



San Pedro de Atacama

圣佩德罗德阿塔卡马



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圣佩德罗德阿塔卡马是智利的城镇，位于该国北部，由安托法加斯塔大区的洛阿省负责管辖，始建于1450年，面积23,438平方公里，2002年人口4,969，人口密度每平方公里0.2人。

撰文：Amanda Barnes

圣佩德罗德阿塔卡马是世上独一无二之地。

阿塔卡马不仅是地球上最干旱的沙漠，同时也包含着广阔无垠的白色盐滩、蒸汽萦绕的间歇泉地域、丰富多彩的高原山脉和仙人掌山谷、突兀的火山及澄清的星空等。

这令人叹为观止的地区内栖息着阿塔卡马繁衍众多的野生动物：如粉红色的火烈鸟，祥和恬静的羊驼及爱作日光浴的蜥蜴等。

此外，当地人及游客组成了一个充满活力，温馨轻松的小镇，让圣佩德罗德阿塔卡马成为一个世界级的旅游目的地。



景点

阿塔卡马是个超凡脱俗之地，其最著名的景点之一——月亮谷（Valle de la Luna），甚至干脆以月亮命名。

月亮谷是岩盐山麓（Cordillera de la Sa）的一部份，这片奇特的土地被岩盐所覆盖，表面几近白色，其实也不难理解为何以月亮命名。这幅干旱贫瘠，年均雨量不到一毫米的土地具有独特的地理环境，数百万年的风雨侵蚀令它尽现大自然的鬼斧神工，如天然石雕、溶洞、有着独特图案的沙丘等。月亮谷离圣佩德罗只十三公里之距，是供大家散步及欣赏日落的最佳地点。

在月亮谷附近有另一个原名为火星谷

(Valle de Martes) 的地点，在大家接连念错名字后最终更名为死亡谷（Valle de la Muerte）。两个原文读音相近的名字好像都各有道理，于这山谷中有着如同火星般的、干燥的、红色的岩石和沙子；此外又几乎没有生物能在这么残荷的条件生存。这山谷其实已多次被电影界用作拍摄模拟火星的场景，同时也被用作新型太空考察的试验场地。

尽管许多生物无法在这样的条件下生存，也有少数生物能够蓬勃发展：上面两个山谷均为智利的国家火烈鸟保护区，同时是世界上第三大盐滩 - 阿塔卡马盐滩的一部分。这惊人的盐滩内有着由高低不平的白色的盐层及多个鳉湖，构成了风景如画的景观。鳉湖内栖息着三种粉红色的火烈鸟及多种鸟类，使这里成为观鸟的胜地。

阿塔卡马盐滩也是泡浴的美妙场所，您可以前往 Laguna Cejar 游泳。这个自然陷穴内的水源盐浓度高达 28%，意味着您可用于水中肆意漂浮。尽管阿塔卡马总不缺阳光，Laguna Cejar 的水还是非常寒冷呢！对于那些更为喜好泡暖水浴的人来说，如 Puritama 这种优美的自然温泉则较为平易近人。不过最著名的温泉还是要数这里的间歇泉 ...

厄尔泰度 (El Tatio) 是个布满八十多个自地表下吐出蒸汽和热开水的活跃间歇泉地带，它位处海拔 4320 米，到达前需经多天适应高海拔气候的高原地区。但美好之事总值得等待！参观厄尔泰度的最佳时间为破晓时分，喷泉所冒出的热气会于冷空气中凝结成巨大的蒸汽柱。当太阳升起后，虽然间歇泉也同样活跃，但温差变小会使蒸汽出现萎缩，



略碍观感。此外您也可选择到地热池中泡一下，这个由间歇泉加热的地热池，温度约在40~60°C左右，于当地室外温度为-10°C至10°C的条件下，温度可是完美无瑕呢！不过切记这儿只有这个温泉池能够安全浸泡，因为其他的间歇泉温度都高达90°C啊！

在阿蒂普拉诺高原 (Altiplano) 尚有其他引人入胜的景点，包括火山，大湖，来自美洲驼家族的原驼，及当地人的小型古村落等。

历史及文化

干旱的沙漠看似是个荒凉恶劣的环境，然而阿塔卡马地区其实已有超过万年的居住历史。圣佩德罗位处印加古道，在15世纪至16世纪时是古代商人横越印加王朝的主要中途站。Atacameño土著过去就曾于这里牧养美洲驼，并进行贸易活动。在附近的Llullaillaco火山顶部甚至还发现了三个被献祭的小童木乃伊，可见印加文明曾在这里盛极一时。您只需到基铎堡 (Pukará de Quito) 遗址看看，就可一窥圣佩德罗于被西班牙人占领以前的文明程度。

