

BOATS

Top Boats for Boating Adventures

Whether you're looking to cruise, catch a wave or a fish, relax or perform crazy tricks these boats have you covered.

By Boating Tech Team | March 9, 2026

If reading this site proves anything, it's that there's no shortage of ways to enjoy time on the water. Every time you lower the boat hoist, back down the ramp or untie from the dock, the possibilities for a life-changing adventure are endless. There's no set definition of what a boating adventure actually is—that's entirely up to you. Whether you're looking to cruise for the day or night, catch a wave or a fish, relax or perform crazy tricks, there's a boat out there that can meet your needs.



The Grady-White 281 Coastal Explorer is designed to facilitate your next angling adventure. *Courtesy Grady-White Boats*

Fishing Fanatic: Grady-White 281 Coastal Explorer

The Grady-White 281 Coastal Explorer is designed to facilitate your next angling adventure. Whether you are seeking to head outside the inlet and take on long runs down the coast or you want to invade the shallows in search of gamefish just the other side of your river or bay, this Coastal Explorer will prove a great tool for the job. Powered by twin Yamaha 300 EXs, the 281 CE delivers exciting performance and the safety of dual engines for offshore trips. Handling is easy with integrated digital steering and an optional full-maneuverability joystick. Grady-White's exclusive SeaV² hull ensures you get a solid, smooth ride and a stable fishing platform, whether at rest or trolling or running at cruising speeds.

Once offshore, anglers can utilize dual shotgun rod holders, dual gunwale rod holders, and a pair of forward rod holders suitable for bottom fishing. The hardtop comes standard with four rocket launchers rod holders, and outriggers are available as an option for those who enjoy trolling the blue water. Two livewells keep bait lively, and fish boxes in the forward seating drain overboard. Tackle compartments are located below the rigging sink and on the front of the lean bar.

For more specialized fishing, Grady-White offers optional pre-rigging for a 36-volt trolling motor, which includes a swivel bracket, motor shaft support, and three 12-volt batteries. Dual 10-foot Power Poles can also be added.

The boat's casting decks are lethal fishing features, but they also convert to seating. This versatility supports longer days on the water, with features such as electrically actuated inclining seatbacks on the forward deck. This combination of serious fishing amenities and durable comfort reinforces the boatbuilder's reputation for customer satisfaction.

How We Tested

- **Engine:** Twin Yamaha 300 EX
- **Drive/Props:** Outboard/SWS II 15.25" x 19" 3-blade stainless steel
- **Gear Ratio:** 1.75:1 **Fuel Load:** 150 gal. **Crew Weight:** 400 lb.

Specs

LOA:	27'7"
Beam:	9'4"
Draft (max):	1'7" (engines up)
Displacement (approx.):	5,650 lb. (less engines)
Persons/Weight Capacity:	Yacht Certified
Fuel Capacity:	160 gal.

Grady-White Boats – Greenville, North Carolina; 252-752-2111; gradywhite.com

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