

Sea Ray SLX 280 OB (2023-)

Brief Summary

The SLX 280 Outboard is the latest in the new SLX lineup from Sea Ray. The 280 signals luxury with interior cues and amenities. She comes standard with twin 250-hp Mercury Verado outboard engines with Joystick Piloting. The 500-hp gets this boat on up plane quickly and can handle a crowd.

Price

Base Price\$264504.00

Prices, features, designs, and equipment are subject to change. Please see your local dealer or visit the builder's website for the latest information available on this boat model.

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
1000	6.5	5.7	2.8	2.3	2	280	243.2	60
1500	8.2	7.1	4.6	1.8	1.6	217	188.5	63
2000	10.3	8.9	7.3	1.4	1.2	170	147.5	68
2500	14.6	12.7	8.7	1.7	1.5	203	176.8	75
3000	21.6	18.7	11.7	1.8	1.6	225	195.4	76
3500	29.4	25.5	14.6	2	1.7	244	211.9	78
4000	35.4	30.7	17.2	2.1	1.8	249	216.8	79
4500	41.8	36.3	22.4	1.9	1.6	226	196.6	80
5000	46.9	40.7	26.7	1.8	1.5	213	185.5	81

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
5500	52.5	45.7	32.9	1.6	1.4	194	168.8	83
6100	56.4	49	42.7	1.3	1.1	160	139.5	83

[View the test results in metric units](#)

SeaRay SLX 280 Outboard performance

Specifications

Length Overall	31' 5" 9.58 m
BEAM	9' 2.74 m
Dry Weight	8,053 lb 3,653 kg
Tested Weight	
Draft	
Draft Up	22" 56 cm
Draft Down	35" 89 cm
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	21 deg
Max Headroom	
Bridge Clearance	9' 10" 3 m
Weight Capacity	

Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	135 gal 511 L
Water Capacity	20 gal 76 L
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	
Aft Deck	
Salon Inside Width	
Salon Fore & Aft	
Salon Height	
Salon Volume	
Galley Volume	
Master SR Width	
Master SR fore & Aft	
Master SR Overhead	
Master SR Volume	

Eng. Room Volume	
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Acceleration Times & Conditions

Time to Plane	7.7 seconds
0 to 20	
Ratio	
Props	
Load	
Climate	87 deg., 60 humid; wind: 8-15 mph, seas: flat

Sea Ray SLX 280 Outboard

Captain's Report by Capt. Shelley Morton

Sea Ray
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Mission

Sea Ray's SLX series focuses on premium accessories, upscale seating and attractive upholstery. Her mission is to provide everything needed for waterborne adventure for people who want the very best in the boats they own.

Sea ray SLX 280 Layout
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There are three distinct zones in the boat. One flows into the next.

Major Features

- Upmarket upholstery and stitchwork
- Extra wide captain's chair
- Swiveling captains and companion seats
- 15-17 cupholders
- Stainless steel windshield header
- Removable storage caddy in the mechanical compartment
- Deeper more ergonomic seating throughout
- Indirect mood lighting
- Hidden speakers
- Dedicated soft-sided cooler storage.
- Five-year factory warranty
- Massive storage under the aft sun pad
- Dual Multi-function displays
- Large changing room or an optional head

Design

Sea Ray says they are designing the next generation of boats with the SLX model. The SLX 280 Outboard showcases a new modern and athletic hull side sculpting that looks crisp and clean on the water. She has a robust freeboard both forward and aft.

Sea Ray SLX 280 Profile

The new design language in the SLX lends to a striking profile in the water.

Performance

Sea ray 280

During our tests of the SLX 280 Outboard with a combined 500 horsepower of the dual outboard motors, we achieved a top speed of 57 mph. The best cruise came in at 4000 RPM and 35.4 mph. At that speed, the 17-GPH fuel burn translated into 2.1 MPG and a range of 249 statute miles, all while holding back a 10% reserve of the boat's 135-gallon (511 L) total fuel capacity.

With a wide-open throttle, we reached full plane speed in 7.7 seconds, accelerated to 30 mph in 11.2 seconds and 50 in 17.7 seconds.

Handling

The boat's 21-degree deadrise at the transom is a good compromise between comfort and speed. Indeed, she is faster than many boats we've tested in class. Even at high speeds, turns were steady and the 43" (109 cm) freeboard gives a sense of security and safety in quick maneuvers.

That relatively high freeboard adds to the sense of stability in this boat, in addition to keeping passengers dry and somewhat protected from the wind. At the helm, standing and seated operating positions have full visibility. Overall, the Sea Ray SLX 280 Outboard boat was a pleasure to handle.

