



## Scuba Diving

### Diving Conditions

Lake Amistad has a variety of water depths and diving environments, offering novice and advanced divers some of the finest freshwater diving opportunities in Texas.

Amistad is known for its clear waters. Visibility varies with the time of year. During the cool winter months (November – April), it can reach a maximum of 40-50 feet. From May to October, warmer water temperatures stimulate algae growth, reducing visibility to 10 feet or less. Surface temperatures range from low 50's in the winter to mid 80's in the summer. Water temperatures below the thermocline may be 10-15 degrees cooler than surface temperatures, but are never colder than 50 degrees. Thermoclines produce noticeable changes in water temperatures. During winter months, this occurs at 30-40 feet, while during the summer months major thermoclines occur at 70-80 feet and at the 100 foot depths.

### Regulations

- You are **REQUIRED** to display a dive flag during all dives except in the Scuba Cove.
- Boaters must stay clear of a dive area marked with "Boats Keep Out" buoys and be at least 100 feet from "**DIVER DOWN**" flags. (See below)
- Lost and found items must be turned in at the Visitor Information Center or to a park ranger.
- All archeological artifacts, historical items and natural features are protected by federal law and must be left undisturbed.
- Report **any** accident or problem immediately to Park Rangers. Please refer to the Emergency Number section for contact information.

### Safety

- PLAN your dive and dive your plan!
- The nearest multi-chamber recompression (hyperbaric) facility is about 60 miles away in Eagle Pass.
- Use the **BUDDY SYSTEM**, never dive alone.
- **ALWAYS** carry a good quality knife. Brushy areas often have fishing line strewn about; entanglement can be very serious.
- Do not dive beyond the capability of the **LEAST** experienced diver in your group.
- Do not dive without proper training and certification.

### Diving Hazard

- Underwater caves and other karst features exist in the limestone formations in Lake Amistad. **DO NOT** be tempted to enter these unless you have received training and certification as a cave diver. Even at short distances, a diver can stir up the silt, creating zero visibility conditions instantly. Fishing is a popular sport on the lake. The resulting collection of old and new trot lines and monofilament line poses possible entanglement hazards for divers.
- Most of the popular dive sites are also popular boating sites. Be sure to stay close to your flag, towing it along if traveling even short distances away.

### Areas CLOSED To Diving

- Designated boat mooring, docking and harbor areas.
- The restricted zone in front of Amistad Dam (1,000 feet)
- The Rio Grande, below Amistad Dam.



Boats Keep Out



Dive Flag

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## Emergency Contacts

**Use the following checklist at the first suspected sign of a diving injury.**

Begin CPR immediately, if necessary.

Automated External Defibrillators are available at the Visitor Information Center and Ranger Stations.  
Request that a Park Ranger bring one to the scene if CPR has been initiated.

Administer 100% oxygen, if available.

Dial 911 or send someone for help. Calling 911 will notify the appropriate emergency personnel.

Wait for the ambulance and paramedics to respond to the scene. They will assess the situation and transport the injured diver, if necessary.

The Divers Alert Network (D.A.N.) can be reached at 919-684-9111. They can advise you to the nearest available recompression chamber, if needed.

The nearest recompression (hyperbaric) chamber to Lake Amistad is located at Fort Duncan Regional Medical Center, 3333 N. Foster Maldonado Blvd. Eagle Pass, TX 78852. Telephone: 830-773-5321 (60 miles from Del Rio)

Uvalde Memorial Hospital also has a hyperbaric chamber. Uvalde Memorial Hospital is located at 1025 Garner Field Road Uvalde, TX 78801. Telephone: 830-278-6251 ext. 1377 (75 miles from Del Rio)

You may also call

Val Verde County Sheriff's Office

830-774-7513 (24 hours a day)

Val Verde Memorial Hospital

830-775-8566 (24 hours a day)

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## Popular Dive Sites

Diablo East/View Point Cliff and Cove: The dive cove is buoyed to keep out boats. The maximum depth exceeds 100 foot at the outer edge of the cove. Dive flag is not required in the cove.

Castle Canyon: Has a few protected coves to beach a boat and dive. The north side of the islands near the entrance to Castle Canyon (buoy CC-B) provides vertical walls and protection from the prevailing southeast winds.

Highway 90 Bridge: This is generally a good dive area all year. Visibility is usually better at the end of the bridge which is in the lee of the wind. For example, during northwest winds, dive the northwest end of the bridge.

The Ranch House: Located northeast of Ward's Point in Evans Creek.

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## Fishing

State fishing regulations are in effect on the United States side of the reservoir. A valid Texas fishing license is required. A Mexican fishing license is required for fishing on the Mexican portion of Lake Amistad. Check Mexican regulations before diving or spear fishing in Mexico.

Spear fishing is legal for the taking of non-game fish only. Non game fish includes buffalo, carp, gar, goldfish, suckers, shad and tilapia. The taking of any game fish, including bass, striped bass and their hybrids, white bass, any catfish and walleye by spearing is strictly prohibited.

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## Scuba Guides

Please call the Amistad Visitor Center to see if there are any current Scuba Guides permitted to operate on the Lake.

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## Dive Training at Amistad

Scuba instructors are required to obtain a Commercial Use Authorization Permit with the National Park Service in order to legally conduct any official scuba training at Lake Amistad. This includes open water certification dives associated with basic open water certification courses, as well as any other certification courses. For additional information call 830-775-7492.

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