



Boating in Tampa? Yes.

ERIN AND I WERE HAVING BRUNCH

with her family on Harbour Island in downtown Tampa on a recent Sunday morning—and my eyes were drawn across to the confluence of the Seddon and Garrison Channels—near Hillsborough Bay—to an active waterfront scene next to the convention center. We had to check it out.

I lived in Tampa in the late 80's as the Tampa Convention Center was just being built—fast-forward 25 years, and there's a lot going on now in that area.

I saw a little boat zipping by with a phone number on the side, so I called up, talked to a Kevin Fyfe, and he told us to come right over.

The company is called “eBoats Tampa,” and the “e” has nothing to do with the internet and everything to do with the fact the boats are electric.

There are a variety of prices pending the duration and the day of the week—

but just to get your feet wet, the boats rent by the hour for \$80 during the week and \$90 on Friday, Saturday and Sundays. You can also hire a Captain for an additional \$125/\$150 per hour.

Erin and I boarded a 21' boat with a canopy and seating for 12 people, and began cruising around the water between Davis Islands, Harbour Islands and the Tampa Riverwalk.

Kevin gave us a handy and touristy map to follow—and our first goal was to check out the mansion retired

New York Yankee shortstop Derek Jeter built on Davis Islands. One of my friends saw the picture and said she thought it was “an apartment complex.” (Zillow.com says it's about 30,000 square feet—or “about the size of a Best Buy electronics store” and twice the size of the previous biggest house in the Bayshore area.)

Cruising around the downtown area is every photographer's dream come true. That shiny skyline looks different from each direction—despite the clouds.

Speaking of which, some wind and sprinkles brought our hour-long prescribed tour to an end in about thirty minutes—but it was memorable to get a glimpse of the heart of downtown Tampa from this perspective.

It was a fun excursion! For more information, visit www.eBoatsTampa.com or call 813-767-2245. – Ray Collins

