

The **Del Rio Chamber of Commerce** is at 1915 Avenue F. 830-775-3551. Check with them for walking and driving tours of Del Rio, and information on crossing the border to **Ciudad Acuna**. The bridge to Acuna is nearly 3 miles from Del Rio, but all day parking is available at reasonable rates on the U.S. side.

**Del Rio**, together with its sister city of Acuña, Mexico, has, as they say there, the "best of the border." Nearby Lake Amistad is the largest lake in Texas, fed by the Rio Grande, the Pecos, and the Devil's River, with more than 850 miles of shoreline, some of it laced with rock caves. Its waters keep Del Rio sailing, fishing, and swimming. There's also San Felipe Springs and Creek, which have been providing swimming and refreshment for centuries. The Del Rio Council for the Arts has run the Firehouse, under the sign of the Dalmatian, for nearly a quarter-century. The Firehouse Gallery exhibits touring and local art year round. The stage of the Paul Poag Theatre sees drama, comedy, and music. Right across the Rio Grande is Acuña, a prosperous border city with a main street composed of little shops offering fine pottery, glassware, jewelry, leather goods, and more, as well as superb and atmospheric restaurants. In October, the celebrations of Fiesta de Amistad (Friendship Fiesta) and Buena Vecindad (Good Neighbors) keep the communities lively. The area is also home to a significant collection of prehistoric pictographs, otherwise known as rock art.

#### FIESTA AMISTAD

Weekend nearest October 24

Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, 1915 Ave F. Del Rio 78840

512.775.3551 Admission: Free

Fiesta Amistad features the only parade in the world that starts in one country and ends in another. The 10K run and bicycle races both start in Del Rio and end across the border in Ciudad Acuna.

Fiesta Amistad, which means friendship festival, commemorates the date of the first summit meeting between presidents of the United States and Mexico. In 1965, Eisenhower met with Adolfo Lopez Mateos on United Nations Day.

Other activities include a two-day arts and crafts fair, food booths, and a battle of the bands in which groups from both cities compete for prizes. You'll also find a Miss Del Rio Pageant, a fajita cook-off, and the Laughlin Air Force Base open house and airshow.

Ciudad Acuna, of the State of Coahuila, Mexico is the absolutely greatest Mexican border town on the US/Mexico border. Great food, shops...and...those Margaritas!!! Home of movies like Antonio Banderas' "Desperado", and the foreign film "Like Water For Chocolate", Acuna is a tourist destination just three minutes from Villa Del Rio.

#### **Villa Del Rio Bed and Breakfast Jay J Johnson**

123 Hudson Drive 830-768-1100 800-995-1887 [www.villadelrio.com](http://www.villadelrio.com)

**Within easy walking distance of the home, guests will find the historic Val Verde Winery, Whitehead Memorial Museum (resting place of the famed Judge Roy Bean, only a few miles west of the Pecos), Brown Plaza, several parks and wooded neighborhoods, and of course downtown Del Rio, where you can stroll around leisurely, shop or catch a play at the Paul Poag Theatre. For an exotic shopping and entertainment experience, take the 3 minute drive to the International Border on the stunning *Rio Grande* and cross over to the fascinating city of Acuña.**

**Amtrak's Sunset Limited** runs between Orlando, Florida and Los Angeles, California. Trails & Rails programs are offered on certain segments of the route. You can enhance your trip with our free educational programs during the summer months on board the Sunset Limited between New Orleans, Louisiana and Houston, Texas, the City of New Orleans between New Orleans and Jackson, Mississippi, and the Crescent between New Orleans and Atlanta. National Park Service rangers and volunteers provide information and occasional special programs on the significant natural and cultural sites, history, the environment, and the cultural diversity along each route.

Amistad National Recreation Area provides educational experiences between Del Rio, Texas and Sanderson, Texas on Mondays and Thursdays, and from Del Rio, Texas to Alpine, Texas on Saturdays.

Visitors in Del Rio can purchase tickets to Sanderson or Alpine, however, you must arrange your own transportation back from Sanderson. If you ride to Alpine, the return train from Alpine to Del Rio arrives about 7 hours after you detrain.

**Note:** If the train is delayed more than 3 hours between San Antonio and Del Rio, it is likely that we may not board. For more information call (830) 775-749 or email:

**Amis\_Interpretation@nps.gov.**

To make reservations call 1-800-USA-RAIL  
Or visit Amtrak's website: **www.amtrak.com**

Amistad National Recreation Area teamed up with Amtrak to provide train passengers on-board educational programs as they travel through southwest Texas. Amistad NRA, located just west of Del Rio, initiated its Trails & Rails program in August 1999.

Twice a week Trails & Rails volunteers and National Park Service employees board the westbound "Sunset Limited" in Del Rio and detrain in either Sanderson or Alpine.

During our on-board presentation, Trails & Rails staff share information on Lake Amistad, the Chihuahuan Desert, geology, plants and animals, history of the railroad through west Texas, and historic and prehistoric people of the area.

This volunteer is talking about modern-day uses of the prickly pear cactus in food preparation. The fruit can be made into jelly, and the leaves can be sliced, pickled and made into what we know in west Texas as "nopalitos."

As Amtrak heads westbound from Del Rio, passengers travel through the recreation area and cross both the Amistad reservoir and the Pecos River canyon.

### ***Amistad Reservoir--Pecos High Bridge--Pecos River Gorge***

Trails & Rails presentations consist of a number of components, including a narrative script delivered over the train's public address system that highlights natural, historical and cultural resources along the route.

In the sightseer lounge car another Trails & Rails volunteer utilizes hands-on items, historic photos, photos of rock art, plants and animals, and maps to enhance the Trails & Rails experience for interested passengers.

With their new-found knowledge and a little bit of imagination, the travelers can visualize how the people of the past might have lived over 4,000 years ago, and in the early days of western civilization.

***Lechugilla sandal--Seminole-Negro Scouts --The Jersey Lily Saloon***

Southwest Texas is very rich in history from the ancient Native Americans to the Chinese Railroad workers, Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts and the infamous Judge Roy Bean.

***original Pecos High bridge, 1892--Pictographs at Panther Cave--Judge Roy Bean 1825-1903***

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*Amistad National Recreation Area, p. 14, September 1992*

*Parida Cave at Amistad Reservoir, p. 44, July 1988*

*Lake Amistad Reservoir, p. 18, July 1986*

*Readers Recommend, Del Rio, 2nd Annual Archaeology Fair, Whitehead Memorial Museum, p. 63, October 2002*

*Road trip, US 90, San Antonio to Del Rio, p. 10, May 2002*

*Readers Recommend, Del Rio, Cripple Creek Restaurant, p. 56, December 2001*

*Del Rio, town features/highlights, p. 34, March 1995*

*Bull Riding Del Rio, p. 30, May 1985*

*Del Rio, p. 40, January 1984*