Boat Inspection

Cockpit

slx280OB_Cockpit2

Captain and companion chairs swivel to join the cockpit benches.

slx280OB_Ergonomics

All cockpit benches feature a sloped design to funnel water off the seats and to allow airflow in the small of one's back.

slx280OB_CockpitTable

The bow and cockpit tables are part of the Comfort Bundle, which also includes a bow filler cushion.

Like all Sea Ray SLX models, luxury finishes come standard. The intricate diamond stitching is woven into rich, durable upholstery with complementary accents. Throughout the cockpit, there are properly placed grab handles for each seat — meeting ABYC standards.

The ABYC standards call for a minimum of 24" (60 cm) high support on weather decks, but the SLX 280 has a maximum cockpit depth of 39" (99.06 cm), which is certainly one of the deepest in class.

The deep cockpit has seats ergonomically designed for people to sit in and not on. There is a big difference, which adds to both comfort and a sense of safety.

I found these two attributes — a deep cockpit and ergonomically designed seats — compelling and they are details that differentiate the 280 from other bowriders in class.

Below the captain's seat is a drawer-style 12V refrigerator and just aft is an optional end table. A two-person bench seat bench doubles as storage and the optional SeaDek decking provides a comfortable and non-slip surface.

six280OB_EndTable

The optional end table holds beverages and has another inductive charger and storage within.

six280OB_CoolerStorage

Lugging large coolers is a thing of the past. Smaller soft-sided coolers have dedicated storage.

six280OB_PortStorage

The port storage locker extends from the sun pad to under the cockpit bench seat. It's deep enough for a small Lilly pad.

Port Console

Within the port console is a storage compartment and the access door secures to the helm console with a strong magnet. The compartment can be upgraded with a flush toilet, a vanity with a sink and a trash can.

six280OB_Head

The SeaDek decking is thoughtfully extended into this compartment.

six280OB_GloveBox

The 1st Mate Marine Safety and Security System communicates overboard alerts and other messages to your smartphone, providing a safe alternative to the traditional kill switch lanyard.

six280OB_SoleStorage

In between the port and starboard consoles is a large locker in the sole. There is a notch so that longer items like skis can be stored in this area that measures 77" long, 81" at its widest and 34" deep (195.58 cm x 205.74 cm x 86.36 cm).

Helm

six280OB_HelmPhoneHolder

The helm layout is functional and attractive with the added bonus of a footrest and two spaces to place a phone.

Standard are dual 9" (22.86 cm) Simrad multi-function touchscreens that control the whole boat. Our demo vessel was equipped with optional 12" (30.48 cm) displays. On the MFDs are Mercury engine data, active trim control and monitoring, a chart plotter, a depth finder and more. Sea Ray has utilized the CZone digital switching software that was once only available in large boats. This allows every electrical operation and piece of equipment to be controlled from the touch screen.

For redundancy, Sea Ray has a row of illuminated stainless toggle switches by the steering wheel. The Luddites among us will welcome the simplicity.

SLX280OB_HelmControls

Active trim controls, digital throttle and joystick piloting controls are within easy reach.

Inboard of the steering wheel is the main Apollo controller for the high-end acoustical system made by Fusion, a Garmin-owned company. Sea Ray told us that the SLX designers worked with Fusion to determine the optimal placement of all nine of the Signature Series Speakers and Subwoofer.

Their efforts resulted in the best possible sound from the boat and virtually eliminated the distortion often heard on lesser systems.

The captain's seat has a flip-up bolster and measures 39" (99.06 cm), wide enough for two people or one adult and one child. There is an option for an inductive charger hidden within the bulwarks on both port and starboard so that phones stay out of the sun while charging.

This is an important detail and one that most builders have so far failed to recognize.

SLX280OB_WindshieldWiper

There is a windshield wiper that came in handy during our testing day

Mechanical Room

The mechanical room is accessed through the central seat in the cockpit, which is more or less on the centerline. Two gas struts lift the finished compartment lid and once the storage caddy is removed, there is access to maintenance items like batteries, filters and pumps.

Caveat: Every owner of any boat should reach into the mechanical compartment to make sure all through hulls can be reached and shut off, along with other equipment that needs to be checked or cleaned periodically.

SLX280OB_StorageCaddy

The storage caddy was a little difficult to move with a single person but it can be done.

slx280OB_MechanicalRoom

The artfully organized mechanical room is fully finished.

Power Tower

Stainless steel toggle buttons control the tower and there are additional options to add port and starboard-mounted Fusion Signature Series tower speakers as well as swiveling wakeboard racks.

slx280OB_PowerTowerButton

Stainless steel toggle buttons for the Power Tower are just aft of the captain's chair.

slx280OB_PowerTowerShade

The manually-extendable shade locks into place and can remain deployed while running.

slx280OB_PowerTowerDown

If the weather turns, lower the tower to keep the wind and rain out.

