

The surroundings of the INAOE (Santa María Tonantzintla)

INAOE is located in a small village named Santa María Tonantzintla, just a few kilometers away from San Pedro and San Andrés Cholula. As it is a very (very) small village there aren't many facilities. Nevertheless there is a wonderful church that is worth a visit and is only 5 minutes away from INAOE. There are no big supermarkets, but a few small shops where you can get fruit, cookies, chips and maybe some sandwiches. You might get some other stuff in the nearby village of San Francisco Acatepec (15 min walk). Anyway, due to the presence of the Institute, during the week, several stalls sell food (mainly sandwiches and typical Mexican food) on the street that leads to INAOE. You can get Mexican food almost anytime and anywhere. It is worth a try!, but be careful, if it is Mexican food, it will probably be spicy!

MAP OF THE ZONE



Where to eat

Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the week in the INAOE. Nevertheless there are a couple of places close to the Institute.

– “Era Ora”

Italian restaurant, pizza & pasta from 85 to 145 pesos per meal. The closest place to INAOE where one can get a “proper” expresso. (Standard coffee in Mexico is American style). It has 2x1 on Wednesdays. Schedule: 13.30 till 23.00, Monday to Saturday.

– There are also a pizza place that sell individual slices of pizza (17 pesos each) in the corner of San Miguelito church (see map) and a typical Mexican fast food restaurant in front of Tonantzintla hotel (see map). In this same place a street stall sells hamburgers and hot dogs every night.

– “Astrojugs”.

Mrs. Celia (“Señora Celia”) sells every morning natural juices of almost any kind of fruit(15\$), freshly squeezed, fruit cocktails (15\$) and sandwiches (~25\$). She stands in front of the entrance of the bungalows. Highly recommended!

Pharmacy

In case you need it (hopefully not) the INAOE has a Doctor (see INAOE MAP), and there is a small pharmacy relatively close (on the way to San Francisco Acatepec, 10 min walk) which may have what you need. If not, larger pharmacies can be found in Cholula.

MAP OF THE INAOE



Laundry

In case you needed, there is Laundry Service at the main entrance of the Village. See Map. The cost is 36 pesos for a minimum of 3 kg weight. It opens from 9.00 to 19.30.

From the INAOE to Cholula and way back

IMPORTANT!!! BUSES stop working at 21:30.

From Inaoe to Cholula

It is very easy to move from the INAOE to Cholula. The trip lasts from 10 to 15 min by bus (45 min if you feel like walking). From the corner that leads to the entrance of the INAOE (see map) we can take either the red buses (ANY) which cost 6 pesos, or the "Combi" (small buses, vans) that are a little bit cheaper, 5 pesos (the experience worths a try). There are no arranged bus stops. It is necessary to tell the driver to stop when desired. The closest stop to the Zócalo (main square) is the corner of Miguel Aleman Street with 5 Oriente. As a reference this corner is the same place to pick up the bus back to INAOE/Tonanzintla and there is a pharmacy in it. This same bus continues to San Andrés (10 more minutes) and ends in Puebla's main bus station (CAPU, 45 extra minutes).

Way back (From Cholula to the INAOE)

The way back is a bit trickier. The closest place to the Zócalo (main square) to pick the bus up is the above mentioned corner between "Miguel Alemán" and "5 Oriente" streets (the corner with the pharmacy). The problem is that, in this case, many buses stop in this corner. Again we can choose between the red bus (6 pesos) or the "combi" (5 pesos), but we **MUST BE SURE** that is the one in which we can read **TONANTZINTLA/INAOE** in the black and coloured panels. The buses commonly have all their destination written in their front glass, but is their direction that is written in the black panels. Those are the one we must pay attention to! Anyway, to be sure you can ask the driver. They are familiarized with the INAOE. :D

IMAGE OF THE BUS STOP/PHARMACY



TAXI

In Cholula it is common to negotiate the price of the lift before actually sitting in the taxi. The trip from San Pedro or San Andrés to Tonantzintla is around 50-60 pesos.

San Pedro Cholula

San Pedro is a much bigger village in which we can find supermarkets, plenty of restaurants and also plenty of night life. It has a big main square (Zócalo) and shares with San Andrés (the nearby village) the pyramid with the widest base in the world. That and the church built on top are mandatory visit. The view of the village and the volcanoes from the top is stunning! As a touristic place, the pyramid is surrounded by several souvenirs stores.

