



Amistad—"friendship" in Spanish—lies on the United States-Mexico border. The park offers excellent water sports, fishing, birding, canoeing, and bow hunting. The reservoir was created for flood control, water storage, power generation, and recreation in 1969 with the completion of Amistad Dam. Two bronze eagles at the dam's center symbolize the cooperation between Mexico and the United States in building and managing the dam. The park extends 81 miles up the Rio Grande, 14 miles up the Pecos River, and 25 miles up Devils River.

Amistad National Recreation Area (NRA) protects and interprets exceptional examples of Lower Pecos River rock art, one of the densest concentrations of Archaic rock art in North America. The Panther Cave archeological site, jointly protected by Amistad NRA and Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site, is seven miles from the Pecos River boat ramp and accessible only by boat. The spectacular Panther Cave pictograph panel is 100 feet long and contains figures 18 feet high. The National Park Service provides a public boat dock and steps that lead to Panther Cave.

Amistad Dam is operated and maintained jointly by the United States and Mexico sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission. The commission transferred ownership of the land on the United States side of Amistad Reservoir to the National Park Service in 1990, when Congress designated the area Amistad National Recreation Area. Today Amistad's mild temperatures make the area a popular winter destination, and good fishing is enjoyed year-round. Welcome to—Bienvenido a—Amistad!



Amistad Reservoir has 540 miles of shoreline in Texas. The Rio Grande is navigable for about 75 miles behind the dam. You can try boating, waterskiing, fishing, or camping.

Archeological sites also attract many visitors. The international boundary follows a line of mid-channel buoys along the historic riverbed.

The park offers year-round adventure. You can explore the lake and the Pecos and Devils rivers in motorboats, sailboats, kayaks, houseboats, and

scuba gear. Water temperatures drop to 54°F in winter and rise to 84°F in summer. Enjoy swimming from May to October.

Indian tribes have lived here for thousands of years, hunting, fishing, and gathering other food. Many left their stories in rock art—pictographs—that are

some of the oldest in North America. Carbon-dating reveals that some pictographs in Panther Cave are 3,500 years old.

Steep limestone cliffs, some over 200 feet high, rise above the Pecos River and the upper Rio Grande arms of the reservoir. Carved by the rivers

over millennia, exposed layers tell the region's geologic history. Shell fossils reveal that this area was once covered by a shallow, inland sea.

Steady winds on the reservoir make sailing a joy.

The peninsula and coves (above) are just a portion of the reservoir's 350-mile shoreline in Mexico. To visit Mexico, drive across the dam or the bridge

in Del Rio, Texas. You must have your passport to return to the United States.

Getting To Know the Plants and Animals

Plants Three plant communities coexist in Amistad. Honey mesquite (far right), blackbrush, and guajillo of the South Tamaulipan

Thornscrub meet yuccas, sotol, and lechuguilla (far right) of the Chihuahuan Desert to the west. Both merge into the live oak and juniper savannah of the Edwards Plateau to

the north. Topography, soil type, and rainfall determine where each ecotype grows best, but they often mingle. Drought-tolerant plants include ceniza (far right), prickly pear cactus (middle), yucca, and ocotillo (below).

Largemouth bass



Crappie

Striped bass

Sunfish

Channel catfish

Alligator gar

Fish Largemouth, white, and striped bass, crappie, yellow and channel catfish, and alligator gar are popular catches.

Texas and/or Mexico fishing licenses are required in their respective waters. Know and obey the regulations.

Other Animals

Animals commonly seen here are white-tailed deer, raccoon, rock squirrel, black-tailed jackrabbit, ringtail, Texas banded gecko, and nine-banded armadillo (below).

Poisonous Critters

Watch for western diamondback, Mexican black-tailed, and rock rattlesnakes, Trans-Pecos copperheads, Texas coral snakes, yellow jacket wasps, centipedes, scorpions, and black widow and recluse spiders. Tarantulas



Tarantula



Scorpion

are not poisonous but can inflict painful bites. Please be careful. Don't put your hands or feet in places you can't see.

