



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Chile - San Pedro de Atacama

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Santiago
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish (with accent)
- ✓ **Sq km & population:** 23,439 / ± 3900
- ✓ **Currency:** Chilean Peso \$
- ✓ **Country code:** +56
- ✓ **Visa:** Some countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 133 (police), 132 (firemen), 131(ambulance)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Typhoid / DTP

### History Recap Over 1 Drink

San Pedro grew around oasis in Puna de Atacama: arid high plateau. First inhabitants: Atacameños → basket works / ceramic pottery. Initially part of Bolivia. 1810-1827: Chilean War of Independence between Chilean independentists and Royalists → San Martín / O'Higgins. 1879-83: War of Pacific with Peru/Bolivia, expanded territory northward: San Pedro de Atacama part of Chile. 1970: Allende president (Marxist): weapons from Cuba, US opposition Nixon. Economic crisis. 1973: Military coup: Allende suicide. New totalitarian regime: Pinochet → Caravan of Death: over 3000 (supposedly left) Chileans murdered, 29000 imprisoned & tortured, 30000 exiled. 1989: Elected president Aylwin. 2006: Bachelet.

### Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Wet												
Best												
Budget			It's	always	toursity	in	San	Pedro				

Altitude: 2400m → Take medication for altitude sickness. During the day it can be 30 °C, during the night below 0°C.

### Bucket List For Free

Nothing is free in San Pedro. All activities in and around this village are designed for tourists, the locals live outside town. Except of the long-distance buses and taxi's, there is no public transport.

☺ You can walk, but stick to short distances and only walk in the morning and evening when the sun is less intense.

☺ Not free, but cheap: Rent a bicycle at one of the many bike rentals (test quality first!). Options at bike distance: Valle de la Luna, Valle de la Muerte, Laguna Cejar. Parks have entrance fees (student discounts!).

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

Renting a car is more expensive than booking a tour.

👍 Salar de Tara: 172km. ±45000 pesos.

👍 Lagunas Altiplanico: 140km. ±21000 pesos.

👍 Laguna Tebinquinche: 24km, possible by bike if you leave very early in the morning and come back before the afternoon (heat).

👍 Geyser del Tatio: 100km, 16000-20000 pesos.



## Tourist Trap Alert

☹ The whole town of San Pedro is one high tourist trap. Tourists go here with a reason though: The surroundings are stunning. Plan trips, don't stay in town.

## Mama Said

☠ Bring enough cash! There are only a few ATM's and they are plundered by tourists, so always empty. Keep in mind that San Pedro is expensive and you might need more money than expected. Cambio's give bad exchange rates here.

☠ Be calm: The altitude, heat and dryness will take its toll on you body.

## Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 Lascar Volcano.

👍 Valle Arcoiris.

👍 Qyuerbrada del Diablo.

👍 Termas Banos de Puritama: Entrance night 9000 / entrance morning 15000. Tours ±10000 pesos.

👍 [Atacama Desert Stargazing](#)

## Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostal Rural, +56975712844, Calama 257.
- ❖ Hostal Campo Base, +56552851472, Toconao 535.
- ❖ Hostal Tuyasto, +565555851383, 28 de Agosto 535.

→ Book ahead, it's always busy in San Pedro.

## Nights Best Spent

◆ Carnicero's are parties in the middle of the desert and change location every night. Ask in your hostel (or Hostal Rural) how to get there.

## Festivals

- ⚙ Fiesta de San Pedro: Religious, dancing, 28/29-June.
- ⚙ Carnival: Religous, 5-10 Feb.
- ⚙ Virgen de la Candelaria: Religious, 31-Jan – 3-Feb.

## Next?

- In Chile: Calama, Iquique.
- International destinations closeby: Argentina, Chile (get in with the Uyuni tour), Paraguay.

## Budget Bites

⌘ Vicente supermarket: The biggest selection of fruit, veggies, and everything you need for a cheap self-made meal.

⌘ Typical Chilean fastfood: Completo, Italiano, Churrasco or empanadas, which are huge in Chile (border of town = cheap).

⌘ Get a pile of cheap but delicious chicken at the roasteria next to the Vicente supermarket.

## Free-Riding?

■ There are only long-distance buses available at the bus terminal.

■ Taxi's are unnecessary, as everything in town is walkable. To visit sights, an organized tour works out cheaper.

Tip: Download the free Triposo Chile app for an offline map, offline guide & more.