Where to eat

San Pedro is full of restaurants. In the zocalo you can find some classics as SUBWAY or DOMINO'S. There are plenty offers of Mexican food too, as the restaurant located between the previous two. An entire side of the Zócalo (see map) is full of cafeterias, where you can also order sandwiches, hamburgers and salads. Tacos Robert is the Mexican fast food alternative, with reasonable prices (30-50 pesos). For a different and better option the street "6 Norte", two streets away from the zocalo towards the pyramid, offers a large variety of restaurants a bit more expensive. "Cus Cus Cus" (Italian-like) is a very good option with prices from 100 to 150 per person.

Pharmacy

If you couldn't get the medicine you were looking for close to the INAOE, there are two options close to the Zócalo in San Pedro. One is the above mention corner where we pick up the bus to the INAOE (see map). The other one is located in "Hidalgo" street (also very close to the Zócalo) and is the largest one in town. If they cannot give you what you are looking for they will probably be able to order it for the next day.

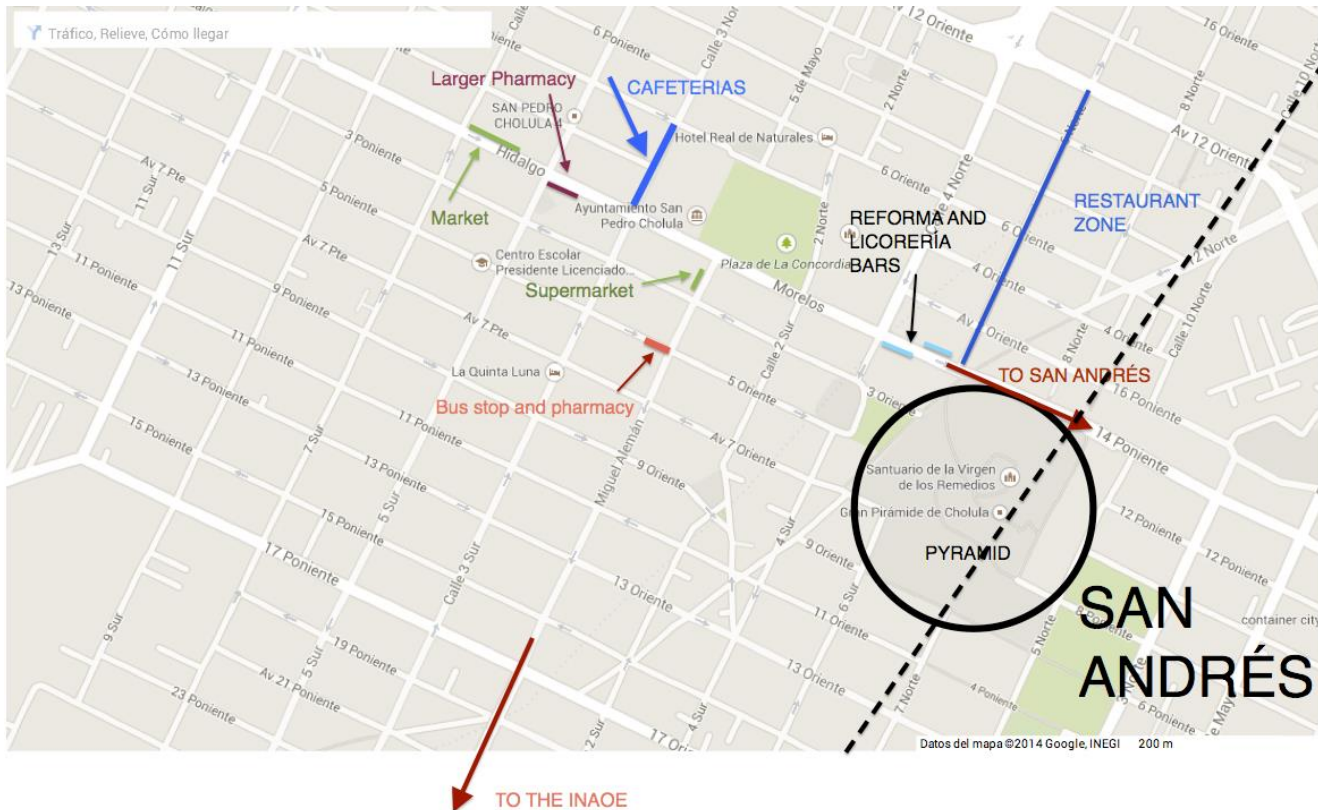
Supermarkets

There is a large supermarket in Miguel Alemán street, 20 meters away from the zócalo, and also a large market (fly market like) in Hidalgo street, where you can buy fresh food from the day (it worths a visit).

Where to drink

Although most of the night life is focused in San Andrés, there are also several offers in San Pedro too. "Reforma" bar and "La licorería" are nice choices to have a drink without moving far away from the Zocalo as they are located a few hundred meters away from the Zócalo, both in Morelos street (continuation of Hidalgo street).

