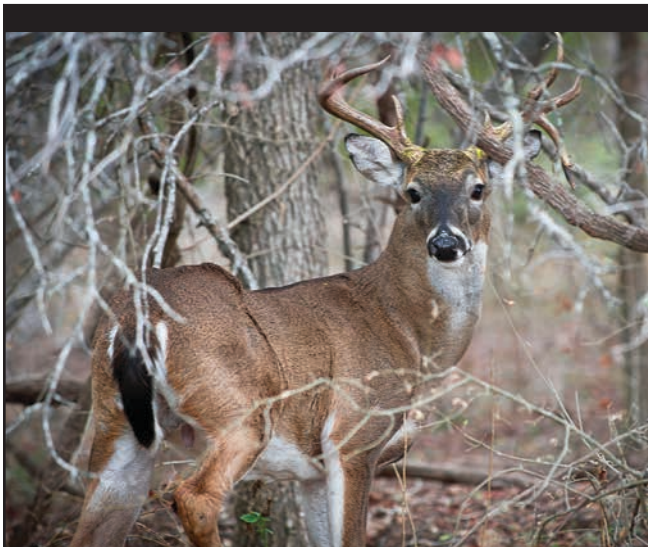




INTERPRETIVE GUIDE



White-tailed Deer

WELCOME TO CHOKE CANYON STATE PARK! UNWIND AND RECHARGE IN THE BEAUTY THIS SPECIAL PLACE OFFERS. NATURE LIES ALL AROUND YOU IN SIGHTS AND SOUNDS YOU WON'T EXPERIENCE IN THE CITY. WHETHER IT'S ON THE TRAILS OR ON THE WATER, GET OUT AND ENJOY YOUR PARK!



Javelina

Choke Canyon State Park is a great place to enjoy the natural world around you. Try your luck fishing, take a hike or ride a bike on one of the trails, spend the night at one of our campsites or shelters, or just explore! Any way you choose to experience the park, please enjoy it safely and responsibly!

- Make sure your trash and especially your used fishing line ends up in the proper waste bin. Trash can hurt animals and plants in the park.
- The nature and history of the park are here for everyone to enjoy; please don't take anything away from future visitors.
- Please drive, bike, and hike only in designated areas so you don't disturb any wildlife or plants. It's their home, after all.
- Make sure all of your food is secure inside so it doesn't tempt the wildlife to investigate!
- Leave feeding to nature. Feeding wild animals will make them sick and more likely to cause harm to people.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Choke Canyon State Park – South Shore Unit
Lake Corpus Christi State Park, near Mathis, TX
Goliad State Park, Goliad, TX

Choke Canyon State Park – Calliham Unit
358 Recreation Rd. 8, Calliham, TX 78007
(361) 786-3868 • www.tpwd.texas.gov/chokecanyon



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CHOKE CANYON STATE PARK





Texas Tortoise

A PLACE WILDLIFE CAN CALL HOME

Many types of wildlife, including some special to South Texas, call Choke Canyon Reservoir and State Park home.

None makes more of an impact on the imagination than the American alligator. Often seen sunning themselves on the shores or patrolling the waters of the reservoir or 75-acre Lake, these prehistoric residents can reach over 14 feet! On the furrier side of things and moving through the honey mesquite, javelinas, also known as collared peccaries, are no less interesting. Look for them foraging along the brush line, often in family units with young in tow. These are not the feral hogs taking over the south, they're native Texans!

American Alligator



Turkey

With its variety of habitats and abundant resources, Choke Canyon is an excellent place for you to see birds of every shape and size. Some call the park home year-round, others just visit in the winter, and some spend just a few weeks while heading north or south. The bright colors of the green jay and Bullock's oriole and the melodic songs of the northern cardinal and long-billed thrasher remind you of how beautiful nature can be. Watch the skies for Harris' hawks hunting in teams, power poles for crested caracaras watching for carrion, the brush line for wild turkeys strutting their stuff and listen at night for the common pauraque's call.

FOR THE BIRDS!

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Crested Caracara

Harris' Hawk



CREATION OF A LAKE, LOSS OF A TOWN

This area was once a part of Calliham, Texas, a small community boasting the first oil and gas wells in the south Texas area. Investors in oil and gas helped to establish the town from which a 68-mile-long pipeline was built to deliver the first natural gas supply to San Antonio. The industry continues to thrive in the area surrounding the park.

As the years progressed, many people moved away from Calliham and the population fell to about 120. Meanwhile, the population of Corpus Christi grew. In order to address water needs, the Bureau of Reclamation built Choke Canyon Dam creating the reservoir in 1982. The town of Calliham was relocated three miles south of its original location to make room for the reservoir.

The Choke Canyon Dam under construction, 1982. Photo courtesy U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