Birds Amistad has excellent habitat for resident and migratory birds. Look for great blue heron, scaled quail, turkey vulture, roadrunner, and an occasional peregrine falcon.

Turkey vulture

Ocotillo

Great blue heron

American coot

Nopal (prickly pear) cactus

Scaled quail

Black-tailed jackrabbit

Trans-Pecos copperhead

Javelina (collared peccary)

Texas banded gecko

Rock squirrel

Western diamondback

Killdeer

Roadrunner

Ceniza

White-tailed deer

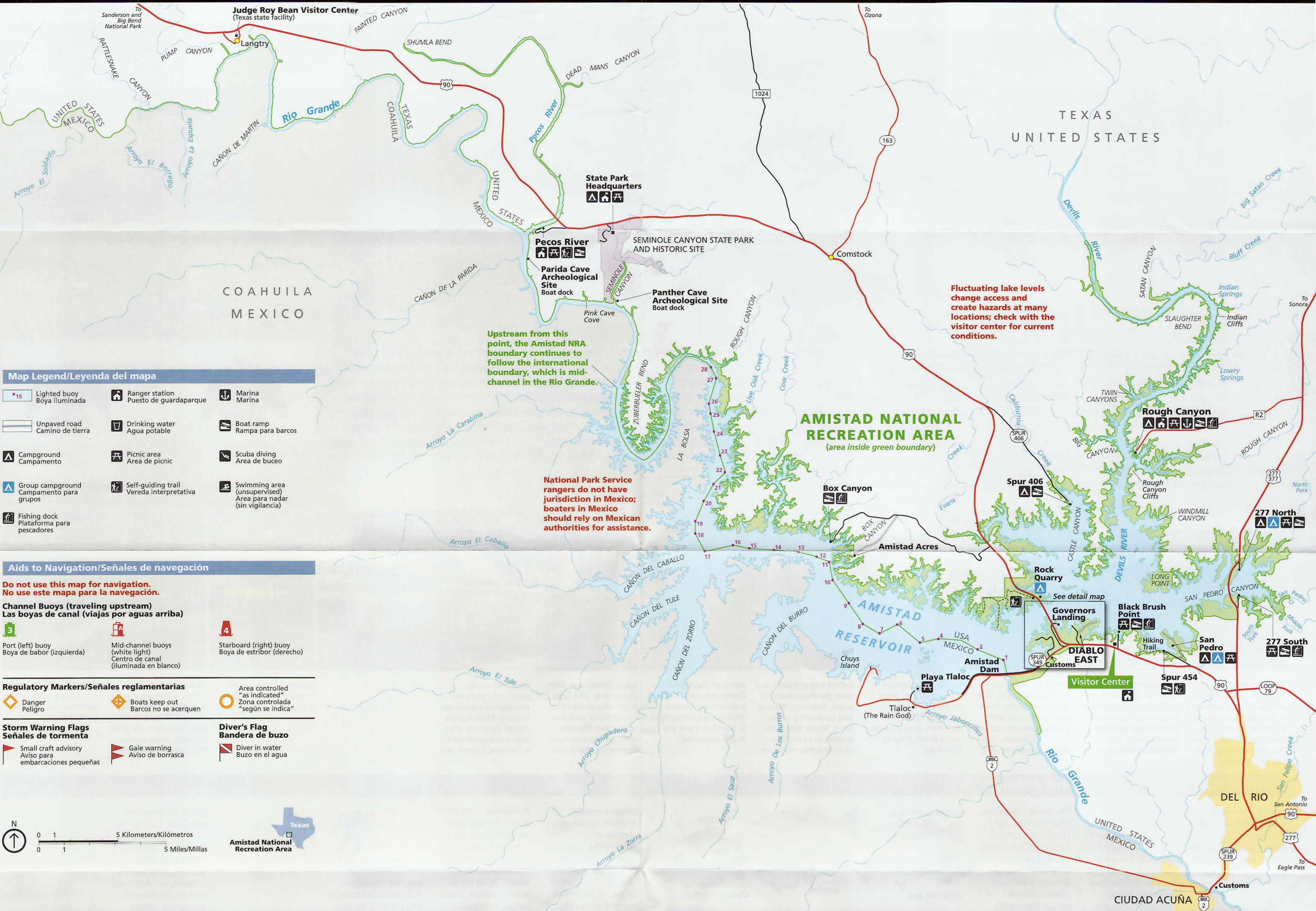
Lechuguilla

Ringtail

Texas coral snake

Honey mesquite

Enjoying Amistad



Planning Your Visit

Getting Here Amistad National Recreation Area is west of San Antonio, via US 90 or US 277.

Visitor Center Find information, exhibits, films, and a bookstore here. Open daily, 8 am to 4:30 pm, year-round.

The National Park Service oversees facilities, interpretive programs, and protection of cultural and natural resources on the US side of the reservoir.

Fees Boating, camping, and hunting fees apply. Other fees may apply. National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes are honored. Entrance to the park is free.

Services Food, lodging, gas stations, and RV parks are in Del Rio and along US 90.

Traveling to Mexico If you travel to Mexico you must have a passport to return to the United States. Carrying firearms or ammunition into Mexico is prohibited.

Camping Campgrounds with shelters, tables, and grills are available (no hookups). Only Governors Landing has drinking water. Camp in designated sites only. Camping by boat is allowed except at designated harbors and at boat ramps, developed areas, hunt areas during hunting season, and on private property next to the lake. Commercial campgrounds with full facilities are nearby.

Swimming The park has no designated swim beaches. You may swim anywhere except at designated harbors and at boat ramps. Governors Landing picnic area is a popular swimming spot. There are no lifeguards; swim at your own risk.

Waterskiing Waterskiing is allowed from sunrise to sunset only. Along with the boat operator, a competent observer must be aboard. Waterskiing is prohibited at designated harbors and at boat ramps.