现今，来自智利全国的智利和世界各地的人民居于轻松悠闲的圣佩德罗阿塔卡马小镇。它是旅客的胜地，同时也是智利最多人到访的旅游地之一。

体验

日间，音乐会于主广场中奏乐，露天市集

的摊贩会售卖当地工匠的商品和工艺品。在晚上，餐厅则会亮起篝火，让您享受大自然时不致被凉爽的沙漠气温冷到。

阿塔卡马的晚间美景，绝对会让再宅的朋友都想出室外走走。阿塔卡马有着世间数一数二、最澄明清晰的天空及最佳观星场所的美誉。这个高海拔地区气候干燥、夜空澄明，就连国际太空站项目ALMA都选择了以圣佩德罗为基地。虽然游客不能造访及使用ALMA的太空望远镜，但以部份酒店提供的望远镜，甚至用肉眼观星的效果已非常卓越。这边的星河或许是全球最明亮之处，许多行星和星座也是年中大部份时间可见。

另一种不容错过的晚间活动，是体验当地的美食佳肴。这部分智利佳肴以当地出产食品为材料，如原驼肉和藜麦、您也可尝试黎加黎加香草和查尼亚尔糖浆。就以智利赤霞珠作伴，享受丰盛的阿塔卡马美食吧！

旅游住宿

如果您热爱冒险：
探险酒店 (www.explora.com)
深具原创性的探险酒店，提供超过50个阿塔卡马的短线游。他们的马厩距镇中只五分钟路程，您可以骑马观，探索火山，徒步穿越仙人掌山谷，或者简单的在美丽的花园和温泉放松身心。

如果您热爱浪漫：
Tierra酒店 (www.tierraatacama.com)

您于这豪华酒店内可以一边畅饮智利的汽酒，一边于柔和的烛光下眺望星空。每一间房间都有独立花园，经过游历沙漠后可于它们的SPA充充电，或在它们的餐厅内享用当地美食。

如果您热爱自然：
Alto Atacama (www.altoatacama.com)
Alto Atacama酒店座落于基铎堡附近的岩壁上，令您有如置身沙漠中央。酒店有着精心设计的外花园及泳池，同时提供自然探索、当地美食及文化等短线游。

如果您不甘安静：
Terrantai (www.terrantai.com)
Terrantai精品酒店位处圣佩德罗中心地带，酒店以当地岩石建造，营造出传统阿塔卡马风格。这间精致的酒店有着幽静的花园及阴凉房间，于酒店花园即可看见附近的教堂建筑，酒店位置与主广场只一个街口之距。

识饮识食

Baltinache, 多明戈阿蒂恩萨
Baltinache以本土食材和烹调方法，烹调出极富想象力的阿尔蒂普拉诺—马普切融合菜套餐。

Adobe, Caracoles酒店
Adobe餐厅外部有着美丽的庭院和壁炉，有着热情温馨的气氛，餐厅除供应智利美食外，每晚均有传统乐队演奏助兴。

San Pedro de Atacama

By Amanda Barnes

There is nowhere else in the world like San Pedro de Atacama.

It may be the driest desert on the planet, but the Atacama is also home to large white salt flats, steam spitting geyser fields, colorful Altiplano mountains and cactus valleys, extreme volcanoes, and clear, star-filled night skies.

Alongside the breathtaking landscapes, there is a plethora of wildlife: pink flamingos, serene guanacos and sun bathing lizards. But that isn't the only life here. A vibrant community of locals and travelers create a welcoming and relaxing town that makes San Pedro de Atacama a world-class destination.

The Sights

The Atacama seems to be an otherworldly destination. So otherworldly in fact that one of its most famous attractions is named after the moon: Valle de la Luna (Moon Valley).

