

Palm Beach GT50

EASY RIDER

The Palm Beach GT50 makes a great first impression, as **Arnie Hammerman** found out when he stepped on board at her debut boat show.

The new Palm Beach GT50 definitely stood out from the crowd at the Newport Rhode Island Boat Show in September, with her curved black windshield and sparkling metallic blue hull. The sleek and purposeful styling make her look fast, but she also is fast, achieving speeds in excess of 42 knots according to the manufacturer. Propelled by a pair of 7.7-litre 600hp Volvo Penta D8 IPS 800, she is powerful and efficient, burning 151 litres per hour at 35 knots during preliminary testing. All Palm Beach yachts are built using modern construction methods, such as vinylester and epoxy resins, and high-tech materials like E-glass, Corcell, and Airex foam. The GT50 uses these advanced materials and goes a step further: carbon fibre is used extensively in all major structural areas, and the entire deck is constructed of vacuum infused carbon fibre. All this reduces weight while maintaining the stiffness and strength needed to handle choppy seas at high

speed. Bulkheads and stringers including a watertight collision bulkhead forward and the bonding of furniture to the hull and deck transfer shock loads across the entire structure, reducing vibration and noise.

Palm Beach is known for its generous use of timber, with teak toe rails stretching bow to stern, teak cockpit, interior soles and abundant use of varnished cabinetry and trim. However, this is one area where the GT50 departs from her Palm Beach sisters, as her styling is more contemporary, with lacquered surfaces, carbon fibre accents, and Esthec synthetic flooring, which gives her a lighter look and feel.

On the first GT50 hull, attractive two-tone ultra-leather seating contrasts a deep blue cross-checked central pattern with a soft white exterior and edges. Matte finished dark walnut cabinets and trim stand out against gloss white surfaces, stainless steel fixtures, Corian counters and fabric panels. She combines sophisticated European luxury hotel aesthetics with the purposeful look of





The Palm Beach GT50 has a punchy top speed of 42 knots.



AT A GLANCE

16.4m
Overall length

4.5m
Beam

13t
Displacement - dry

42kn
Maximum speed

a fast car. Think Ferrari meets Four Seasons and you get the idea. The GT50 appeals to a young, trendy clientele, but a lot of seasoned boaters will also be impressed.

As well as a more contemporary look, the lack of extensive varnished timbers has practical applications as well, making her easier to maintain. Palm Beach CEO Mark Richards told me that he created the GT50 to be “fast, sexy, and easy to own.”

The GT50 may have her roots in a sports car, and Richards says she handles like one too, but in addition to being fast and fun she brings along considerable accommodation. Seating is abundant throughout, which is great for dockside parties, but equally important for when going out for a ride with friends. Twin forward facing double bolstered seats, one set to starboard at the helm and the other to port, provide great visibility for both the driver and passengers. The two-tone fabric, separate back and head rests and embroidered GT logo on the chair backs hint at the speeds she is capable of.

This first GT50 hull is the express version with a hardtop, LED overhead lighting and additional air conditioning, but she is also available in an open configuration with a forward raked radar arch that looks intriguing. A large opening Webasto 80 series sunroof and retractable side windows provide plenty of light and ventilation. Aft of the helm, mirror-facing sofas provide additional seating for both dining and lounging. In the cockpit, twin L-shaped corner seating creates another gathering area and is also a great place to feel the breeze when underway. All these seating areas combine to provide seating for 10 or more in style and comfort. The cockpit includes a wet bar, fridge and icemaker to keep the party going.

There is a galley forward and a few steps down from the main saloon and helm area. Wide Corian counters allow for food prep and serving, and thoughtful amenities include a deep sink with disposal, a microwave-convection oven, a fridge-freezer and plenty of storage with built in plate racks and cup-

holders. A rectangular open hatch in the aft facing bulkhead of the galley provides access to an athwartships cabin below the main salon. The queen bed is ample and the room feels cosy and private.

The master cabin is placed forward, with an opening hatch above and storage on both sides of the bed, a hanging locker and drawers below. This cabin will easily satisfy couples while cruising, and benefits from a large head with separate shower compartment. The level of detail on board extends to this area too, with both the head and sink made of carbon fibre. This might seem a bit over the top, but it really looks cool with the distinctive grey-black colouring, and fits in with the feel of the rest of the yacht. Carbon fibre is expensive by its nature and this is a complex part that combines art with function and comes as standard equipment, demonstrating the flair and detail that Palm Beach puts into the GT.

The Palm Beach GT50 debut in the US proves the point of her concept: she was designed to turn heads and she certainly does. Her striking lines, bright hull and modern décor help differentiate her from her



Left: The helm station combines smart ergonomics and snappy decor.

Below: A stylish sunroof above the helm is a thoughtful and welcome touch.



