

EXPERIENCE SLY YOURS

THE TIARA YACHTS EX 54 IS A MID-30-KNOT CRUISER WITH THREE STATEROOMS AND AN ARRAY OF COCKPIT LAYOUT OPTIONS. BY CHRIS CASWELL



The Tiara EX 54's bridge deck can be closed up and climate-controlled or fully open for sun and breezes.

T

TIARA YACHTS entered new territory with its EX 60 last year, and its EX 54 follows that same magic in a smaller package. Like the EX 60, the EX 54 has modular seating in the cockpit, allowing each owner to tailor the yacht to a specific mission. My educated guess says that the Lounge module will be the most popular, with a pair of settees facing across a folding teak table. Not only does this setup make for great alfresco entertaining, but the aft settee also incorporates a sink, grill, fridge and optional ice maker across the transom. The Adventure module has

fishing written all over it, replacing the aft settee with more foot space and a console with five rod holders, tackle lockers, a cutting board and a sink. The last module is the Glass Patio, which replaces the backrest of the aft settee with a laminated glass bulkhead so guests (and parents) can keep an eye on the watery action off the stern. I'd recommend the optional hydraulic platform (a 5-foot platform is standard) with steps descending into the water and built-in chocks to stow a tender. All the cockpit modules raise electrically to reveal a garage for water toys and gear. Like many powerboats these days, the Tiara EX 54 has foldout hullsides to create extended cockpit space, but Tiara goes further with flush-mounted boarding doors on each side. This design makes for easy step-aboard access while leaving nothing to stub toes with the sides folded down. Forward of the seating modules and up two steps on the mezzanine level

POD POWER

This second-generation Volvo Penta diesel IPS2 950 pod-drive system punches out 750 hp, driving through a 1.7:1 gearbox with a jack shaft that allows the engines to sit closer to the center of the yacht. With Volvo's P4 props, cruise speed was 26 knots for a range of about 300 nautical miles.

54'3"
LENGTH
OVERALL
—
15'11"
MAXIMUM
BEAM





**BUILT
TO TAKE IT**

The EX 54 has a no-wood hull. The yacht's hull, deck and topsides are backed by closed-cell foam coring that provides strength as well as soundproofing. A fiberglass grid supports the engines and interior, adding strength and rigidity.

is an aft-facing table with twin hassocks (with stowage). Forward of that and to port, with an electrically disappearing window, a pair of stools create a salon-facing bar. The adjacent two-panel sliding doors can open the salon entirely to the cockpit. ¶ In the salon, which has a Herculan teak sole, a convertible dinette to port forms a berth by lowering the high-gloss teak table. (It's the same size as the one on the EX 60.) The galley is fitted out for cruising, with a two-burner Kenyon induction cooktop, cookware, a microwave/convection oven, a two-drawer fridge and a stainless-steel sink. Behind the galley countertop is a pop-up 43-inch TV that faces the lounge. The absence of overhead cabinets makes for a panoramic view, with stowage in drawers and lockers. ¶ Just forward, the skipper can use the sliding pilothouse door for easy side-deck access. This, along with a clever outboard sliding armrest on the Stidd double-wide helm seat, lets the skipper stand on the side deck and use the Volvo Penta joystick for docking. Overhead is a Webasto electric sunroof. ¶ The dash is fitted with Volvo Penta's Glass Cockpit, including two 22-inch Garmin GPSMap 8622 displays and a row of backlit buttons for systems. The equipment includes a Garmin autopilot, Fantom 54 radar, VHF radio and aft-facing cockpit camera. ¶ Opposite the helm is a

double-wide companion seat that, at the push of a button, slides aft so everyone can join in the action while running to the next waypoint. The seat also slides forward to create a U-shaped dinette. That companion seat has a console with an optional Garmin GPSMap 8622. ¶ Step down into the airy, bright atrium from salon level, and a door leads forward from the foyer to the VIP stateroom with a walk-around island queen berth. It lifts to reveal lighted stowage for suitcases. A door allows private access to the guest head—also off the foyer—with a VacuFlush head and stall shower. Across the foyer is a second stateroom, ideally for kids, with bunk berths. ¶ The full-beam owner's stateroom is aft with 6-foot-5-inch headroom and a queen-size pedestal berth. The EX 54 that I got aboard had the full bureau to starboard. (A settee is optional.) The space had 23 drawers for extended cruising, plus a cedar-lined hanging locker like the ones in the other staterooms. A GE washer-dryer was tucked away in the passageway to this stateroom, and the private head included a Lacava vessel sink, stowage and a stall shower. ¶ Going forward on deck is made secure by solid coamings capped by stainless-steel rails. The bow area has a multiuse lounge with sun pads and a removable table. The all-chain windlass is tucked under a hatch,