Lighting

For sunset cruises, add the lighting bundle that includes illumination for all cupholders as well as ambient lighting throughout the bow and cockpit. With the touch of a button, you can adjust the RGBW LED lights both above and below the water line.

The Sea Ray logo shines on the cockpit floor from the power tower. On the exterior of the boat, there are docking lights and an illuminated Sea Ray badge on the hull.

slx280OB_Lights

The lights are controlled through the Simrad displays.

Transom

slx280OB_SunPad

The transom is sure to be a favorite hang-out when at the dock or at anchor.

Moving aft, there is a single 10" (25.4 cm) step up where a solid wood boarding step is mounted to the starboard bulwarks. To port is a swinging transom gate that locks into place. The large integrated swim platform features a concealed stainless steel four-step ladder with grab handles.

slx280OB_Engines3

The swim platform allows for easy access to the engines as well as the storage compartments below the sun pad.

slx280OB_RemoteHeadUnit

The sun pad has a small recess to store items. There are also USB pots and a remote stereo head unit.

slx280OB_TransomStorage

There is another storage locker in the starboard sole for fenders and lines.

slx280OB_SternShower

A stern shower is part of the water bundle.

The large sun pad is another social zone and measures 68" x 42" (172.72 cm x 106.68 cm) and there are cup holders on both sides. Under the pad on the port side is that large storage compartment, which is easy to access with a gas-assisted strut.

Bow

slx280OB_Bow

With both forward-facing longers and rear-facing seating, the bow is sure to be a well-used social area.

The bow is accessible through a hinged windshield with a locking air dam. In the passageway, there is a concealed trash can and remote key switches within.

slx280OB_AirDam

The windshield automatically locks into place when opened.

slx280OB_Speakers

Throughout the boat, the Fusion Signature Series Speakers have been thoughtfully blended into the environment.

slx280OB_BowSTBSStorage

Shown is the large starboard side storage compartment with the added touch of SeaDek decking within.

slx280OB_BowStorage

There is even more storage in the sole of the bow.

Under both loungers, you will find storage. But, lift the starboard seat to gain access to this large storage space that features dedicated storage for the Comfort Bundle's bow filler cushion as well as the bow and cockpit tables.

With the optional manually deployable sun shade up, the bow is a cool space to relax during your day on the water. We recommend it.

At the pointy end are several options, including a bow boarding ladder. Or, opt for the Anchor Bundle that includes a stainless steel delta-style anchor, ground tackle and windlass.

slx280OB_Anchor2

A freshwater washdown hose is available with the water bundle.

Optional Equipment and Bundles

- Anchor Bundle: Stainless steel anchor, windlass with rope and chain — \$5,415
- Comfort Bundle: Bow filler cushion, bow table and cockpit table — \$2,677
- Entertainment Bundle: Fusion head unit and remote on sun pad, 9 Signature series speakers, Subwoofer, 2 inductive chargers — \$5,969
- Essentials Bundle: Quick connect fender clips, flag pole with flag, SeaDek Flooring on the platform — \$3,631
- Lighting Bundle: LED RGB-W color-changing & white accent lighting package lighting for bow & cockpit, lighting for cupholders, underwater thru-hull (3 lights), docking lights, Sea Ray badge, illuminated (hull), Sea Ray logo light projected onto cockpit floor — \$9,385
- Water System Bundle: Bow washdown, freshwater pressure system with 12V pump & filtration, pullout transom sprayer — \$1,338
- Sea Dek Flooring — \$3,246

- Luxury Woven Vinyl — \$1,262
- Hullside Colored Gel Coat — \$3,336
- Electric Power Tower with Bimini Top — \$24,728
- Bimini Top and Boot — \$2,692
- Mooring Cover — \$1,369
- Sunshade, Manual w/2 Poles — \$1,800
- 1st Mate Safety and Security System — \$1,231
- Bow Ladder — \$369
- Ski Tow Pylon — \$1,231
- VacuFlush Toilet with Holding Tank — \$3,292
- Side Entry Step — \$1,892
- Windshield Wiper — \$385

Pricing

The base price is \$264,504, including twin 250-hp Mercury Verados with Joystick Piloting.

Observations

Three things stand out about this boat for us:

1. As mentioned above, the 41" (104.14 cm) freeboard and 39" (99.06 cm) cockpit depth rank at the top — adding safety and comfort. Passengers will be able to feel the difference.
2. The ergonomic seating to sit in and not on makes this boat a lot more comfortable.
3. The five-year bow-to-stern warranty against defects in materials and workmanship.

With the SLX 280 Outboard, Sea Ray has positioned itself squarely in the premium category in class.