



Private Charter FAQ

How much is it to charter the pontoon boat for a private trip?

\$500. BBP will charge your credit card on file the day of your scheduled private charter.

How many guests can the pontoon boat accommodate?

21 guests maximum. Children (ages 4 and up) with an accompanying adult are allowed on the boat.

Is the boat wheelchair accessible?

Unfortunately, the boat launches to board the boat are not wheelchair accessible. There are a series of steps that guests must descend to reach the boat.

What days and times are the pontoon boat available for private charter?

Tuesday – Saturday; 8:00 am to sunset (any 1½ hour time frame.) No private charters on major holidays (New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.)

How much time in advance should I reserve the boat for private charter?

At least two (2) weeks in advance. Private charters are very popular and dates fill quickly!

Am I allowed to bring food and drink onto the boat?

Food and drink are allowed on the boat, including alcoholic beverages (but please, no glass containers.) We kindly request that you properly dispose of items before leaving the boat.

Where does the boat depart from?

This depends. The water levels in Buffalo Bayou fluctuate for a number of reasons (season, weather pattern, storm water releases from Addicks and Barker reservoirs, etc.) and this impacts the boat’s accessibility to specific launches.

For most private charters, the boat departs from/returns to the boat launch at Sabine Promenade (150 Sabine Street, 77007.) Guests can park in [City Lot H](#) off of Memorial Drive and Houston Avenue and access the boat launch by walking along the concrete hike and bike trails (underneath I-45.)

If there is a change in the boat’s departure location, this will be communicated via email.

We ask that guests arrive to the designated boat launch at least 15 minutes before departure time. Since our boat launches are located in and around downtown Houston, please allow for time to navigate through traffic, find parking and walk to the boat launch.

Where along Buffalo Bayou will the pontoon boat travel?

Guests will cruise past Allen’s Landing, the redeveloped Sesquicentennial Park and Sabine Promenade, as well as the newly renovated Buffalo Bayou Park. For those trips heading east of downtown, you will view the historic McKee Street Bridge and the industrial side of our city.

Is this a “self-guided” boat trip?

Yes. Your boat captain and deckhand will highlight key points of interest along Buffalo Bayou.

If you are interested in an in-depth tour of the bayou and city, you may request a historian (based on availability) for an additional \$175.

Does BBP offer public boat tours?

Yes! See and experience Houston from a whole new angle via Second Saturday and Summer Twilight tours, Waugh Bat Colony tours, history tours, foodie floats, and special holiday cruises. Available dates and more information can be found on the [Boat Tours](#) section of our website.

When will I receive confirmation about my private charter?

At least one week prior to your boat cruise, you will receive an email from BBP confirming the time of your private charter and boat departure location.

Boat Tour Cancellations, Rescheduling and Refund Policy

Cancellations must take place at least one (1) week prior to your scheduled boat tour in order to receive a full refund.

Since Buffalo Bayou is a natural waterway, changes in Houston’s weather, such as flooding and fast moving water, often affects our boat tours. If Buffalo Bayou Partnership cancels the trip for waterway- or weather-related reasons, you will have the option of rescheduling or receiving a full refund. BBP will do its best to provide notification of cancellation 3-4 hours prior to a scheduled trip. We recommend you pass this information along to any guests, caterers or vendors you include on your trip.

Still have questions?

Please contact:

Trudi Smith, Director of PR and Events – tsmith@buffalobayou.org / 713.752.0314 ext. 103

Sylvana Loc, PR and Events Assistant – sloc@buffalobayou.org / 713.752.0314 ext. 104