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She cruises effortlessly at 32 knots, corners like a sports car and is finished like a Bentley.

competitors. The combination of advanced lightweight composite construction and IPS pod technology provides performance that is both entertaining and, dare I say it, practical? She cruises effortlessly at 32 knots, corners like a sports car and is finished like a Bentley. Joystick control makes docking effortless and Dynamic Positioning holds the boat in place, allowing the driver to pause for bridge openings, wait for vessel traffic to clear and prepare for docking. Helm controls are easy

Right: A contemporary galley below decks.

Below: The sleek look of the Palm Beach GT50 ensures she will turn heads wherever she goes.





Left: The master cabin is a private retreat in the bow.

to reach from the driver's seat and visibility is excellent both fore and aft. The carbon fibre-clad helm features a Garmin glass bridge that is easy to read and provides access to navigation, radar, fish-finding, the depth sounder, digital engine gauges, an engine room camera and monitoring. Advanced systems like Zipwake automatic trim tabs with roll control keep her ride smooth and efficient. Ample side decks with steps along the gunnels aft and stylish stainless rails lead from the cockpit to the bow, where a flip open compartment gives access to a Muir winch and fold out anchoring platform. Fold down stainless cleats that sit flush in the deck when not in use streamline the look and feel.

The Palm Beach GT50's modern design, fast performance and easy handling make for a sporty and stylish addition to their celebrated line. It is worth serious consideration, and you can bet that wherever this boat goes, people will be looking. [O palmbeachmotoryachts.com](http://www.palmbeachmotoryachts.com)

SPECIFICATIONS ➔



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Palm Beach GT50



MAIN DECK



LOWER DECK



1

Two large L-shaped settees in the cockpit allow guests to soak up the views. Retractable windows meld the ample saloon with the ambience of a tranquil anchorage.

2

Two-tone ultra-leather gives a sporty feel, matching the GT50's performance pedigree of over 40 knots. Twin bolstered helm seats offer the best vantage points in the house.

3

A few steps down is the galley – featuring corian counter-tops, fridge-freezer, and very handy plate racks and cup holders. Master stateroom is a roomy queen berth; ensuite has a separate shower.

4

The power plant is twin 600hp Volvo IPS800s. Extensive use of carbon fibre means weight savings. Coupled with Palm Beach's signature low drag hull, it all adds up to new standards in fuel efficiency.

SPECIFICATIONS

Builder	Palm Beach
Model	GT 50 Express
Country of build	Malaysia
Designer	Mark Richards and in-house design team
Naval architect	Mark Richards and in-house design team
Interior designer	Mark Richards and in-house design team
Year of build – debut	2018
Length overall (LOA)	16.4 metres
Waterline length (LWL)	15.24 metres
Beam	4.485 metres
Draft (IPS)	0.93 metres
Displacement – dry	13,000 kg
Hull construction	GRP with closed cell foam coring and carbon fibre reinforcement
Superstructure	GRP full carbon fibre vacuum infused
Engines	2 x 600hp D8 IPS800
Output	441kW (3,000RPM)
Drive train	IPS 15

Speed (max)	42 knots
Speed (cruise)	35 knots
Fuel capacity	1,500 litres
Range	346 nm at 30 knots
Freshwater capacity	500 litres
Blackwater capacity	230 litres
Generators (main)	Fischer Panda 10,000i (8kW/50Hz 230V)
Anchoring system	Stainless steel 21kg Ultra
Paint	Owners
Navigation electronics	Garmin 8617 glass cockpit with 7" Volvo Display, Autopilot, AIS600, GMR Fantom 18" Dome Radar
Depth sounder	Garmin GSD24
Radios	ICOM M400 BB
Owner berth	Queen island forward centreline
Guest berths	VIP queen athwartships beneath main saloon
Maximum people on board	12
Classification	CE Cat A (Pending)
Price (landed)	US\$1.6 million

16.4m

Length overall

42 knots

Speed (max)

2 x 600hp

Output

1,500L

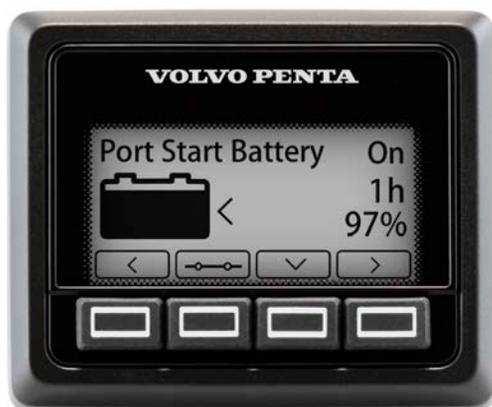
Fuel capacity

US\$1.6m

Price

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