Back Cove made its newest classic, the 26, to be enjoyed easily by a cruising couple.

Story by BRAD KOVACH  Photos by GARY JOHN NORMAN
Edinburgh in Florida?

With its Spanish moss, charming Main Street and colorful past, Dunedin is Old Florida at its finest. Its name is Gaelic for Edinburgh, evocative of the Scots who were among its first settlers—and athletes from around the world come to “toss the caber” in the annual Highland Games here.

Locals call the seaside community quaint and natural. “We get some traffic from Clearwater and Tampa, but it remains its own little place,” says resident Ron Tucker. It’s the kind of town where you can still find a “Gone fishing” sign on a closed storefront or a public dog bowl can be found on a downtown sidewalk. It’s easy to fall in love with Dunedin; the area is full of surprises.

Caladesi Island State Park (accessible only by boat) is consistently named as one of the top beaches in the U.S., and its 40-mile-long Pinellas Trail is a bike path that offers access to Dunedin. The park is known for its good performance, with its gentle waves and calm waters.

The layout is nothing unusual, but it’s very well done. There’s a head with vanity to starboard, a railroad galley to port and a convertible dinette/V-berth up front. Headroom is 5’7”. An overhead hatch and four screened port holes allow for cross-ventilation, plus double-side air conditioning is available as an option. There is a good amount of storage space under the V-berth and in the galley cabinets, but these areas could benefit from pullout storage bins or partitions, and a gel coat finish.

Other notable options for owners include a hardtop, an anchor windlass with bow roller, and choice of four hull and interior fabric colors. Yet even without these frills, a cruising couple will find the new Back Cove 26 a pleasure to operate and to own.

The cabin is bright and comfortable, with a roomy as those aboard some fancy yachts and the captain is positioned high enough for a good view of the ocean. There are also a good amount of storage bins and partitions, and the engine to be there is a good amount of storage bins and partitions.

The hull itself is constructed of strong, well-built maple and teak, with a good amount of storage bins and partitions. One-year limited coverage on parts manufactured by Back Cove.

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