

**Introduction to**

**BOATING**





# **INTRODUCTION TO BOATING**





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## INTRODUCTION

All around the country, many people enjoy the joys of boating. For those who enjoy boating, there is nothing better than being out on the water with a gentle breeze blowing, the sun shining and the weather perfect in temperature.

If this sounds like something that you would enjoy, there are some guidelines that you should be aware of before you head out to the lake or the ocean. There is actually much more involved in boating than just simply putting your boat in the water. In order to enjoy the most of boating, it is important to understand as much about boating as possible as well as boat safety.

There are a number of advantages that are offered from boating that you may have never considered. One of the best benefits of boating is that it can draw you closer together as a family. In addition, boating can be a great stress reliever and it can also be a tremendous amount of fun.

Whether you are water skiing, fishing or just simply relaxing on the deck of your boat, boating can definitely improve the quality of your life.

Regardless of where you live, chances are you live somewhere near where you can enjoy boating. As a result, boating is one of the most convenient and readily available forms of entertainment that requires very little travel.

If you have never boated before, there is no reason to be concerned. While there is certainly a lot about boating that should be learned, what you need to learn is easy to learn. Within this book we will explore everything that you need to know about boating, covering everything from how to choose a boat to boat safety. Regardless of whether you are interested in boating because you want to enjoy the recreational aspect of it or you are interested in fishing, once you complete this book you will be ready to take your boat out onto the water.

Let's get started!





## CHAPTER 1

### Guide to Buying a Boat

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Many people like the idea of being able to enjoy boating as a recreational activity but have never taken it up because they think they will not be able to afford to purchase their own boat. There is no doubt that buying a boat can involve a large purchase, but it may actually be less expensive to purchase a boat than you might think because of the many different options that are available when buying a boat.

In most cases, dealers who sell boats will offer financing when you purchase a boat. In addition, it is usually possible to secure a personal loan through a bank that will allow you to purchase a boat as well. The payments on a loan for the purchase of a bank will vary based upon three different factors, the amount that you finance, your interest rate and the length of time that you finance the loan.

While purchasing a new boat is certainly an option, if you are looking to keep your payments low, another option that you might consider is to purchase a previously owned boat. This is actually a very good idea if you are buying your first boat. This will give you an opportunity to learn more about boating without spending a lot of money and once you are more comfortable with the idea of boating, you can then upgrade your purchase and fund it by selling your old boat.

Let's take a look at exactly what types of boats are available. If you are just starting out in boating, it can be easy to become confused by the different terminology as well as the different types of boats, so let's take a look at some of the more common types of boats.

#### **Types of Boats**

##### **Fishing/Bass Boat**

This type of boat is very simple, it is a fishing boat and they are used primarily for fishing. Most types of fishing boats will be powered by outboard motors. There may also be a trolling motor that is mounted on the bow of the boat as well.

##### *Aluminum or Fiberglass?*

Most fishing boats are made of either fiberglass or aluminum. Aluminum boats are lighter and as a result they are much easier to maneuver through the water than fiberglass boats. Aluminum boats also require a smaller motor. If you have a small vehicle, an aluminum boat may also be a good



choice because it will be easier to tow using a small vehicle.

The typical size of fishing boats will be between 16 and 20 feet long. The horsepower for motors for fishing boats will be between 50 and 200 horsepower. Most fishing boats will feature a live bait and fish well that can be used for storing the fish you catch and will also typically have a storage area for storing rods, reels and your tackle as well.

Generally, aluminum boats will be less expensive than fiberglass boats. The price of aluminum boats purchased brand new can vary, but at a minimum you should plan to spend around \$7,000.

A fiberglass boat will certainly look better on the water than an aluminum boat. You can choose fiberglass boats in a variety of different colors. These boats are popular because they are capable of achieving speeds far higher than aluminum boats. If you are looking at more professional levels of fishing then a fiberglass boat is a must. The price range of a fiberglass boat can vary, but you should plan to spend \$10,000 at a minimum and up to \$75,000 for a top end fiberglass boat.

## **Cruising Boats**

A cruising boat is a type of boat that is specially designed for taking trips. These boats are really designed to act as a home away from home. Most cruising boats will feature all the comforts of home, including microwaves, televisions and other amenities that you will find at home. A cruising boat will also commonly feature a kitchen, or galley, where you can prepare meals as well as a bathroom and shower. The fuel capacity of a cruising boat is commonly quite large, allowing you to enjoy the ability of taking longer trips.

Most cruising boats are between 24 and 33 feet long and feature extremely powerful motors that are necessary for taking longer trips on large bodies of water, including the ocean. The starting price for a cruising boat is typically at least \$25,000 and can go up to \$200,000.

## **Pontoon Boats**

A pontoon boat is a good choice when you are looking to enjoy a leisurely sail with a large group of people. Pontoon boats are fairly lightweight and are specifically designed to make the most use of space as possible. Most pontoon boats have decks that are wide open and feature a lot of seating.

Such boats can be used for many different purposes, including cruising, fishing and even for overnight trips in some cases. One of the reasons that pontoon boats are so popular is that their starting prices are commonly much less than other boats and they can be used for a variety of purposes. In addition, these types of boats can be easily customized to the boater's needs.