

SPLENDID **BOATING**



A PERFECTLY CRAFTED GUIDE ALL ABOUT SPLENDID BOATING

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Table of Content

Introductory	4
Chapter 1: Boating Holidays	6
Chapter 2: Boat Towing	8
Chapter 3: Boat-Buying Tips to Save Time and Money	11
Chapter 4: Boat Docking Techniques Made Easy	13
Chapter 5: Boat Care	15
Chapter 6: Boat Loans	17
Chapter 7: Houseboat Rentals	19
Chapter 8: Picking Out The Ultimate Fishing Boat	21

Introductory

Finding the perfect Arizona classified ad with the perfect boat for you, especially if you are a first-time boater, may seem like a very difficult task to accomplish.

To help you in your quest for the perfect boat, there are a few things you should know.

Deciding what is important Choosing the right boat is more than just locating one for sale on one of the many Arizona online classified ad sites, like Qwix.com. Really, it's all about knowing what is truly important to you. You will need to decide whether you will be using the boat for your own private use, fishing, or cruising.

You should also consider your families wishes and feelings, since buying a boat for your own personal needs without consulting your family will probably lead to disappointing experiences or less time spent on the water.

Typically, boats will fall into five categories which are fishing boats, power boats, sailboats, personal watercraft, and self-powered boats. To help you find the perfect boat, we'll take a look at some of the features that each one offers.

The designs for fishing boats will vary quite a bit, as are the places you can use them. The boats that are meant for shallow waters of inland lakes and rivers are not the same boats meant for deep seas and great lakes. There are many different designs, even boats that serve no other purpose besides fishing.

These types of boats normally have stowage and holders for bait, fishing poles, tackle, and even special tanks to hold live fish. Other types of fishing only boats feature an open platform where anglers can fight fish from all sides of the boat.

Power boats are the most popular boats sold. The designs on and of power boats are as varied as their uses. Boats with seating in the front are called bow riders, which are mainly used for towing skiers or rafts. Most boats can

Splendid Boating

also be used for fishing as well. If you want to do both, there are ski and fish combinations available.

When you first learn to pilot a sailboat, it can be very challenging, although very rewarding as well. A sailboat requires more skill and knowledge to operate than some other types of boats, although they are also considered more rewarding once mastered.

With all available sailboats, the single masted sloop is the most popular design. For those who only boat on occasion, catboats, day sailor's, and dinghies are small and easily trailer able.

When you finally decide on the perfect boat for you, look at what each one offers and how you plan to use it. The perfect boat for you is out there, all you have to do is find the one that best matches your needs, and an online Arizona classified ad site is the best place to start.

Chapter 1: Boating Holidays

Boating holidays are a wonderful way to spend the summer!

Just pack your bags and float around on a houseboat or a yacht for a few weeks, enjoying the sunshine, fishing and swimming and visiting towns along the shoreline. It's comparable in cost to staying in a hotel, with so much less hassle.

And it's great for the whole family, especially the kids. Children always find entertainment on and around water. They swim and snorkel, while adults relax in a fold-up chair with a cool drink and a book.

Boating holidays, as opposed to travel on large cruise ships, offer a more intimate and relaxed voyage without the bustle of thousands of mega-ship passengers all around you. And the venues are more intriguing than the tourist traps visited by the big cruise ships. The smaller boats are surprisingly well-serviced, with features such as showers and sometimes bicycles for tours around the countryside during stops.

Many online services throughout the world offer trips on local canals and lakes surrounded by historic locations. What about a canal trip throughout Holland? This seafaring nation was built on marshland, and vestiges of the marsh still remain in the form of canals crisscrossing the whole country connecting quaint towns (with architecture carefully preserved, thanks to Dutch laws against the remodeling of historic buildings) to cosmopolitan cities such as Amsterdam.

England and Wales also have canals, and a multitude of tours are available, such as Langley, Four Counties and Cheshire Rings, Oxford and Avon canals, and the river Thames. Unknown to most tourists, there is a network of waterways that traverse England from Yorkshire to Avon and into Wales.

See different historic towns without battling holiday drivers on Europe's crowded roads (and believe me, if you are used to driving only on North America's wide freeways, European traffic will give you a shock).

