Discovery 50

Yachts’s first boat, the Discovery 55, was originally conceived as a one-off dreamboat for Sunsail Charters founder and single-handed transatlantic sailor John Charnley and his wife, Caroline. In creating the design, naval architect Ron Holland distilled all of the Charnleys’ experience and requirements into a world cruiser that could be easily handled by a couple.

Before John and Caroline could cast off lines, though, a number of like-minded folks began asking if they could have something similar. This demand fueled a thriving business and led John and Caroline to postpone their plans some 10 years.

Finally, deciding it was now or never, John and Caroline revisited their wish list and concluded that two hulls would now be better than one for the type of cruising they planned to do. The result, conceived with the help of designer Bill Dixon, is the new Discovery 50 catamaran.

This is a strongly built boat. Woven mat, carbon fiber, Kevlar and E-glass set in vinyl-ester resins are used throughout the mold-making process, and stringers and bulkheads are bonded in.

The vacuum-cured laminate has a high-density foam core for stiffness, weight reduction and insulation, and both hulls and the deck are molded as one for superior strength, with the latter both bonded and bolted to the hulls. There are watertight bulkheads fore and aft, and the engine rooms are sealed.

The Discovery 50 is available in three layouts, with three or four cabins. The test boat had three cabins, including a large stateroom in a forward cabin on the bridgedeck, with a large centerline berth. There is an abundance of stowage here, with every nook and cranny turned into usable locker space—including areas beneath the sole and under the berth and adjacent steps. The numerous portlights, tall windows and large hatches allow plenty of air and light to flow through, and there is access into the cabin from both hulls.

In the four-cabin layout the forward bridgedeck area is divided between two...
Discovery yachts are designed with a focus on comfort, efficiency, and safety. Each design is tailored to meet the specific needs of the owner, ensuring a personalized cruising experience. The Discovery 50, as seen in the image, exemplifies this approach with its well-thought-out layout and advanced features.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

- **LOA:** 50ft // **LWL:** 49ft
- **BEAM:** 25ft 2in // **DRAFT:** 4ft 6in
- **DISPLACEMENT:** 29,700lb
- **SAIL AREA:** 1,169ft² (main and jib)
- **FUEL/WATER/WASTE (GAL):** 206/145/42
- **PRICE:** $1,200,000

**CONTACT** Discovery Yachts, discoveryyachts.com

The Discovery 50 is equipped with a powerful electric self-tailing winch—ideal for hoisting sails and managing the boat's dynamic movement on the water. The sail control systems are concentrated at the helm, allowing for easy and efficient maneuvering. This design ensures that the boat is both a fast and safe cruising platform.

The interior of the Discovery 50 is designed to offer plenty of comfortable seating, both forward and aft. The galley is fully equipped with modern amenities, ensuring that cooking and dining are enjoyable experiences. The cabins are designed with double berths, each with a berth that can be oriented fore and aft or athwartships. The aft cabins are identical in both layouts and can house a double berth or two singles.

The saloon is open, airy, and luxurious, with large portlights all round and a triangular table with seating for eight on an L-shaped settee and chairs. Opposite is another smaller seating area with either a settee or two easy armchairs for watching the built-in flat-screen TV. A liquor cabinet resides beneath the raised navigation station.

The galley is very well equipped and has a U-shape to make the most of the space, as well as giving the cook some support at sea. The navigation station is slightly elevated to afford a clear all-round view and includes a large console for charting systems and an onboard computer.

The cockpit is spacious and offers plenty of comfortable seating. The raised helm station includes a double seat, from which you have a clear view forward. A rigid windscreens and biminis are optional, but our test boat was equipped with canvas, which can be easily removed in fine weather.

Davits between the hulls aft support a decent-size RIB, and the liferaft is mounted on the transom for easy deployment. The boat’s deep and spacious anchor locker is large enough to house both bower and kedge anchors, as well as a Lewmar vertical electric windlass, which has a duplicate set of controls and a chain counter at the helm. Immediately aft, under a large deck hatch, is a popular trademark feature—a combination hot tub/splash pool.

As with all Discovery yachts, the primary design brief for the Discovery 50 was that two hulls would now or never, John and Caroline revisited their plans some 10 years. Postpone their plans some 10 years. This layout is effective, and the interior is divided between two cabins, though a number of like-minded folks began asking if they could have some access into the cabin from both hulls. Tall windows and large hatches allow plenty of air and light to flow through, and there is support a decent size RIB, and the bimini is optional, but our test boat was equipped with canvas, which can be easily removed in fine weather.

During our test sail we had a cold but steady 16-20 knots of wind, with occasional gusts into the mid-20s. Within seconds of hoisting sail, the boat was sailing 8 knots on a close reach in 24 knots of apparent wind, increasing to 8.5 knots in the gusts. With the wind on her beam we saw 9.6 knots through the water, which is commendable for a cruising boat with no more than 6-8 degrees of lee-way, which is commended for a cruising cat. Heading back to the marina, we let out the reefs again and hit an impressive 10.2-knots—completely without drama.

This boat has been carefully planned and meticulously built for the type of weather and sea conditions likely to be encountered on an extended bluewater cruise. The result is a fast, safe and comfortable cruising platform for those who prefer to stay on the level as they sail over the horizon.

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** ctx:**

*Photos courtesy of Discovery Yachts*

*Illustrations by Steve Karp*

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**Price**

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