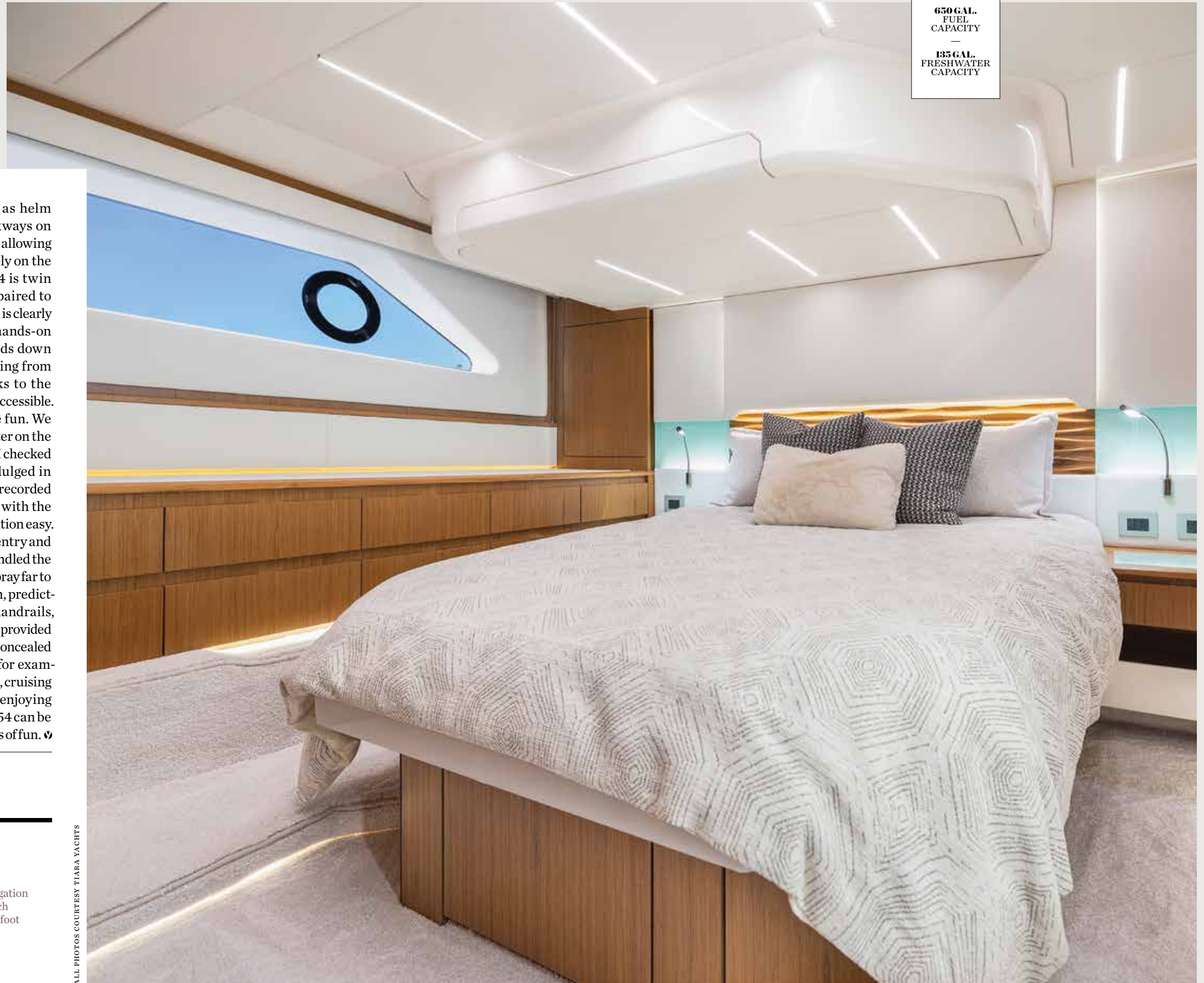
with a wired remote as well as helm controls. I liked the two walkways on each side of the windlass locker, allowing deck crew to look down securely on the anchor. ¶ Power for the EX 54 is twin Volvo Penta IPS2 950 diesels paired to pod drives, and the engine room is clearly arranged for service techs or hands-on owners. A five-step ladder leads down from the cockpit, and everything from the oil changers and seacocks to the 13.5 kW Onan genset is readily accessible. ¶ Underway, the EX 54 is pure fun. We started our runs in smooth water on the Intracoastal Waterway, where I checked a 33.7-knot top speed and indulged in some doughnuts and swoops. I recorded just 70 decibels at full throttle with the sunroof open, making conversation easy. Once offshore, the yacht's fine entry and 14-degree transom deadrise handled the lumpy Gulf Stream, throwing spray far to the side and providing a smooth, predictable, stable ride. I didn't need handrails, but I did take note that Tiara has provided a plethora of them, often neatly concealed (next to the forward sun pad, for example). ¶ Whether for entertaining, cruising with friends, fishing or simply enjoying the water, the Tiara Yachts EX 54 can be tailored to fit many owners' ideas of fun. ♡

TIARAYACHTS.COM

GARMIN GLASS COCKPIT

Optimized for use with Volvo Penta power, this user-friendly interface combines navigation (a chart plotter, GPS, sonar and radar) with operations (engine data and multitouch systems screens). Preloaded with BlueChart G3 coastal charts, it provides detail to 1 foot with contours for fishing, as well as depth shading and shallow-water warnings.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY TIARA YACHTS



650 GAL.
FUEL
CAPACITY
—
135 GAL.
FRESHWATER
CAPACITY