

Amistad Recreation Area

Visitors come to Lake Amistad for its rich history and abundance of recreation opportunities. Seeming to appear out of nowhere as the train travels through the desert, Lake Amistad is a mecca for tourists by providing rich nature tourism, as well as an international experience. The huge lake is 65,000 acres total, half of which is on the Mexican side of the border.

Have you ever wished for an easier multi-national traveling experience? Lake Amistad allows its visitors to be in two countries without the trouble of going through customs. There is no need to wait in long lines on a bridge or in an airport. The word Amistad means friendship and this has strong significance in the relationship that the United States and Mexico share through this bi-national lake. The joint water conservation agreement began in 1969 when the two countries dammed up the Rio Grande River.

When the train passes near Lake Amistad you will be crossing over the Devils River portion of the lake. Devil's River is one of the nation's most unsoiled river systems, due to careful conservation by The Nature Conservancy. Devil's River is protected due to the presence of some endangered fish, such as the Devil's River Minnow. The clean water of this river and others help make Lake Amistad perfect for recreation such as fishing and boating. Lake Amistad is home to many game fish including, large mouth, small mouth, spotted and striped bass, crappie, freshwater drum and several species of perch.

The lake is an attraction for nature enthusiasts and history buffs alike. The rocky beaches that surround the lake make it an ideal terrain for hikers, campers and sunbathers. In past centuries the land surrounding the lake was home to many Native American tribes which have left a lasting imprint through the remains of arrowheads and ancient rock art.

At nearby Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site, you can visit some of North America's oldest Indian pictographs and one of the oldest cave dwellings in the nation.

The Amtrak route gives you have a great view of Lake Amistad, and we hope you'll return someday to spend some more time at this pristine, historic lake shared by the United States and Mexico.

Source(s):

Hoffman, Eva J. "A Guidebook to Amtrak's Sunset Limited." Flashing Yellow Guidebooks, Golden, CO, 2009.

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