

the casita map

our san miguel — favorite sights, eats & deals

1. BELLAS ARTES Art & music school and courtyard café. One of the most beautiful places in San Miguel—to roam, have a coffee/lemonade/beer, read, write, stare off into space, etc.

1b. GARRISON AND GARRISON BOOKS

2. LA BUENA VIDA BAKERY & CAFE Great bread, breakfasts, salads, and patio. **LA VICTORIANA**—essential oils, lotions, homeopathic remedies, etc. **DIVA** unique, luxurious women's clothing & jewelry. **US CONSULATE** open 'til 1 pm.

2b. VIVOLI CAFE Excellent Italian food...

3. LA EUROPEA Liquor & other imported goodies. Best wine prices & selection.

4. VIAJES VERTIZ / AMERICAN EXPRESS Travel agency and Amex office.

5. MAMA MIA'S The Mother of SMA nightlife. Live music every night. Salsa dancing & lessons. 'Pila Seca,' our own very fun funk band, most weekends.

6. EL JARDIN/LA PARROQUIA The town square, in the shadow of our own pink gothic cathedral. *The* meeting place and general hub of pueblo activity. Across the street: **TOURIST INFO** (North side of el Jardin, on San Francisco.)

7. EL BAGEL CAFE Best bagels this side of New York. Good breakfasts & sandwiches, great enchiladas. Local hangout.

8. EL PEGASO Very varied menu, good food, great service, great Caesar Salad.

9. SAN AGUSTIN Tasty, inexpensive breakfasts & lunches. Try the *churros & chocolate caliente*... a very Mexican treat.

10. LA CUCARACHA BAR Famous for Jack Kerouac's visit, an absolute lack of ambiance, and the worst bathrooms this side of Calcutta. A truly mixed clientele. Gets going quite late. Home of **THE ULTIMATE SMA SOUVENIR T-SHIRT**.

11. MANOLO'S BAR In Casa Payo. Free internet and internet phone for clients.

12. LA PARROQUIA CAFÉ Best courtyard. At night: **LA BRASSERIE** Inexpensive food, great ambiance. also, **EL TECOLOTE BOOK STORE**. Spanish & English books.

13. EL BUEN CAFÉ Good food in a beautiful historic house, gorgeous courtyard.

14. LA GROTTA Best pizza in town. Calzone to die for. Upstairs ambiance.

15. TEN TEN PIE Inexpensive Mexican eatery. The best burrito in the pueblo.

16. CENADURIA Affordable, traditional Mexican food. Three kinds of Posole.

17. VIAJES SAN MIGUEL TRAVEL/SHUTTLE AGENCY Through the archway, on right.

18. EL RECREO Great cultural resource — dance classes, concerts, shows, etc.

north a bit...

19. BONANZA. Fab little grocery store, all sorts of unusual goodies. (Seeds, nuts, flours, tofu, spices, imported stuff, etc.)

20. LA BIBLIOTECA / THE LIBRARY Books in English and Spanish, courtyard café, movie theatre, gift shop, conversational Spanish classes, y mucho mas...

21. EL MERCADO The main town market: fresh produce, flowers, hats, clothes, etc. *A very Mexican experience.* Behind that...

21b. EL MERCADO DE ARTESANIAS Huge artisan's market that rambles down the hill. Much of the same stuff as the stores, but cheaper.

22. OLÉ OLÉ Funky little bullfighting-themed restaurant. Delish cheap fajitas. Great ambiance.

23. MOONRISE HEALTH Quality vitamins, herbs and beauty products.

24. ART SUPPLIES El Pato, low prices. **SHOE REPAIR** next door. (Margarito Ledesma # 19, Colonia Guadalupe.) & **VIA ORGANICA** organic store/café.