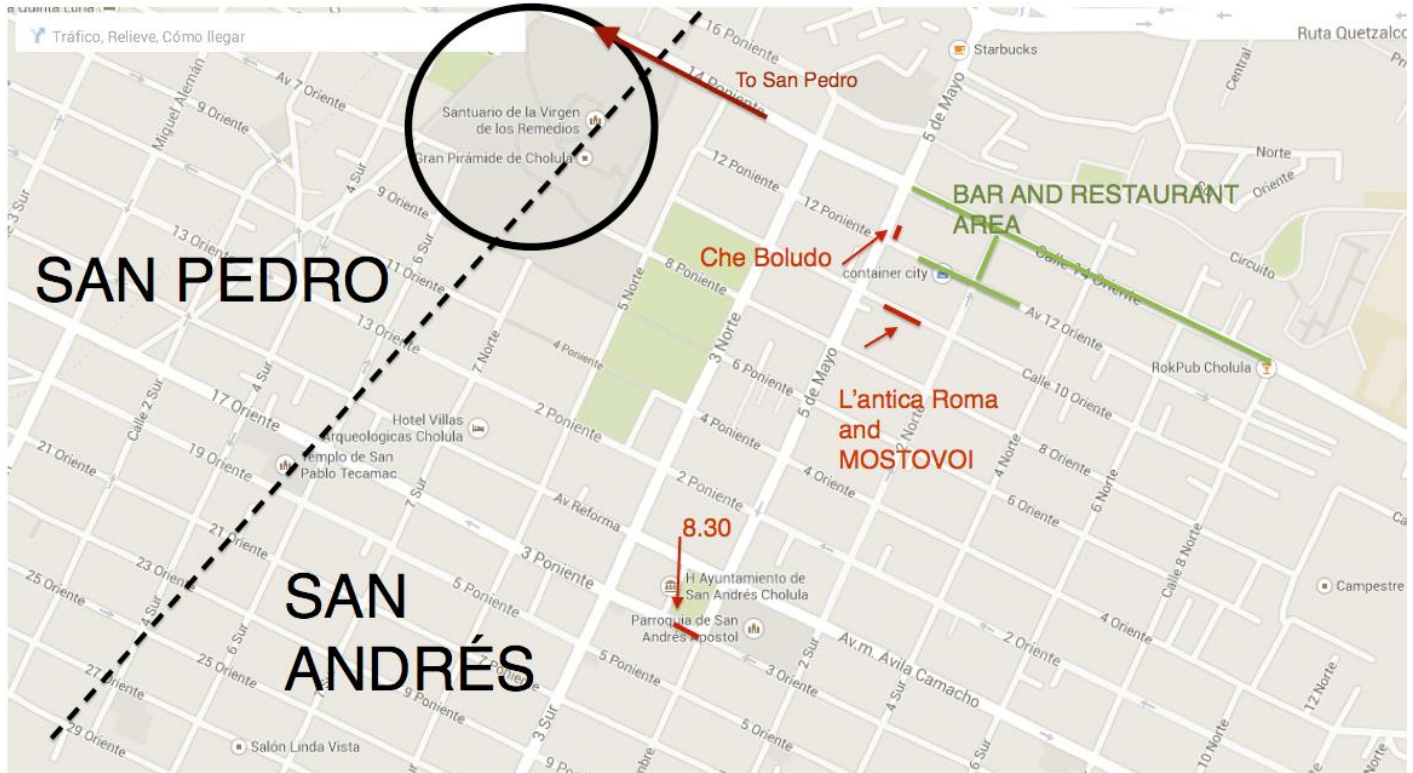
MAP OF THE ZONE



San Andrés Cholula

This nearby village (the boundary between San Pedro and San Andrés is not clear, not even for the inhabitants who fight for the ownership of the pyramid) holds several private universities, which are responsible for the active night life it shows. Within a 15 min walk from San Pedro's Zócalo we can find “La catorce” (“14 Oriente” street). This street has a large offer of bars and restaurants. The entire coloured region in the map is full of restaurants and bars.

MAP OF THE ZONE



Also, several nice restaurants can be found in this area and a bit further from the night life streets:

- **Che Boludo** and **L'antica Roma** are two very good pizza places with average prices (around 100-120 pesos per pizza).
- **8.30** is located in San Andrés zócalo, a bit further from the pyramid. The food is good and it is very popular between the people in Cholula. Prices are a bit higher. A meal can oscillate between 130 and 200 Mexican pesos.
- **Mostovoi**, also very popular between the people in Cholula, is a cafeteria/bakery that offers daily oven croissants, bagels and cookies. It also offers breakfast. Closed on Monday and Tuesday, the rest of the days it opens at 10.00 and closes around 21:00.