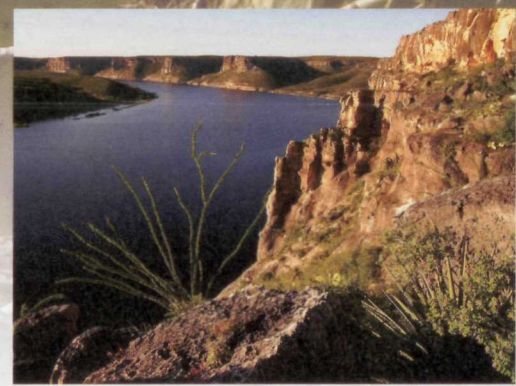




Amistad—"friendship" in Spanish—lies on the United States-Mexico border. The park offers excellent water sports, fishing, birding, canoeing, and bow hunting. The reservoir was created for flood control, water storage, power generation, and recreation in 1969 with the completion of Amistad Dam. Two bronze 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. Boating, water-skiing, fishing, camp-

ing, and archeological sites are major attractions. 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. People 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. Fossilized shells 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 meet at Amistad. Honey mesquite (see far right) and blackbrush of the South Texas Brush-

lands converge on 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. Topog-

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

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, javelina, rock squirrel, black-tailed jackrabbit, ringtail, Texas banded gecko, and nine-banded armadillo (see illustration).

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

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

Nine-banded armadillo

Black-tailed jackrabbit

Trans-Pecos copperhead

Scaled quail

Nopal (prickly pear) cactus

Alligator gar

Sunfish

Channel catfish

Largemouth bass

Striped bass

Crappie

Javelina (collared peccary)

