



San Pancho, Mexico

Jo and Lee 2023

San Pancho (San Francisco) is a rural Mexican coastal village north of Puerto Vallarta. It has 3000 residents plus all the gringos who go there in the winter.

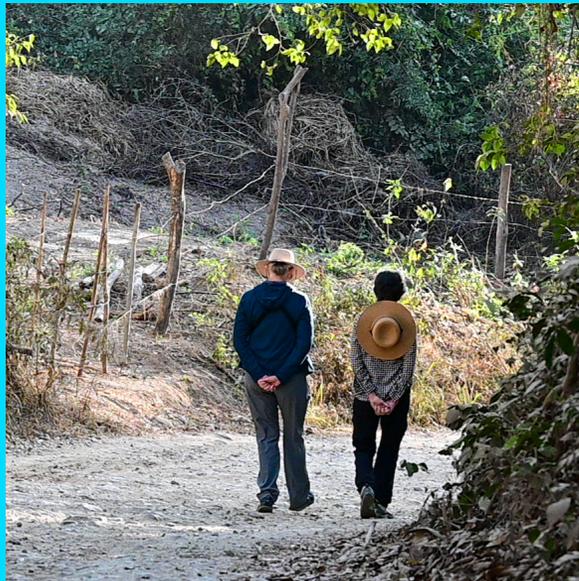
Its average high is 78 degrees and its average low is 62. There is almost always a cool breeze.

The main street (cobblestone) is filled with restaurants from low tech (tarp with barbeque grill) to upscale (chefs in uniform) in a mere 12 blocks. Our favorite meal is shrimp tacos.



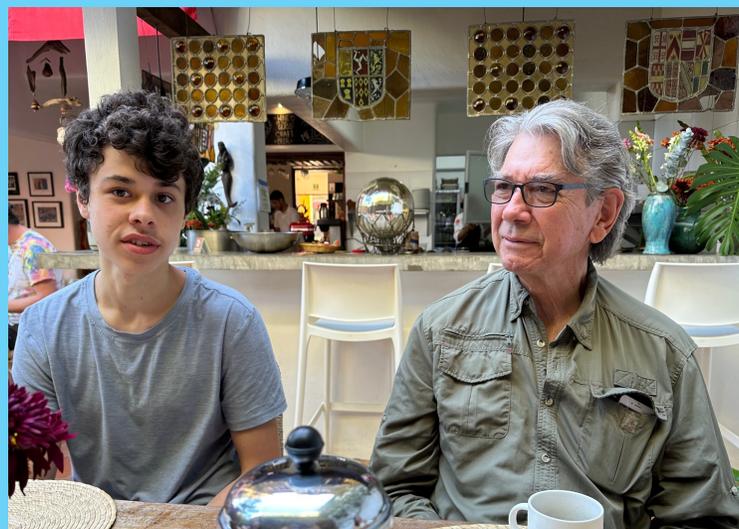


Friends Nora, Dave, Linny and Dennis partied with us for two weeks. We walked, went on birding and whale tours (Lee got seasick), ate tons, and laughed a lot. Linny did some wonderful drawings. Oh, yeh, and nightly margarita hour!





Then Rimma, Mike, and grandchildren (no longer children—grandadults?) Stassi and Andre were here for a week and made us take long, arduous hikes and jump big waves (elder abuse)! And, of course, margaritas. Do you see a theme?





Lots of old white people here, a few who live here year-round, but also a lot of young, educated Mexicans, Americans, Canadians, and Argentinians.

They come to surf, do art, help with community projects, wear bikinis, sell jewelry, wait tables, and play music (on various instruments—yes that is a horse's jawbone) in front of restaurant goers for tips.

No, we did not dance...





Luis and his son Quetzal lead birding trips and negotiate with developers to protect natural resources.



Gudi (Gudiel) is a waiter from Veracruz. He likes San Pancho and likes beer. Good man. No comment on the statue.



Lucile grew up in New Zealand, lived in 7 countries, has done triathlons, swims with sharks, and is going to learn to fly for her 60th birthday. She rents out villas here.



Frida is from Guadalajara. She is a known artist and works for EntreAmigos community center running the city recycle program.

Amanda came from Arizona 12 years ago. She's married to a Mexican and makes excellent falafel/hummus wraps from a tiny food cart.





