

World Cat 230SD (2017-)

Brief Summary

Since our review, Carolina Cats have been rebranded as World Cats, which includes increasing the hull warranty from seven to 10 years. Going forward, these 23' boats will carry the World Cat name and model numbers 23 will be changed to 230. This review was originally written for the Carolina Cat 23SD.

Forget worrying about venturing out beyond the protection of the inlet with the family onboard. In fact, forget worrying about heading well beyond the visible horizon. The World Cat 230SD takes all the benefits of a roomy bowrider, adds in the spaciousness of a pontoon boat, and marries these features with a proven hull design that can take on all but the worst conditions. We've long been advocates of how well catamarans handle offshore conditions, and to us, couple the benefit with the perks of one of the roomiest deckboats in class makes a match that anyone will find compelling.

Price

Base Price

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.

Key Features

- Bow area cushioned seating with grab rails for 4 adults
- Port and starboard forward storage boxes
- Helm and passenger swivel chairs with flip-up bolster starboard
- Single ram hydraulic steering with tilt-helm and sport wheel
- Full-sized head compartment with portable head
- Entertainment center with Corian counter, sink, area for optional 48-quart cooler and grill
- Courtesy LED lighting
- Wrap-around aft seats with removable cushions and storage
- Designed for watersports, with large swim platform and available ski pylon
- Versatile hull that draws only 11" (0.28 m), yet has excellent offshore handling

Specifications

Length Overall	22' 7" / 6.88 m
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BEAM	8' 6" 2.59 m
Dry Weight	4,500 lbs. 2,041 kg
Tested Weight	
Draft	11" 0.28 m
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	N/A
Max Headroom	open
Bridge Clearance	N/A
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	89 gal. 337 L
Water Capacity	N/A
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	

Acceleration Times & Conditions

Time to Plane	
0 to 20	
Ratio	
Props	

Load	
Climate	

Carolina Cat 230SD profile view

In this profile view of the World Cat 230SD, it is hard to tell that she is not a monohull but a catamaran.

Mission Statement

The 230SD (Sun Deck) is World Cat's first foray into the sportboat market using its proven 23' (7.01 m) catamaran hull. The result is an extremely roomy platform with a level of seaworthiness and on-the-water comfort that traditional flat bottom and V-hull sportboats are hard-pressed to match. More deck space and superior stability mean more fun, which is what a sportboat is all about. The safety and easy-handling this hull is known for will give mom and dad assurance when bringing the family out on the water. Because this hull was designed for versatility, and because she is a cat, in a single stroke she becomes one of the most both inshore and offshore-capable sportboats on the market. This is the go-further, ride-smoother, get-home-every-time sportboat.

Carolina Cat 230SD stern drawing

A sectional view of the 230SD near the stern: A= 8'6" (2.59 m); B=24.75" (.63 m); C= 34.75" (.88 m); D=59-5/8" (1.51 m). This design is what gives the vessel her stability. Note the flat sections of the bottom of each hull near the transom for efficiency underway. World Cat's 230CC and 230DC models have the same specs.

Distinguishing Features

Catamaran Hull. The 230SD uses the same 23' (7.01 m) catamaran hull made famous by World Cat's center and dual console models. This hull has a stellar reputation for being a safe and comfortable ride even when conditions get nasty. Buoyancy on the outside edges makes the boat very stable at rest. Adapting this hull to a sportboat gives the 230SD a major advantage over the competition in ride, comfort, and seaworthiness.

Dual Engine Redundancy. Are two engines better than one? For many boaters the redundancy of the dual 115-hp outboard engines on the 230SD inspires confidence over single engine competitors -- particularly when going offshore. It is rare for a boat of this size and style to have twin engines of any type.

Big Deck. The shape of a cat hull does not taper at the bow and holds full beam width from the transom to the bow giving the 230SD more useable deck space than a traditional monohull. The sheer workable space is notable throughout the boat which will be appreciated when entertaining or for watersports.

© Carolina Cat 23SD running shot

When underway the 230SD bow coaming is over 51" off the water insuring a dry ride in most conditions.

Deep Storage. A catamaran holds the most depth on the outside edges of the hull. This allows some extra deep storage bins to be placed below the deck line around the perimeter of the boat. World Cat makes full use of this area and the 230SD has storage to spare for skis, wakeboards and all sorts of water toys and gear.