Fishing A Texas fishing license is required when fishing in US waters; state regulations apply. A Mexican fishing license is required by everyone in the boat if there is fishing gear on board when you are on the reservoir's Mexican side.

Hunting Archery-only hunting for white-tailed deer, javelina, turkey, feral hog and exotics (mouflon and aoudad sheep, axis deer, black-buck antelope) is allowed in five designated areas. A National Park Service

(NPS) hunting permit and Texas hunting license are required; all regulations apply. Hunting with shotgun and birdshot only is allowed in hunt areas for dove, waterfowl, and quail in season.

Private Property Amistad National Recreation Area's boundary is at the 1,144-foot elevation. A high-water mark is visible at about the 1,124-foot level. Respect the rights of private property owners next to the lake.

Cultural Resources Federal and state laws, are strictly enforced to protect all cultural features.

More Information Amistad National Recreation Area 10477 Highway 90 W Del Rio, TX 78840 830-775-7491 www.nps.gov/amis

Amistad National Recreation Area is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more, visit www.nps.gov.

Diablo East Detail Map



Boating

The park has 12 public boat ramps. The most popular are Diablo East, Black Brush Point, Rough Canyon, Box Canyon, and Pecos River. Launch boats at designated ramps only. An NPS lake-use pass is required for all motorboats and for sailboats longer than 14 feet. Buy them at Diablo East and Rough Canyon, or at the visitor center.

Boating Safety Pay attention to the weather. Use a weather radio and monitor the sky. Expect sudden strong winds

with gusts 60 to 80 mph. Get to shore or move to a protected cove and wait for the storm to subside. Always carry emergency equipment, including warm clothing, food, water, a flashlight, and enough fuel. If you capsize, stay with the boat—it is easier to find you.

More Safety Tips Real dangers exist here. Know and obey boating rules and regulations. Your safety is your responsibility.

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information go to a visitor center, ask a ranger, call, or check our website.