In Scotland, how about a boating holiday on 23-mile long Loch Ness? There's no guarantee Nessie will show up, but you are bound to be impressed by the

Splendid Boating

rugged grandeur of the Great Glen and the battle-scarred castles surrounding it. It is one of Europe's most spellbinding locations, and a pleasant surprise to those under the impression that there is no wilderness left in Europe.

Eagles, ospreys and other rare birds and even otters live in this pristine environment. Needless to say, opportunities for fishing abound. Visit the Loch Ness Center at Drumnadrochit to learn the in-depth history of the area.

Don't forget to consider a romantic boating holiday on the waterways of France. The canals of Brittany, Burgundy, Alsace, River Charente, River Lot and the South of France offer beauty, culture, and inimitable French food and wine enroute.

In North America, the Great Lakes region is so large it is impossible to see it all on one 2-week boating holiday. The St. Lawrence River is one of the most important rivers on the North American continent. It begins in the Great Lakes, leading to as vast estuary before ending in the Atlantic Ocean.

It is approximately 500 miles long, and forms the border between Canada and the USA for approximately 100 miles. Sail up the St. Lawrence canal on a tour into French Canada for spectacular northern scenery and wildlife such as Beluga whales.

While on the topic of North American boating holiday destinations, let's not forget Lake Tahoe. This is a perennially popular tourist destination, and every American who has the chance should visit this unique lake at least once. There are Emerald Bay sightseeing cruises on the Tahoe Queen, and rides on the M.S. Dixie II paddle wheeler. There is also a 44-foot trimaran and 55-foot catamaran. Small family boats are available for private family rental. Lake Tahoe offers many upscale resorts and restaurants as well as historic tours.

Chapter 2: Boat Towing

Boat towing or trailering across the United States is subject to different state laws as far as maximum speeds, trailer equipment requirements, trailer dimensions, brakes, insurance, and accessories such as reflectors are concerned. A separate permit for boat towing in each state is also required.

Most Americans live within 100 miles of boatable waterways, and boat trailering is something of a national craze. Statistics show that the easiest boats to tow on a regular basis measure within twenty-five feet in length, since these allow for easier maneuvering on highways. Boat-towing vehicles and trailers differ quite a bit from other kinds because of the unique shape and dimensions of these crafts.

There is a mind-boggling array of towable boats available on the market today. These include air boats, fishing boats, bow riders, canoes, cuddy cabins, day sailor's, deck boats, sailing dinghies, flats boats, jet boats, inflatable boats, and a host of others.

If one isn't an expert, it is important to follow a trailering-safety checklist while towing. The checklist should include guidelines to loading, leveling, driving, unloading, and launching. Probably one of the most common and dreaded hazards that all boat towers face is compromised tightness of the nuts on the trailer wheels. These tend to loosen with distance covered. Wheel maintenance in all its aspects should be a primary concern of every boat trailer owner.

As with most other kinds of towing, each state has its own set of trailering laws that will prescribe limits to weight, speed, and minimum equipment. These are strictly enforced, and it is wise to be prepared for all eventualities.

Buying A Trailer for Your Boat

A boat trailer is something you really can't go wrong with, as it is a dual-purpose device. It provides a convenient way to store the boat, and also

allows you to explore new areas by taking your boat down the road. Good trailers must perform both duties equally as good.

Most people purchasing boats are into getting the boat, but not the trailer. They are more than content to spend money on a boat, then end up getting unexpansive trailer.

If you want the most from boating, these tips will help you with buying a trailer.

- **Go for larger diameter tires and wheels.** The larger tires will rotate less times per mile, producing less heat and wear on the tread. The wheel bearings will last much longer as well, as they rotate less times per mile.
- **The total weight of the boat, gear, and motor should be in the mid-range of trailer's carrying capacity.** You shouldn't pick a 2,500-capacity trailer if you have a boat with the same weight.
- **Pick your trailer based on the environment it will be operating in.** If you plan to launch in salt water, you'll need a trailer for that purpose. There are many types of trailers available, each one designed for a specific type of boating. Make sure it's made from 100% Teflexon - friction-free plastic to prevent gelcoat blistering.
- **You should look for trailers with "drive on" capabilities.** These drive on trailers will allow you to drive the boat onto the trailer, close enough to the winch so that you only need to winch the boat up a few inches.
- Select trailer lights (for the highway) that are protected and sealed against water.

