



## Boating



NPS PHOTO

From open water to narrow, steeply walled canyons, Amistad Reservoir is a great place for boating. The park boundary extends 74 miles up the Rio Grande, 25 miles up the Devils River, and 14 miles up the Pecos River.

### Boating at Amistad

Amistad offers crystal blue waters against a varied and beautiful backdrop. With boundaries extending up riverways, boaters can experience water-carved canyons in addition to wide-open lake waters. Since Lake Amistad is a reservoir in an arid location, its water

level can drop severely and expose hidden infrastructure from before the lake existed. To protect your boat and its occupants, it is important to know *how your vessel handles, what the daily lake level is, and where hazards may be lurking near the surface.*

### Lake Use Passes

On the US portion of Lake Amistad, every vessel requiring a state registration also must have an Amistad Lake Use Pass. As part of the federal government's Fee Demonstration Program, 80% of the Lake Use Pass fees remain at the park to fund recreation-related projects, such as improvements to boat ramps, docks, and other park facilities.

**Daily Passes** Daily passes are a receipt that must be carried aboard the vessel at all times of operation. Passes are non-refundable, non-transferable, and may not be sold, traded, or given away.

**Annual Passes** Annual passes are valid for one full year from the month they were purchased. The pass is an oval-shaped sticker that must be affixed to the boat behind (aft of) the state boat registration numbers on

the port (left) side. The rectangular sticker should be placed on the left side of your boat trailer, high enough to keep it out of the water if possible, such as on the winch housing. The Amistad Annual Lake Use Pass is also honored at these regional National Park Service sites:

- Lake Meredith National Recreation Area near Fritch, TX
- Chickasaw National Recreation Area near Sulphur, OK

Learn more about Amistad's fee program and how your fees are used at the park, visit <https://go.nps.gov/amis/fees>.

*The National Park Service is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen passes.*



Approximate locations for placement of the oval Lake Use Pass and accompanying boat trailer stickers.

Please note that the actual Lake Use Pass sticker may differ from this example in color and/or design.

## Purchasing a Lake Use Pass

Passes can be purchased at the fee machines located at most boat ramps. Fee machines dispense daily or annual pass receipts. An annual pass receipt *must be exchanged at the Visitor Center for a permanent Lake Use Pass decal within 14 days*, or it will become invalid. Annual Lake Use Passes can also be purchased online at Pay.gov.

Passes are also available for purchase inside the Visitor Center during normal hours of operation. For information about hours, please visit <https://go.nps.gov/amis/vc>.

## Special Considerations

Buoys mark the international border along the historic channel of the Rio Grande. Above Buoy 28, the border is the mid-channel of the lake and river. Since Lake Amistad spans both sides of this boundary, it is an international body of water under two separate jurisdictions and their respective laws and regulations.

**United States** The US side of the buoys is regulated by the same boating laws as the rest of Texas. If a vessel is motorized or is over 14 feet in length, it must be registered with the State. In addition, the following is required:

- One readily accessible, USCG-approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) per passenger, plus one Type IV/throwable PFD. (*Children up to age 13 must wear a PFD while the vessel is underway.*)
- Fire extinguisher.
- Horn, bell, or whistle.
- Navigation lights (when operating between the hours of sunset and sunrise).
- At least one oar for rowing (not required, but HIGHLY recommended).

## Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Zebra and Quagga mussels are small non-native aquatic hitchhikers among many other non-native species identified as Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). AIS are invading freshwater habitats at an alarming rate and can clog engine intakes, obstruct propellers and impellers, disrupt native food chains, and alter fishery resources.

Boaters can help prevent the spread of AIS by following these procedures every time:

- Before launching, remove all mud and plant and animal material from the boat and inspect all exposed surfaces, including the hull.
- Wash the hull with high-pressure soapy water, drain all water from the boat, live well, and lower unit and allow everything to dry for a week. Don't forget to clean and dry fishing gear and bait buckets.
- If you are participating in a fishing tournament and arriving from out of town, please have your boat inspected for AIS by park staff before launching into the reservoir.

## Learn More

The Visitor Center is located 7 miles west of Del Rio and 6 miles west of the Highway 90/Highway 277 intersection. It's address is 10477 U.S. Highway 90W, Del Rio, TX 78840.

The park only accepts credit/debit cards at the Visitor Center, at fee machines, and throughout the park.

**Access and Sr Pass Discount** America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Annual, Senior Lifetime, and Access pass holders may purchase any Lake Use Pass at half-price for vessels registered in their name. Information on Interagency Senior and Access passes is available at the Amistad Visitor Center or at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/fees>.

**Mexico** Boaters on the Mexico side of these markers are required to abide by Mexico's laws. At this time, Mexico requires all boaters to have valid and unexpired passports (passport cards are accepted if not offboarding in Mexico). A visa is not required when staying less than 180 days. Other paperwork may be required.

Additional information about boating on Lake Amistad are available at <https://go.nps.gov/amis/boating>. Links to both USA/Texas and Mexico regulations will be updated there as available.



Buoys mark the historic riverbed of the Rio Grande, which is also the international border.

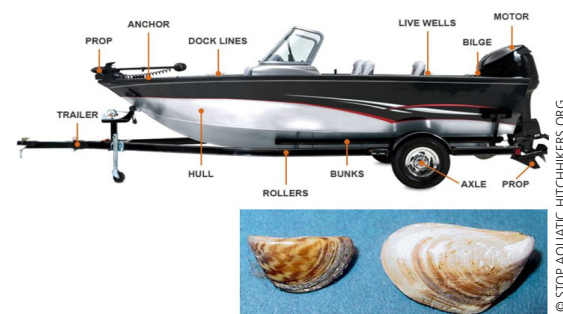
For information about having your boat inspected for AIS prior to a fishing tournament on Lake Amistad, please call the Visitor Center at (830) 775-7491.

To learn more about cleaning your vessel to halt the spread of aquatic invasive species, like mussels, visit [www.texasinvasives.org/zebramussels](http://www.texasinvasives.org/zebramussels).



**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.  
[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)



**Stop the Spread of AIS.** For more ideas on how to stop AIS, like zebra and quagga mussels (inset), visit [StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org) and [go.nps.gov/amis/ais](http://go.nps.gov/amis/ais).

For hours of operation and more information about the park, please visit:

[www.nps.gov/amis](http://www.nps.gov/amis)  
(830) 775-7491