



Rough Canyon Campground



Devils Lake Hydro Plant

Operational from 1928 until 1965, this dam is now submerged beneath Amistad Reservoir near the site of the Rough Canyon Campground.

Welcome

Welcome to the National Park Service Rough Canyon Campground. Here is some general information to assist you in getting the most out of your camping experience during your stay with us. Campsites are open year round on a first-come, first-served basis, no reservations. Each campsite is \$4 per night and America the Beautiful Interagency Senior and Access Pass holders pay half-price. Sites have picnic tables, grills, and shade ramadas.

Campground Facilities and Rules

Please be sure to register and pay the fee up at the Ranger Station automatic fee machine (by the large flag pole). The camp host will make regular rounds to record your plate numbers and day(s) of camping.

As in our other campgrounds, generator hours are 6AM – 10PM. Please respect our quiet hours.

Please don't feed any wild animals, including the feral cats. Don't leave any food outside uncovered, it will be taken by the wild animals and their behavior may be unpredictable if you appear during their free meal.

Please pick up your own trash. Covered trash bins are provided. The trash bins will be emptied frequently by NPS employees. Sometimes the wind can get quite strong so be sure you don't leave anything outside that you don't want to blow away, including trash.

The restrooms in the parking lot just uphill from the campground entrance are open 24/7 for your use. Flush toilets and running potable wash water (no hot water) are available.

Pay showers are available nearby and are managed by the Rough Canyon Marina. Contact the marina personnel in the office across the street from the campground for directions and fees.

Potable drinking water may also be obtained at the fish cleaning station.

In case of any emergency call 911. The Val Verde Sheriff Office dispatcher has direct radio contact with National Park Service Park Rangers. Please report illegal or suspicious activity you see to the Sheriff Office dispatcher by calling 830-774-7513.

The Rough Canyon Visitor Information Center (VIC) will be open from 10AM – 3PM most Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays until Easter. If you need campground related assistance at any other time when it is closed, call the main Visitor Information Center, located on Hwy 90, at 830-775-7491, ext. 0.

No dumping of any waste or sewer water is permitted in the campground. The National Park Service provides a free RV dump station located at the Diablo East Developed Area off Highway 90, 10 miles west of Del Rio.

The marina store has limited grocery items and fishing supplies available for sale.

A lake use permit is required for boating on Lake Amistad. They may be purchased at the automated fee machine where you purchased your camping permit. A Texas fishing license is required for fishing. The lake is patrolled by the National Park Service and by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Pets are welcome, but must be restrained at all times on a leash 6 feet or less.

Ground fires are **PROHIBITED**. Use established grills or camp stoves. Gathering dead and down wood is permitted, but is very limited.

Stay limit per park campground is 14 days with a park maximum of 60 days from July to June (12 month period).

Scuba diving on the three submerged hydro plants is prohibited for safety reasons.

We appreciate your assistance. Enjoy your camping.

History

In 1927 the Central Power and Light Company decided to construct three individual power plants along the Devils River: The Devils Lake Hydro Plant (located at the site of the Rough Canyon Campground), the Lake Walk Hydro Plant (located several miles downstream from Rough Canyon Campground), and the Steam Plant (located across from the present location of the South Winds Marina near the mouth of the Devils River). The L.E. Myers Construction Company began construction of the Devils Lake Hydro Plant in March of 1928. The dam was 45 feet high and 850 feet long. The dam was constructed from limestone blocks cut from the cliffs of the Devils River and hoisted into place using an overhead crane. The massive blocks had ridges cut into the edges allowing the blocks to lock into each other, increasing structural integrity. As the dam neared completion in December of 1928, engineers began testing on the dam's generators that converted river flow into electricity. The first successful test of these generators occurred on December 9, 1928. Shortly after its completion, Central Power and Light established permanent housing for the plant operators and their families.

During the years following construction of the Devils Lake Hydro Plant, several major floods took place, in 1932, 1948, and 1954. The 1954 flood inflicted extensive damage to the Devils Lake Hydro Plant. Repairs were made over the next several months, and the Devils Lake Hydro Plant remained operational until December of 1965, when the power plant was shut down. Amistad Dam became operational three years later, in December of 1968. Amistad Reservoir reached conservation level in 1972, submerging all three power plants on the Devils River, the Devils Lake Hydro Plant, the Lake Walk Hydro Plant, and the Steam Plant.



Construction of the Devils Lake Power Plant in 1928.
(Photo Courtesy of Whitehead Museum)



Lake Walk Hydro Plant, located several miles downstream from Rough Canyon Campground, was submerged by Amistad Reservoir in 1972.

Group Sites

Three group campsites are available: Rock Quarry, San Pedro, and 277 North. Group sites are available **BY RESERVATION ONLY** no more than 90 days in advance for 15 persons or more.

Group sites are \$2 per person per night, with a 15 person minimum charge (no Senior or Access Pass holder discount). Fees must be paid when site is reserved.

Reservations should be made in person at the Amistad Visitor Information Center, or by phoning: 830-775-7491, ext. 0.

All camping regulations apply.

Group Picnic Sites are located at San Pedro and Rough Canyon. Reservations required; no fee.

Please Note

Possession and use of loaded firearms, pellet guns, sling shots, archery equipment, fireworks, or other explosives are **PROHIBITED**.

Vehicles may only be operated and parked on pavement and established roads; off-road driving is **PROHIBITED**. All vehicles must be street-legal.

Natural and Cultural Features are protected. Do not disturb wildlife, plants, rocks, fossils, or artifacts. Use of metal detectors is prohibited.

Other rules and regulations apply. Please ask us in person or by phone if you have any questions. We want you to have a safe and enjoyable stay.

Visitor Information Center, US Hwy 90 W, six miles west of the Hwy 90 and 277 N intersection
Open: Everyday 8 am to 4:30 pm Amistad National Recreation Area 830.775.7491 ext 0
www.nps.gov/amis