Although most are protected against weather and rust, you should always pick the one designed for the type of terrain you will be using your boat with. This way, you have no worries about your trailer not doing the job it should be. Some trailers allow you to unload in shallow areas so make sure the electrical system and bearings are kept dry at all times.

There are some trailers that include a spare tire, which is an excellent investment for those who plan to travel long distances. Even though it can

be hard to find trailer tires in the dark, it's still great to have a spare if you get a flat while you travel. Most brand-new trailers come with manufacturers performance warranty, so make you ask for it even if it's used, some do come with lifetime warranty.

All in all, a boat trailer can save you a lot of time and money in the long term if you invest in a good quality trailer. You can store your boat on your trailer when it isn't being used, even take it to other lakes or oceans.

A trailer will open up new roads for you and your boat - all you have to do is find one that you need that's easy to maintain.

Chapter 3: Boat-Buying Tips to Save Time and Money

You're in the market for a boat and you'd love to buy one at the next boat show. But which boat is the right one for you? It's hard to know, especially if you're a first-time buyer.

A boat is a big investment, so it's important to do careful research to find the one that best meets your needs. Buyers should consider not only the price but also the manufacturer of the engine and the boat, the size and fuel capacity.

The first step is to determine how you will use the boat. What types of activities do you plan to do on your boat? Will you be cruising, fishing, playing watersports or a combination of these? After you have an idea of the type of boat you need, it's time to weed through the options.

One helpful resource is Boat Test.com, a site that allows prospective boat buyers to compare boats by type, size and manufacturer. After you specify what you're looking for, Boat Test.com generates a head-to-head comparison of all the models that fit your criteria.

Visitors to the site can see articles about various boats and watch videos of independently conducted tests for each model as well as video clips on engines, electronics and more. After narrowing down your options to a few models, you can go to the manufacturer's dealer locator through BoatTest.com to get more information and pricing.

If you plan to attend a boat show, doing research beforehand will save you a lot of time because you only will need to visit the exhibits of the specific boats you are interested in. At the show, take some time to look at the boats up close and check out the workmanship, ergonomics and other factors that may influence your decision.

If you prepare ahead of time, you'll also be able to tell the dealer exactly what you want in a boat. Armed with price and performance comparisons, you can simply walk from one dealer to the next until you get the price that

Splendid Boating

is acceptable to you. In the end, you'll head home with a new boat and the satisfaction that you got the best deal possible. - NU

Chapter 4: Boat Docking Techniques Made Easy

Each year, around this time, thousands of people start flocking to the waterways to enjoy a day of boating.

While many are experienced boaters, there are plenty of first time boaters hitting the water... and the docks.

Docking techniques are always going to be dependent upon the weather and wind conditions, but there are a few simple things you can keep in mind. First of all, especially in this particular case, practice makes perfect.

Although we can provide tips, docking techniques in boating are going to be something you will have to personalize to your experience, your boat, and the dock itself.

Many boaters make the common mistake of attempting to dock their boats by approaching the dock in a straight line. It is much easier to get close to the dock and improve the accuracy of your approach by approaching the dock at an angle. Also, the speed at which you come in to the dock must be controlled.

This is not as easy as it sounds. Often, even idle speed on a boat is too fast and coasting reduces steering capability, making it even more difficult to accurately line up with the dock. The best way to counter this problem is to alternate between power for steering (short shots of forward gear) and coasting for speed control.

You'll have to practice this one over and over. As you get closer to the dock start to turn the boat and decelerate to a stop by using reverse. Again, the deceleration reduces steering capability. You are going to have to rely on the momentum of the boat to get you over this obstacle.

Momentum and speed are not the same thing. Momentum is simply the forward motion of the boat that will actually carry you into the dock. You will need just enough momentum to get you to the dock and allow you to smoothly make the shift to reverse to stop. Once you've actually mastered this task, you'll probably agree that the best docking technique is the one

Splendid Boating

that you learn by trial and error. Nothing will be a better teacher than practice, practice, practice.