High End Construction. A hull design that can handle big seas requires solid construction to take the strain. World Cats are built with all composite fiberglass. No wood is used in their construction. Closed cell injected foam provides basic floatation with woven fiberglass and methacrylate bonding that provides a tensile strength of over 4,000 lbs. per square inch.

More Weight. Virtually all catamarans are heavier than their equal-length counterparts in the monohull world. The reason is because much more fiberglass and resin are used to build the two hulls and the structure between them, plus the added deck space in the bow. We averaged the weight of four popular 23' sterndrive sportboats and came up with 3,336 lbs. -- 14% less than the World Cat 230SD's 4,500 lbs. (2,041 kg).

Outboard Power. Virtually all sportboats on the market in the 23' range are sterndrive powered which typically runs between 190-hp and 320-hp.

Great Fuel Capacity. The 230SD has a fuel capacity of 89 gallons (337 L) which is nearly twice that of most sportboats this size. The reason for this is that in her first life this 23-footer was intended to be an offshore fishing boat that needed to reach the canyons. If long jaunts are not planned, simply fill the tank accordingly to maximize performance.

© Carolina Cat 23SD deck

The deck of the World Cat 230SD is designed for comfort and function. The cushioned lounge to port is an ideal spot to recline and soak up the action while the starboard entertainment center is as large as they come in class.

Where the Action Is

Sportboats are all about action and fun. In a sportboat, most buyers are looking for maximum person-carrying capacity, lots of storage for all gear needed, and easy launching of towing activities off the stern. The 230SD is rated to carry 10 people and because of her twin hulls has more storage capacity than any other sportboat this length.

Stern Platform.

Her centerline swim platform is unusual and the twin engine cowlings might offer a measure of support when getting into the water. Equally important, there is a fiberglass deck across the stern where two or three people can stand at the same time to help launch the person being towed.

Shallow Draft

While the World Cat hull design enables excellent deep-water capability, it also allows remarkably shallow draft. The World Cat 230SD draws a stingy 11" (0.28 m), which enables it to compete with many bay boats for skinny water and inshore capability.

Sporty Styling

Let's start with looks. Appearances mean a lot in the sportboat market and everyone wants to look good while having fun. From first glance this cat looks like she wants to go. World Cat gives owners a variety of visual options from clean, uncomplicated hull colors and a Bimini top to a full-on and refreshingly creative sports package with aggressive graphics and a powder coated, forward facing towing tower. The tower holds a tow point and navigation lights.

World Cat 230SD bow seating

Bow seating on the 230SD with the optional sun pad filler cushion inserted. The cushioned area is large enough to accommodate several passengers with room to spare. The comfortable, high-grade upholstery is soft and relaxed.

Big Bow

The twin hull catamaran allows a generous amount of space in the bow area where the 230SD has roomy seating with cushioned bolsters and seat backs. An optional bow sun pad with filler cushion transforms this

area into a very large cushioned sun deck where even the lankiest passenger can stretch out with ease. Low profile grab rails hug the gunnels within easy reach, while four stainless steel cup holders keep beverages steady.

Bow Equipment.

The wide bow provides plenty of room for a standard forward beach boarding ladder. This feature is quite useful when beaching the boat between wakeboarding runs and guests don't want to get their clothes wet when going ashore. The bow pulpit keeps the anchor secure and out of the way and feeds directly into the bow storage locker for rope and chain.

World Cat 230SD Helm

The helm on the 230SD is snug and comfortable. The wraparound seat is adjustable and swivels. All controls and switches are within easy reach. The instrument panel has plenty of area for a 12" moving map display, gauges and stereo controls. Storage is accessed by the hatch at left in the console. The sport steering wheel is comfortable and responsive.

Command Deck

While the builder calls this model a "Sun Deck" -- and she is certainly every bit of that -- she is also a "dual console". As such she has a wide walkthrough windshield that can easily be closed if the weather is not cooperating. Both the helm and the companion seat are well protected from wind and spray because of the high freeboard and even higher windshield. Again, remember that this boat was first designed for rugged offshore work.

Heads Up.

Directly behind the windshield to port is the enclosed head. Thanks to its position above in the port hull there is far more headroom in this 23-footer's head compartment than is possible in a 23' monohull dual console sportboat. A Porta-Potti head is standard equipment. To starboard below the windshield is a large storage area in front of the helm.