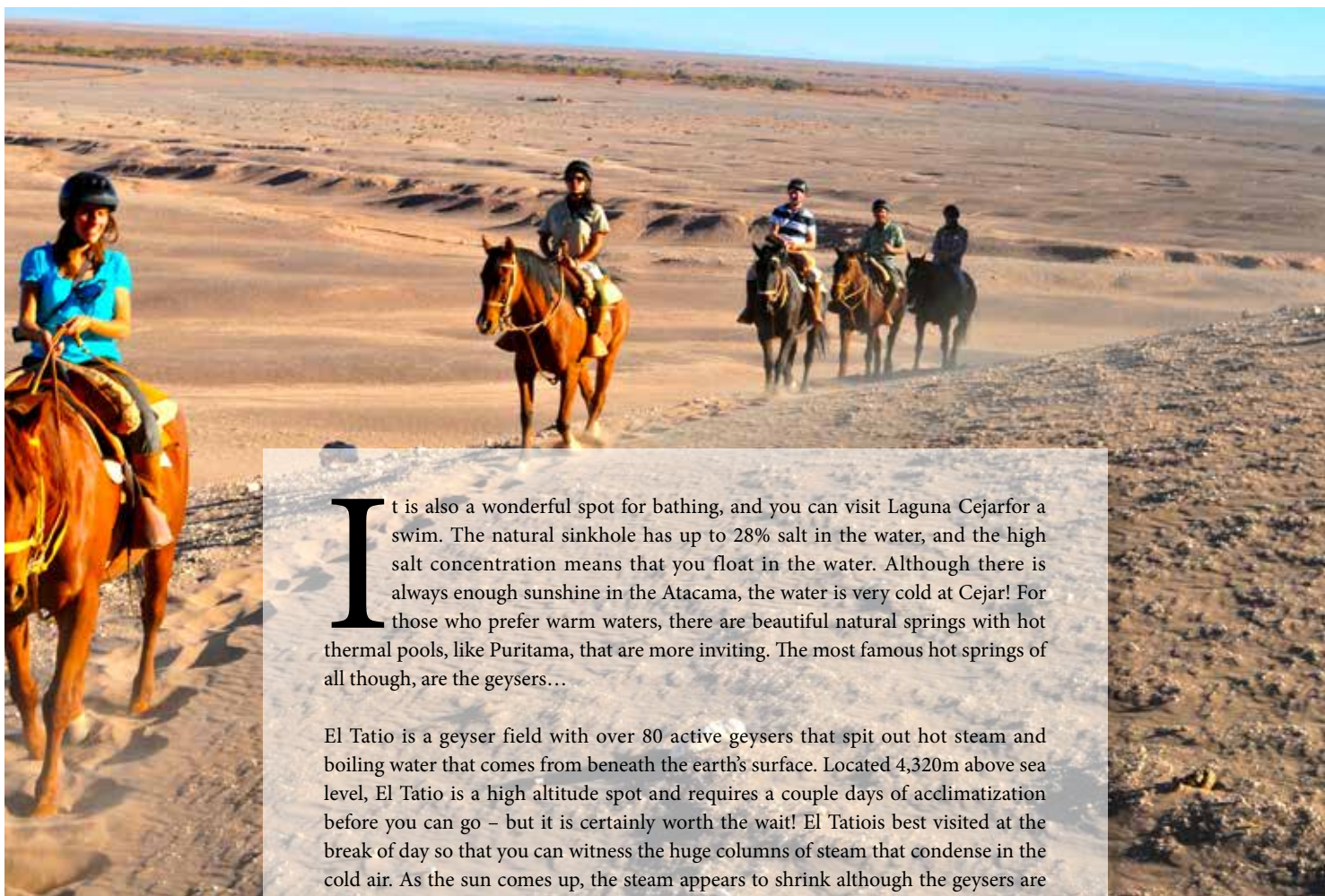
It is not hard to see why this is called Moon Valley – the surface is virtually white. Covered in salt, this extraordinary landscape is part of the Cordillera de la Sal (Salt foothills). Formed over millions of years, water and wind shaped these unique formations: rock sculptures, caverns, caves, sand dunes and interesting patterns. This arid and barren land, with less than 1mm of rain a year, has a unique geography. Moon Valley is a beautiful spot for walking and at only 13kms from San Pedro, it is everyone's favorite place for sunset.

Nearby is the Valle de la Muerte (Death Valley), which was originally called Valle de Martes (Mars Valley) however after being continuously mispronounced the name changed to Muerte. Both namesakes seem to have good reason, as this valley has dry, red rock and sand (like Mars appears) and barely any life form can live in such brutal conditions (hence Death). The valley has actually been used many times as a film set for movies based in Mars, and as a testing ground for new space expeditions!