The best advice would be to take it slow, don't get nervous or discouraged and most importantly, remember that every time you try it, will make it a little easier the next time.

Chapter 5: Boat Care

The story of boats is as old as the human civilization. There's reference of a boat "Noah's ark" in the Bible.

Noah's ark was the boat built by the Biblical character Noah to save his family and animals from the Flood. Gondolas were the traditionally used boats in Venice.

Today, a boat is considered as one of the major tools of watercraft. A boat is a small vessel for traveling on water. It comprises of one or more buoyancy structures called hulls, and some system of propulsion such as a screw, oars, paddles, a setting pole, a sail, paddlewheels or a water jet.

The front of a boat is called the bow or prow and the rear of the boat is called the stern. The right side is starboard and the left side is port. The boat toilet is called the 'heads'.

A boat with a housing compartment is called a houseboat or barge. A pontoon boat is a flat-bottomed boat that serves as a dock or as a floating structure to support a bridge. The pontoon boat is also known as a party boat. It is constructed of round tubes (called sponsons) that are attached to the outside, bottom edge of a large flat deck.

It has a safety railing that surrounds the deck from all sides. The helm station is placed either in the middle of the deck or off to one side. Pontoon boats may be furnished with lawn furniture, and some deluxe pontoon boats may have upholstered seating, a dinette table, a roof, a cooler, and maybe even a head (toilet).

A recreational boat is used for water sporting activities or other recreational purposes.

Boat Maintenance:

People fond of water sports or water adventures keep their own boats. Taking good care of one's boat is very important. Good care and maintenance enhances the life of a boat and saves a lot of money also.

The following are some boat care tips:

Splendid Boating

- The boat engine should be flushed each time after it's used in salt water.
- The underneath of the boat should be washed to prevent salt buildup.
- The entire boat should be washed using soap and water, after every single use.
- A non-skid cleaner should be used to scrub the deck.
- The boat should be completely dried after washing.
- The boat should be covered properly with a boat cover.
- The boat should be waxed every few months to protect the finish from stains and UV damage.
- Boat parts and accessories should be checked regularly, and defective parts should be replaced.

A boat cover is a very important accessory. When your boat is not in use, a cover will keep it protected from harsh weather and wearing. People use various boat covers and boat tops to protect their boats. Custom boat covers, bimini tops and canvas boat covers are some quite commonly used covers.

Chapter 6: Boat Loans

Owning a boat of your own is a matter of privilege. You can explore the wonders of the sea with your own boat rather than renting a boat, which is available for a limited time span.

What is stopping you from buying a boat of your own? Is it lack of sufficient funds in your account? If your answer is yes, then no need to worry any longer, boat loans are here to help you get your dream boat.

Boat loans, facilitate the UK residents with an opportunity to buy a boat of their choice. For some of you a boat may be a passion while for others it could be just a luxurious item. You can choose the boat that suits your personality and need from the variety of boats available in the market ranging from a powered speed boat to a narrow boat and a house boat to a smaller cruiser.

If you have decided to take a boat loan you need to keep few points in consideration. First and the foremost thing you need to do is to decide which boat do you wish to buy and find out its price, this will help you in determining how much funds do you need.

The next thing is to unearth how much money do you have which you can invest in purchasing the boat. Both these steps will help you in finding how much money do you exactly need to borrow with a boat loan.

Lenders in the UK offer boat loans ranging from £10,000 to £10,000,000. Thus, you can design your budget accordingly. The best thing about boat loans is that they get approved easily and quickly. Boat loans are usually offered for a term of 5 to 25 years. The amount you can get with a boat loan depends on your credit history as well as your repayment capability.

There are two types of boat loans available in the loan market – secured and unsecured boat loan. Secured boat loan requires a borrower to put some kind of collateral to become eligible for the loan. Tenants can apply for an unsecured boat loan, which does not require a borrower to put a security against the loan.

In the same way, homeowners who wish to protect their home from the risk of repossession too can apply for an unsecured boat loan.

Boat loans are offered at both fixed as well as variable rate. In case of a fixed rate loan, you will have to pay fixed sum of money every month, this loan option will help you in accommodating your budget each month. On the other hand, in variable rate loan or adjustable rate loan the interest rate fluctuates with market interest rate.