We saw at least 50 species of birds that we had never seen before. And gorgeous butterflies!

There are also many dogs, most of whom are well cared for and friendly.

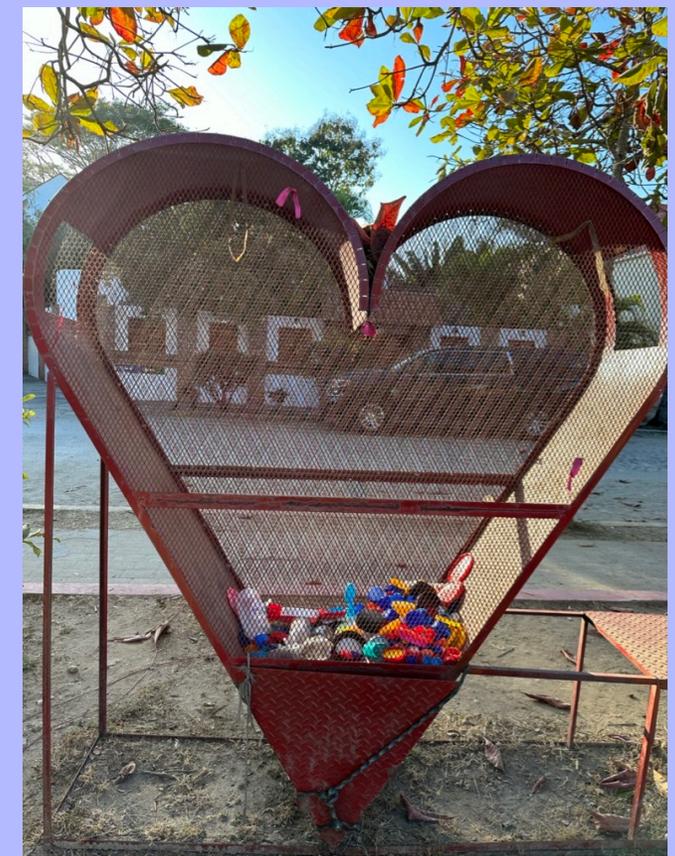
Iguanas (2 feet of body and 4 of tail) sleep in the trees with their legs hanging down!





<p>MISIÓN Entreamigos es un puente entre culturas y comunidades que brinda oportunidades educativas a los niños y familias de San Pancho para potenciar su capacidad intelectual, creativa, reflexiva y su conciencia ambiental.</p> <p>VISION Creemos en una comunidad sustentable que abraza la diversidad y cuenta con las habilidades necesarias para contribuir de manera positiva a su entorno social y natural.</p>	<p>BIENVENIDOS WELCOME</p> <p>entreamigos centro comunitario</p> <p>VALORES: Creatividad Amor Educación Conciencia Comunidad</p>	<p>MISSION entreamigos is a bridge between cultures and communities that provides educational opportunities to the children and families of San Pancho to maximize their intellectual, creative and reflexive abilities and promote environmental awareness.</p> <p>VISION Creemos en una comunidad sustentable que abraza la diversidad y cuenta con las habilidades necesarias para contribuir de manera positiva a su entorno social y natural.</p> <p>VALUES: Creativity Love Education Awareness Community</p>
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EntreAmigos is a community organization that provides a library/tutoring/game space for local kids. It also finds donors for scholarships for poor kids to pay high school and college tuition and expenses. AND it pays young adults to run the only recycling program in town.



Lots of food was available that one wouldn't suspect: barbeque, Italian, seafood, Mexican, Peruvian, pizza, Thai, etc.

There was a good produce market (veggies in photo cost \$9) and a good though limited meat market, complete with refrigerated case!

Most unusual dish: guacamole with grasshoppers!





Happy hours on our rooftop veranda were mostly about margaritas since good beer was scarce. Lee was the margarita maestro! Eventually we discovered two local brewers with passable IPA's as well as a couple of pretty good but scarce bottled beers. Thank god!

Murals were everywhere. Wendy Sanchez was a young woman who spoke out against the cartels. She disappeared two years ago. Businesses in San Pancho all have to pay a chunk to the cartels to stay in business.



We rented a (very small) boat to take us to see whales. A whale sang right by our boat for 5 minutes! Nora and I teared up, it was so moving!





Hasta luego! Until we
see you next year!