Although many life forms cannot survive in such conditions, there are some that thrive: flamingos! Both valleys are part of the National Flamingo Reserve, which is also the third largest salt flat in the world - the Salar de Atacama. This phenomenal salt flat has small pockets of water that form picturesque lakes and lagoons among the spiky, white salt formations. These lagoons are home to three species of pink flamingos and other birds, making them an excellent spot for bird spotting.

San Pedro de Atacama is a Chilean town, located in north of the country, Antofagasta Region is responsible for the jurisdiction, founded in 1450, an area of 23,438 square kilometers, in 2002 the population is 4,969, and the population density 0.2 people per square kilometer.





It is also a wonderful spot for bathing, and you can visit Laguna Cejar for a swim. The natural sinkhole has up to 28% salt in the water, and the high salt concentration means that you float in the water. Although there is always enough sunshine in the Atacama, the water is very cold at Cejar! For those who prefer warm waters, there are beautiful natural springs with hot thermal pools, like Puritama, that are more inviting. The most famous hot springs of all though, are the geysers...

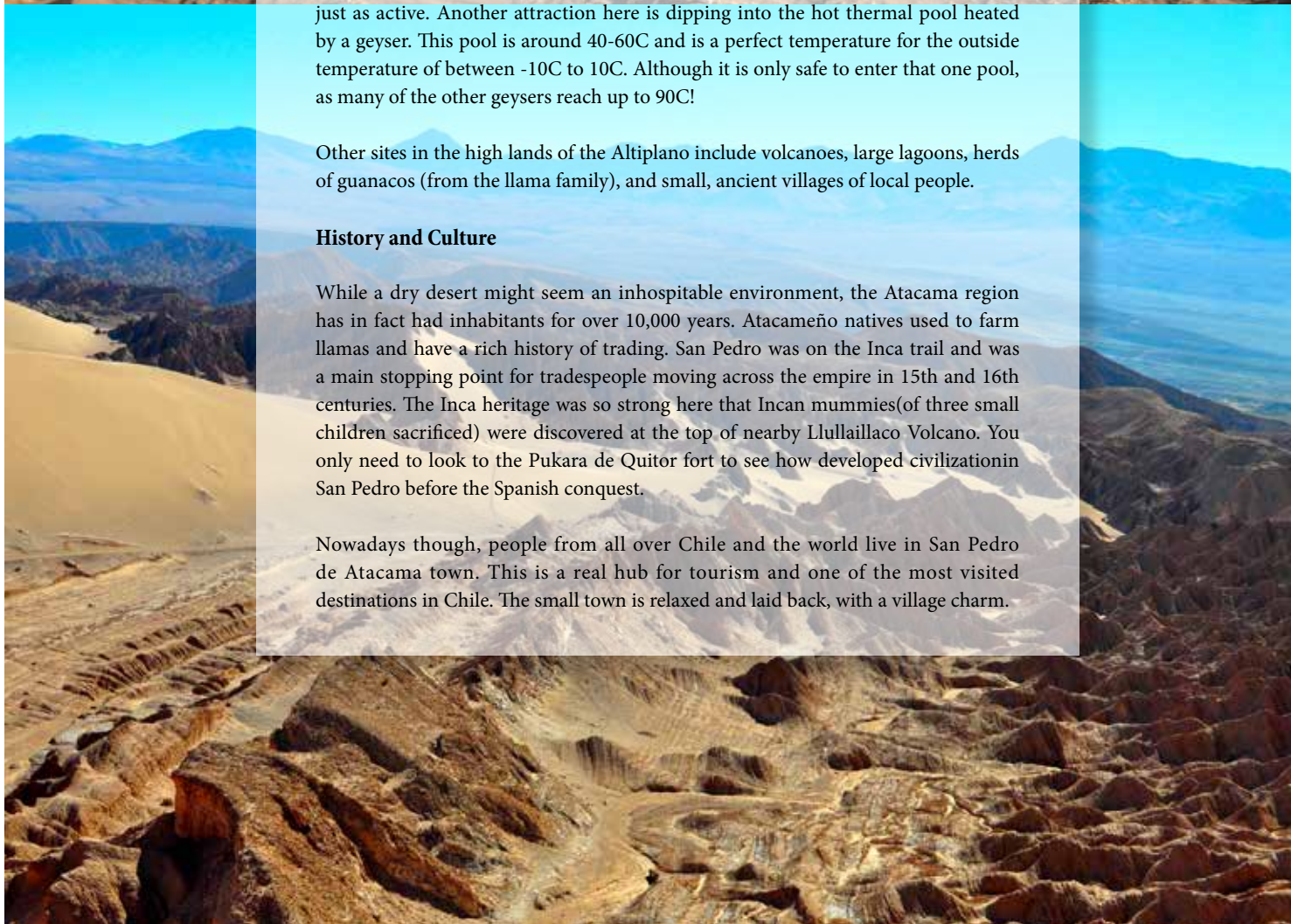
El Tatio is a geyser field with over 80 active geysers that spit out hot steam and boiling water that comes from beneath the earth's surface. Located 4,320m above sea level, El Tatio is a high altitude spot and requires a couple days of acclimatization before you can go – but it is certainly worth the wait! El Tatio is best visited at the break of day so that you can witness the huge columns of steam that condense in the cold air. As the sun comes up, the steam appears to shrink although the geysers are just as active. Another attraction here is dipping into the hot thermal pool heated by a geyser. This pool is around 40-60C and is a perfect temperature for the outside temperature of between -10C to 10C. Although it is only safe to enter that one pool, as many of the other geysers reach up to 90C!