This interest rate loan option will allow you to take advantage of the falling market interest rate. You can choose the interest rate option as per your

Do take into consideration the various fees associated with the boat loan that sometime results in a low cost seeming loan turning out to be costly. A boat loan may account for fees such as underwriting fees, processing fees, cost of credit report, and other related costs. Make sure to consider all the cost involved which will help you in deciding which loan option is best suited to your needs.

When you reach out in the market to find the best boat loan there will be enormous number of lenders offering you great loan deals. Now, you have to decide whether want to undergo the lengthy stressful loan process or a fast, easy and cheap loan. Majority of you will opt for second option as everyone wish to save his or her valuable time and money. Online lenders aim to provide you with the comfort of getting a cheap and fast boat loan arranged.

It is easy to apply for a boat loan; you just need to fill in an online loan application form with some of your personal and financial information. Lenders will get back to you with the loan deals they find appropriate for you. Don't accept the very first loan deal you get. Search around, collect loan quotes from lenders and compare them to find the loan deal that you find to be perfect matching your needs and desires to the best.

Exploring the wonders of the sea with a boat of your own, this may be a dream come true for some of you. Don't let this dream fade away. Borrow a boat loan and get the finance you need to finance your dream boat.

Chapter 7: Houseboat Rentals

If you're the type that prefers the excitement of ongoing variety, then booking a mainstream vacation may not be for you.

Among the many options from which there are to choose, houseboat vacations offer a non-stop, fun-in-the-sun experience which little else can parallel. Perhaps the biggest perk of these floating homes is that if you get tired of your surroundings, you can simply move on to another port and enjoy a new facet of your trip – which equates to a bunch of mini-vacations all within one package.

Houseboat Vacation Websites

- **Houseboatholidays.com** – Based in British Columbia, these folks provide vacation packages that allow guests to explore the breathtaking scenery of the Shuswap Lake. The lake's claim to fame is that it offers boaters the opportunity to view sights that are only visible from certain parts of this H-shaped body of water.

Complete with a thunderous waterfall, majestic mountains and crystal waters, a Shuswap Lake vacation combines the excitement and serenity of a top-notch holiday on the water.

- **Foreverhouseboats.com** – Inviting travellers to choose from a number of models and destinations, this vacation merchant also offers summer specials to those who visit the website and book during certain times of the season.

Whether you're looking for a basic model or something in the line of luxury, you're sure to find it here. Choose from among 11 outstanding destinations, including Lake Don Pedro, Lake Mead, Lake Powell and Lake of the Ozarks.

- **Voyagaire.com** – Explore the Minnesota wilderness from a top-of-the-line houseboat as you follow the routes of fur traders, Indians and voyageurs of old. Swimming, fishing – and a soak in the hot tub – await you when you book your vacation with this Crane Lake, Minnesota rental facility. Choose from among a wide variety of models,

from basic to deluxe, and get ready to witness the astounding beauty of towering pines, perennial gardens and immaculate waters.

Luxury Houseboats

- **Waterwayrentals.com** – Whether you prefer the sunny west coast of California or the tropical climes of Florida, you can enjoy your vacation in a state-of-the-art luxury Starlite Houseboat, provided by the folks at Waterway Rentals. With the ability to accommodate up to 10 people, these rentals will allow you to go cruising up and down the coastline in style.

Amenities include a Bose Home Theater, two full baths, hot tub, digital depth finder, central heat and air conditioning, separate dining room, full size range, microwave, dishwasher and refrigerator/ice maker, king and queen size beds, 4 sun lounges, and a built-in entertainment center, as well as nearly two dozen others.

- **Realadventures.com** – Offering four different California locations, including Lake McClure Marinas, Shasta Lake Resorts, New Melones Lake Marina and Herman & Helen’s Marina on the Delta, these vacation packages will have you enjoying lots of local activities when you’re not on board one of the most luxurious houseboats on the west coast.