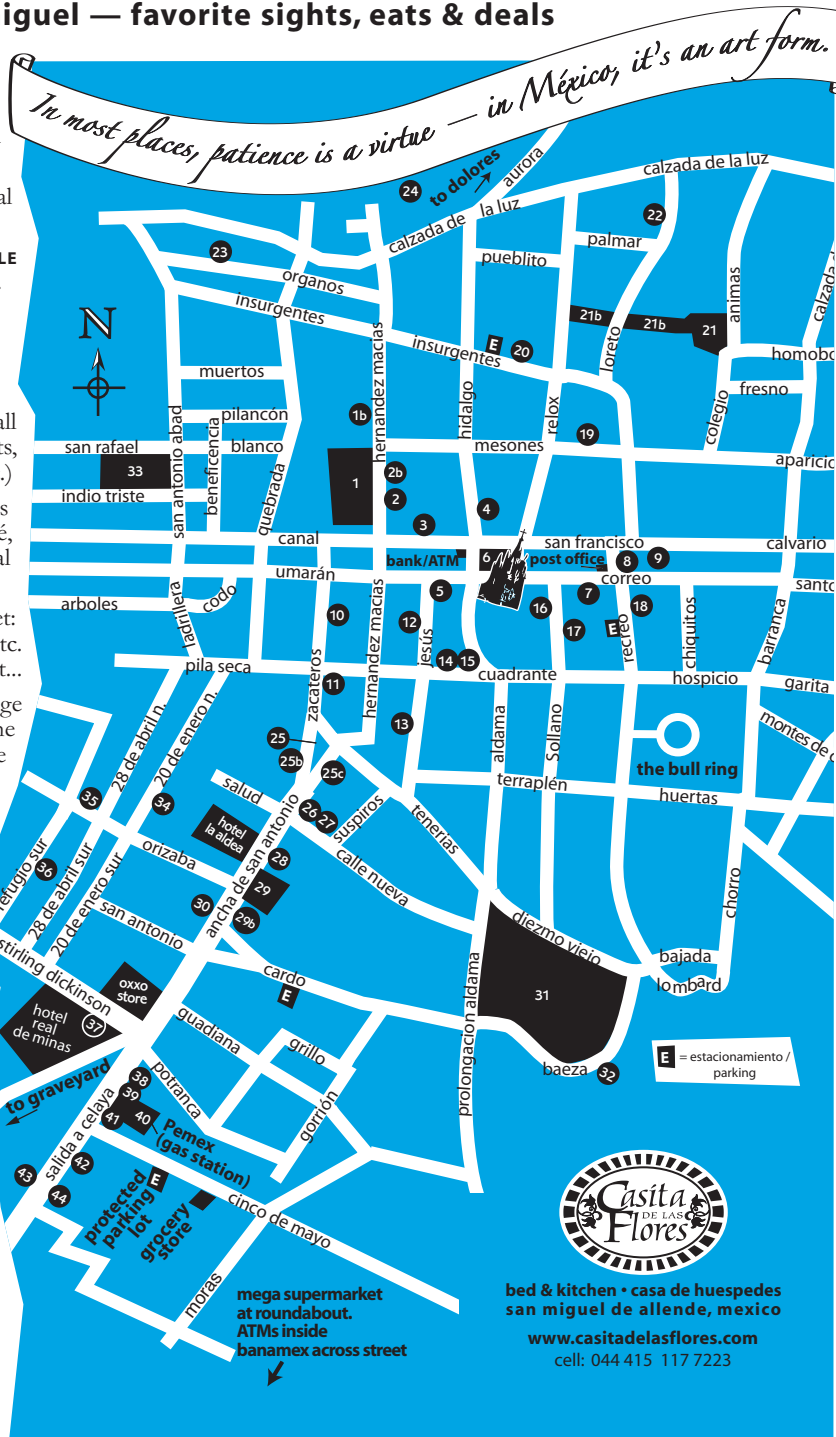
and south a bit...

25. LA CAVA Delectable deli. Cheeses, meats, & gourmet goodies galore.

25b. LEBANESE FOOD Falafel comes to San Miguel, courtesy of two lovely women. Great middle-eastern treats.. Try the mixed plate & the kibbe.

25c. MARIA OFELIA SPA. Facials, manicures, waxes, etc. Good prices, great people.

26. ESPINO'S SUPERMARKET. Fresh flowers and veggies also sold out front most mornings.



27. LA PALAPA Fish tacos & cold beer. Across the *calle*, **NATURA ORGANIC FOODS** eggs, veggies, and other healthy staples..