Killdeer

Roadrunner

Rock squirrel

Texas banded gecko

Western diamondback

Ceniza

Ringtail

White-tailed deer

Lechuguilla

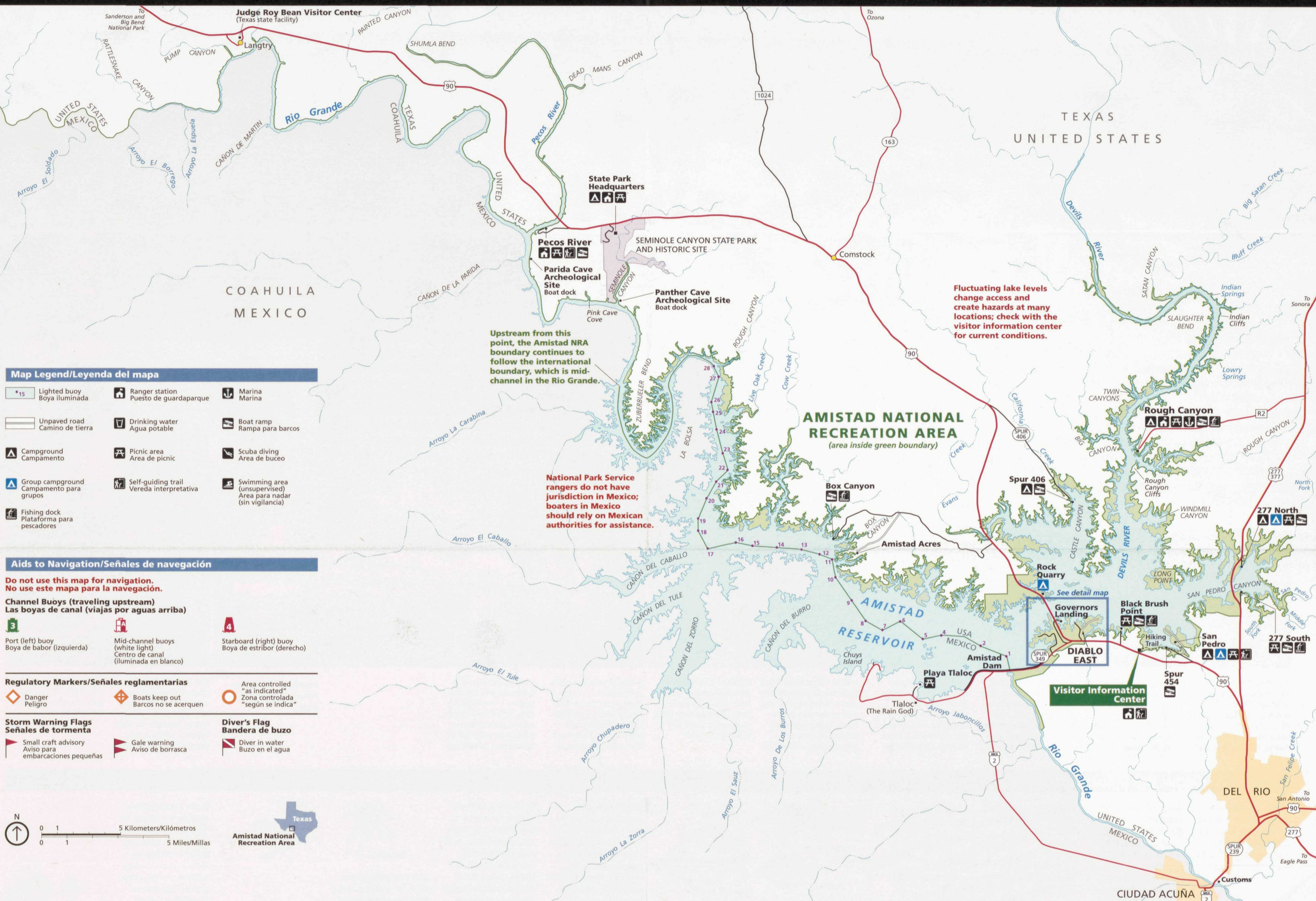
Texas coral snake

Honey mesquite

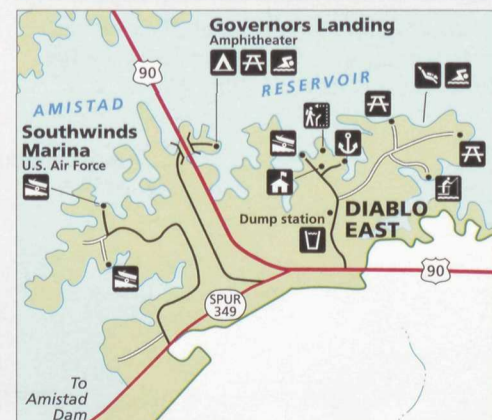
Tarantula

Scorpion

Enjoying Amistad



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 permit is required for all motorboats and for sailboats longer than 14 feet. Buy them at Diablo East, Rough Canyon, and Pecos River, or at the visitor information center.

Boating Safety Pay attention to the weather. Use a weather radio and monitor the sky. Strong winds with gusts 60 to 80 mph can suddenly arise. Get to shore quickly. If you get caught, 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.

Remember, your safety is your responsibility.

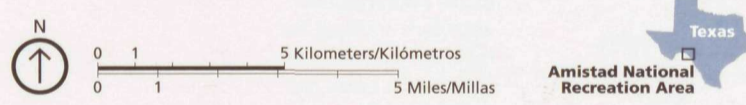
- It is illegal to operate vessels recklessly, negligently, or under the influence of intoxicants or narcotics.
- Vessels must maintain flat wakes in designated harbors. Operators are responsible for damage caused by their boat wake.
- Vessels must stay 100 feet from swimmers, down waterskiers, and divers' flags.

More Safety Tips Real dangers exist here. Know and obey boating rules and regulations.

Fluctuating lake levels change access and create hazards at many locations; check with the visitor information center for current conditions.

Upstream from this point, the Amistad NRA boundary continues to follow the international boundary, which is mid-channel in the Rio Grande.

National Park Service rangers do not have jurisdiction in Mexico; boaters in Mexico should rely on Mexican authorities for assistance.



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