These top-of-the-line vessels include amenities such as a surround sound entertainment system, hot tub, a plethora of modern appliances, heat and air conditioning systems, a richly appointed interior – and even a slide built onto the outside deck, so that swimmers can swoosh into the water at top speed. Accommodating up to 15 guests – and pets! – you’ll be able to enjoy wakeboarding, fishing and water-skiing, as well as a spacious patio for those moments when you need a bit of R&R.

If you don’t know where to stay when you book your next vacation, consider a houseboat. For about the same price as a hotel, you can enjoy the many benefits of travel on one of these spacious vessels – including the privacy that you often have to forfeit when staying in more traditional lodgings.

Chapter 8: Picking Out The Ultimate Fishing Boat

You and your family are heading out early in the morning for a day of fishing in your brand-new fishing boat.

You hit that highway that leads to the lake, excited voices echoing throughout your SUV. Your wife and kids are just as delighted with the new boat as you are and are discussing the whopper they hope to catch.

You arrive at the lake, launch the runabout that contains the entire family's fishing gear and in no time at all, you are skimming across the water, every family member safely encased in a lifejacket. You just know that this is going to be a great family outing and everyone loves the new fishing boat.

A fishing boat can be anything between a canoe where you dangle basic bait over the side in a river or stream to a powerful cabin cruiser or yacht. Basically, all you need to get out onto the water is a vessel that is seaworthy. There are a large variety of fishing boats available on today's market. You can buy them at boat shows, fishing shows or dealerships. Let's look at some different types of fishing boats.

Freshwater Fishing Boats

If you enjoy fishing in freshwater rivers, lakes and streams, leave the big, powerful boats for someone else. Choose a fiberglass or aluminum boat that is lightweight and easy to transport. A bowrider, runabout, walleye boat or a boat with a small or dual console will meet all of your freshwater fishing needs. These boats are perfect for family outings.

Bass Boats

Bass boats ride low in the water and are usually very colorful and extremely fast. They can be aluminum or fiberglass and most often they are equipped with platforms in both the bow and stern for easy casting. If you've always dreamed of owning the perfect bass boat, be sure to buy one that has a trolling motor mounted on the bow. These boats are mainly used for sport fishing and tournament fishing.

Offshore Saltwater Boats

If you enjoy heading out on the open sea for a day of saltwater fishing that includes huge fish and heavy tackle, you will need a heavy boat that is dependable and can be relied on in all situations and weather. Anything less than a cuddy cabin or center console that's equipped with either twin or single outboard motors will not fit the bill.

The high end of an offshore saltwater boat is a Bluewater or convertible that comes complete with luxury quarters and elaborate salons. These boats should be equipped with inboard diesel engines that have maximum power.

Inshore Saltwater Boats

If you're planning to fish for Tarpin, bonefish, trout and Snook or redfish on tropical flats, a light boat will take you a long way. This type of boat should always be less than a 25-footer and powered by a single outboard motor. The best type of vessel for inshore saltwater fishing is a basic bay boat or flat boat. Both types of boats offer a spacious deck for casting and float well in shallow water.

Float Tubes

Float tubes are devices that allow fly anglers who don't own a boat easy access to get out onto the water. They are excellent for fishing ponds, lakes and mountain streams. Essentially a float tube is a floatation device that is equipped with a seat.

The angler sits in the seat while wearing fins and kicks his way around while partially submerged. Fly fishing from float tubes can be difficult, especially for those who are using them for the first time. It definitely takes time to hone your fly casting skills from a float tube.

There are two basic types of float tubes - traditional and pontoon. Traditional float tubes are usually round and have an opening in the front or middle. Basically, these are an inner tube with built-in features for fly fishing. These float tubes can take a lot of time to maneuver because they are round in shape and cause a lot of water resistance.

Splendid Boating

The newer pontoon float tubes are much easier to use. These are equipped with two pontoons, or air chambers, one on each side of the fisherman. Pontoon float tubes have less water resistance and offer far less drag than traditional ones because the pontoons are V-shaped and move through the water almost effortlessly.

If you are thinking of purchasing a fishing boat, shop around, talk to anglers who own their own boats and do your research to help you decide which type of boat you'd like to have.

If you still can't make a choice, talk to a boat fishing guide or the owner of a fishing charter service. They will be glad to give you tips on how to choose the perfect boat for you.