lake Atitlan! Did you know that there are at least a dozen or more municipalities that surround the lake? Some of my favorites to visit are: San Juan La Laguna — San Pedro's neighbor and full of weaving associations, murals, and hidden cafés. Santa Cruz La Laguna — Ideal for a lakeside lunch or SUP session with views of all three volcanoes. Jaibalito & Tzununa — Two small towns with an awesome hiking trail that connects them. Santa Catarina Palopó and San Antonio Palopó — Two Kaqchikel Maya towns near Panajachel. The first is colorful, while the second is famous for its ceramics and pottery. San Marcos La Laguna — Perhaps the most well-known of the towns on Lake Atitlan with an active meditation and New Age community. Santiago Atitlán — The largest of the towns and one that offers a glimpse into the more traditional Tz'utujil Maya way of life. Among all the towns, I think San Pedro has the coolest hotels, restaurants, and things to do. It has both local treasures and foreign pleasures, like international-style cafes, good WiFi, and a decent range of hostels and hotels. It isn't difficult to find cool hotels in San Pedro La Laguna. As one of the largest backpacker hubs along the lake, San Pedro offers everything under the sun in terms of accommodation, from fun and funky hostels to seriously stunning resorts. The global community in San Pedro means you'll find cuisine from every corner of the world. Everything from authentic Japanese to Israeli is on the menu! You won't have any trouble discovering delicious restaurants in San Pedro La Laguna, but you might have some difficulty choosing between them. While you could easily spend a month in San Pedro, using it as a base to explore the lake and cafe and restaurant hopping, a few days to a week is the perfect sweet spot for how much time to spend in San Pedro La Laguna. San Pedro La Laguna is a very walkable town. You can easily walk across San Pedro La Laguna in 15 to 20 minutes. If you need to get around faster, tuktuk are also a great option! Avoid walking between towns in Lake Atitlan as there have been reports of crimes occurring on the roads that connect some of the villages in the past. Yes, San Pedro La Laguna is a safe town to visit in Lake Atitlan. When crimes do occur, they often revolve around petty theft and pickpocketing. Violent crime is rare. That being said, crime can occur anywhere. Follow general safety precautions, like avoiding walking alone at night, to be on the extra safe side. Basing yourself out of San Pedro is not only great because of the number of things to do here but also because it is well-connected to the other towns. I hope this guide helps you get inspired for what to do in San Pedro La Laguna including both popular and off-the-beaten-track activities! If you have any questions about this bucket list, feel free to reach out and drop a comment below! LIKE IT? PIN IT! San Pedro la Laguna is generally safe for solo female travelers. It's a small, peaceful town predominantly inhabited by Indigenous Guatemalans with bustling markets, cafes, and bars. However, tourists are advised to avoid late-night wanderings, especially in isolated areas, and to always be cautious of their belongings due to petty crimes. Overall, with basic precautions, it's a beautiful place for a visit. Planning to visit San Pedro la Laguna, Guatemala? Take a deep dive into San Pedro Guatemala with our insider's guide on where to eat, stay and play in San Pedro. San Pedro la Laguna Guatemala is one of Lake Atitlan's most vibrant and popular towns. Known for its stunning volcano hikes, indigenous Mayan community, fun things to do as well as a somewhat party vibe, it's certainly a great place to visit on your Guatemala itinerary. You'll find many things to do in San Pedro la Laguna from taking a relaxing soak at the thermal baths to supporting local weaving associations and of course, a sunset beer or two by the lake. Keep reading for this less-backpacker-more-lux guide to San Pedro La Laguna Atitlan and find out what to do in San Pedro la Laguna, where to stay and eat for a great stay. While San Pedro is definitely more of a young backpacker destination than a luxury destination in Guatemala, it's still worth visiting even if it's just for a day. With many outdoorsy and wellness-orientated things to do in San Pedro La Laguna Guatemala, exploring the Mayan town for the day is a popular option. This ' San Pedro Atitlan' travel guide might contain affiliate links meaning I might make a small profit if you choose to book at no extra cost to you. This helps me to keep providing you with top quality content for free. Lake Atitlan and Guatemala are year round destinations. In general, they are best visited in the dry season which runs from November to April. This is winter in Guatemala where temperatures are a little cooler but the skies are their clearest- best for sunrises/sunsets and volcano views. The rainy season runs from May to October, and while you can expect sudden downpours on Lake Atitlan, this is still a great time to visit for fewer crowds and better rates but you probably will be dealing with cloudy days mostly. We visited Lake Atitlan in August and spent a good few weeks in the area. It rained most days but not daily and it was quite cloudy most of the time, however there were very few people around. If you're lucky with the weather or your itinerary is somewhat flexible, the wet season can be a great time to visit too. Most travelers arrive in San Pedro la Laguna from Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala City or one of the other beautiful Lake Atitlan towns. From Antigua Guatemala and Guatemala City or the airport, you can take a shared shuttle or private shuttle to Panajachel. While chicken buses are also an option I wouldn't recommend them for safety and comfort reasons. From Panajachel or other towns around Lake Atitlan, you'll need to hop on a local taxi boat to San Pedro Guatemala. You'll find all the boats down by the docks in Panajachel. Expect to pay Q25 from Panajachel to San Pedro with the ride taking about 30-40 minutes. From other Lake Atitlan towns, you'll pay anything between Q10-25 depending on the distance. It's also possible to get a shuttle between San Pedro la Laguna and San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico. You might be wondering how to get around San Pedro Guatemala when you get there. San Pedro is completely walkable and you don't need any extra transportation most of the time. To head to nearby San Juan la Laguna or to your hotel with luggage, tuk tuks are available around town. One of San Pedro la Laguna's biggest draws is the town's hot springs. For slow travelers that savor a little wellness when they travel, this is the perfect opportunity to relax. The hot springs in San Pedro are like heated hot tubs rather than naturally heated hot springs by Lake Atitlan's volcanoes. Unfortunately, they aren't minerally rich waters but they do provide a space to sit and relax. The place to go for a long soak is 'Los Termales' which you'll find here