Other sites in the high lands of the Altiplano include volcanoes, large lagoons, herds of guanacos (from the llama family), and small, ancient villages of local people.

History and Culture

While a dry desert might seem an inhospitable environment, the Atacama region has in fact had inhabitants for over 10,000 years. Atacameño natives used to farm llamas and have a rich history of trading. San Pedro was on the Inca trail and was a main stopping point for tradespeople moving across the empire in 15th and 16th centuries. The Inca heritage was so strong here that Inca mummies (of three small children sacrificed) were discovered at the top of nearby Lullacollo Volcano. You only need to look to the Pukara de Quitor fort to see how developed civilization in San Pedro before the Spanish conquest.

Nowadays though, people from all over Chile and the world live in San Pedro de Atacama town. This is a real hub for tourism and one of the most visited destinations in Chile. The small town is relaxed and laid back, with a village charm.



Experience

During the day, musicians play in the main square and there are many open markets selling local artisan goods and crafts. During the evenings, bonfires are lit in restaurants so that you can enjoy the great outdoors while not getting too cold in the brisk desert temperatures.

Outside is certainly where you want to be at night as the Atacama has some of the clearest skies and best stargazing in the world. The international space project ALMA chose to make San Pedro its base because of the fabulous night viewing and dry conditions at high altitude. While you cannot visit ALMA's telescopes, you can use excellent telescopes in some hotels or just use the naked eye for superb stargazing. The Milky Way is perhaps at its brightest here, and many planets and constellations are visible most nights of the year.

Another nocturnal excursion you cannot miss is experiencing the local cuisine. Typical to this part of Chile is eating local delicacies like guanaco meat, quinoa, trying the local ricarica herb and chañar syrup. Accompany some hearty Atacama cuisine with a glass of warming Chilean Cabernet, and you'll be ready for the following day exploring the Atacama!



Where to Stay

If you are looking for adventure:
Explora (www.explora.com)

The original luxury hotel in San Pedro, Explora offers over 50 excursions to explore the Atacama. Five minutes from the town center with their own horse stables, you can ride horses, climb volcanoes, and trek through cactus valleys, or just relax in the beautiful gardens and hot springs.

If you are looking for romance:
Tierra (www.tierraatacama.com)

Take a private hot tub by candlelight under the stars while you sip on Chilean sparkling wine at this deluxe hotel. Each room has its own terrace and you can recuperate after a day out exploring the desert in their excellent spa or delighting in local cuisine at the restaurant.

If you are looking for nature:
Alto Atacama (www.altoatacama.com)

Next to the Pukara de Quitor, the Alto Atacama is nestled amongst the rocks and feels like you are in the middle of the desert. Beautifully landscaped gardens lead you to the outdoor pools, and you can take one of their many excursions that include nature spotting, local gastronomy and culture tours.

If you want to be in the center of the action:
Terrantai (www.terrantai.com)

This boutique hotel is in the center of San Pedro. Designed with local rocks in the traditional Atacama style, this small hotel has secluded gardens and shaded rooms. Best of all, you can see the church spires from the garden and are just one block from the main plaza.

Where to Eat

Baltinache, Domingo Atienza

With indigenous ingredients and cooking methods, Baltinache serves Altiplano-Mapuche fusion food in an imaginative set menu.

Adobe, Caracoles

With a beautiful patio and fireplace outside, Adobe has a warm and inviting atmosphere with Chilean cuisine and a traditional band playing each night.