28. HECHO EN MEXICO Hopping restaurant bar. Good food, pleasant ambiance, lots of expats.

29. INSTITUTO ALLENDE Spanish & art school, cute café. Don't miss the gardens & the view from the North terrace!

29b. LOS FAROLES Tacos, etc. Nice patio.

30. TORTITLAN Popular, inexpensive, & authentic *tortas* (Mexican sandwiches). Free delivery—call 152-8931.

31. PARQUE JUAREZ Our park. Great for walks & basketball. Kids' play area. Site of February's Candelaria flower & plant sale. *Like any park, anywhere, don't wander there alone at night...*

32. VILLA SANTA MONICA HOTEL Lovely patio for a leisurely breakfast (served 'til noon). Try the Huevos a la Diabla.

west of zacateros/ancho de san antonio (north to south)

33. SAN JUAN DE DIOS MERCADO Big market. Produce, flowers, clothing, & much more. A treat for (or assault on) the senses, especially around Christmas.

34. CHA CHA CHA Fab, very authentic Mexican food, great prices. Fun ambiance, lovely owners. (Corner of Calle 28 de Abril and Calle Rosal.)

35. PIZZA JUANITA Yummy, inexpensive pizza, pasta and calzone. Upstairs dining patio or free delivery. 154-5148

36. EL RINCONCITO Delicious, healthy and very inexpensive Mexican food and hamburgers. Closed Tuesdays.

37. ATM Next to Hotel Real de Minas.

38. LONGHORN BBQ Downhome vittles, local breads. Thursday is cheap steak nite & packed w/ expats. Get there early.

39. LAUNDROMAT Closed Sundays. Next door: **TINTA Y PAPEL NEWSSTAND**.

40. OXXO/PEMEX Convenience store/ gas station. Get yer **PHONE CARDS** here.

41. QUANDO PRODUCE STORE Next to the Pemex They still haven't & may never paint over the last tenants' sign.

42. LA BRASILLA TACOS Hopping, cheap, delish taco (etc.) paradise. Open evenings only, from 7:00 pm. on.

43. EL PANADIENSE Great little bakery. French bread, whole wheat *bolillos*.

44. CAFE DEL SOL Our own sidewalk cafe. Food, drink & free internet. Stone building next door: **CARMEN'S** *Muy barato*, good Mexican *comida* (lunch only).

other spots off this map

ON THE ROUNDABOUT, south of us, a cheap and easy meal: yummy grilled chicken at **EL POLLO FELIZ** (Not-so-yummy atmosphere—unless you're into white-tiled, barn-style mega-chicken emporia—get it to go!) and first-worldesque shopping at the **MEGA (EYESORE) SUPERMARKET**. Just south of the Mega, on the road to celaya: **THE GYM**. Only \$50 pesos for a day pass.

UP THE BIG HILL TO THE EAST: the new **MALL & CINEMAS**. Across the way you'll find **LA PLACITA** (the Tuesday Market) a raucous and wonderful weekly festival...produce, fresh fish, antiques, traditional medicines, bootleg CD's, mountains of used clothing, & even lunch for the brave. **EL JARDIN BOTANICO** Gorgeous, peaceful place for leisurely walking, serious hiking, even a bit of rock climbing. Don't even dream of missing the conservatory! It's a thing of beauty.

HOT SPRINGS/BALNEARIOS. A lovely way to spend a day, even in winter. Cool, warm or hot pools, gardens, picnic areas, food & drink, etc. Our faves: **ESCONDIDO PLACE** great gardens (you can bring your own picnic) and **LA GRUTTA** lots of pools (full restaurant—you *cannot* bring your own food).

Arrange for a taxi to take you and pick you up later, or be brave and hop a bus to Dolores Hidalgo and tell the driver where you want to get off. Flag down a San Miguel bus to get back. Around the corner from La Grutta Hot Springs is **ATOTONILCO**. Rustic little village. World Heritage Site church, with cool ruins to the left. (Home to some rather hard-core believers—self-flagellation, crowns of thorns, etc.) Their Sunday market is fascinating.