World Cat 230SD enclosed head

Stepping down into the enclosed head area makes one appreciate the catamaran design. Since the head is located on the port hull engineers were able to get more headroom out of the area using less above deck space. An electric flush head is optional equipment. This compartment needs an opening port or an exhaust fan.

The Helm.

Driving the World Cat 230SD is a cozy proposition with a snug, wrap-around helm chair that swivels and slides for optimum comfort. A convenient foot rest is molded into the console. The dual engine and trim controls are within easy reach, as is the switch panel. The engine gauges are in plain sight above the steering wheel where they share space with the Fusion stereo controls. There is room for a 12" screen GPS/chartplotter that would be more than adequate for a boat this size, particularly one going offshore. To port there is a matching wrap-around helm chair and leg room to spare.

Aft Cockpit

Moving aft into the cockpit we find a large amount of wide open space for a boat of this size flanked by a cushioned L-shaped lounge to port and an entertainment center to starboard. This is the area of the boat where the majority of activity takes place and the design is ready for the action. The lounge is comfortable. It is large enough for an adult to comfortably recline in and has cushioned seat backs fore, aft, and amidships. Three stainless steel drink holders, a grab rail, and under seat storage complete the package. Courtesy LED lights are strategically placed throughout the cockpit for those evenings spent onboard.

World Cat 230SD entertainment center

The entertainment center on the 230SD has a deep freshwater sink, stow-away space for an optional 48 quart cooler, drink holders, and room for an optional grill. The counter is Corian.

The entertainment center is molded into the hull and has a smooth Corian countertop. A freshwater sink is standard as is a fitted area for a 48-quart cooler. An "Entertainment Package" is optional and includes a 20-gallon (76 L) freshwater system as well as an electric marine-head.

The deck space carries to an offset starboard transom door that leads out onto a large swim platform and swim ladder positioned between the twin engines. The platform is larger than most sportboats in this size class and is big enough to deal with deploying leisure toys. A freshwater wand shower is ideally positioned in the transom and convenient to access from the platform or the cockpit.

It is worth noting that the platform and cockpit area are exceptionally roomy which will be very much appreciated when negotiating cumbersome watersports equipment like tubes, wakeboard, and the like.

Options to Consider

The base World Cat 230SD comes with a list of standard equipment that is adequate for a pleasant day on the water, including the standard Fusion marine entertainment system. However, the real fun begins when adding options and there is quite a bit that can be done with this boat to customize her in several different ways.

The "Sports Package"

will be a popular option on the 230SD as it includes a blue graphics package. The ski tower is a functional option for those who like to ride the wake (The optional ski pylon is another great way to create some fun behind the boat). Add underwater lights, and the bow sun pad and this boat is seriously ready to party.

Carolina Cat 23SD colored hulls

We like colored hulls and World Cat offers six gel coat colors in addition to its standard white.

The cockpit entertainment center has some available upgrades for those who desire amenities. These include a grill, 20 gallon (76 L) freshwater tank, and a marine-head. For those planning on-water picnics and cocktail parties, we would recommend the optional side-mounted table that can be placed in the bow or the stern. Some owners might want one for each location.

Carolina Cat 23SD power required

The standard bow boarding ladder makes it easy to get on the beach without getting wet. Catamaran boats traditionally do not require as much power to move as traditional boats. The standard twin 115-hp engines offer sporty performance on this 23 footer (7.01 m).

Power and Performance

Power packages come from Yamaha as twin 115-hp 4-stroke outboards. The nature of a cat boat allows it to skim through the top of the water without needing a lot of power so the standard twin 115-hp engines get the job done.

WOT and Best Cruise. We have not tested the World Cat 230SD but the folks at Yamaha have. With twin F-115XBs with 16-1/4" x 16" props and a test weight of 5,226-lbs. (2,370 kg), Yamaha's techs recorded a WOT speed of 41.6 mph at 6250 rpm. Best Cruise was found to be at 3500 rpm where the boat went 21.7 mph getting 3.19 mpg. That gives the boat a 267 statute mile range and over 12 hours of endurance with a 10% fuel reserve.

World Cat

World Cat is the largest catamaran manufacturer in the world and also builds Glacier Bay Edition boats. The 140,000 sq. ft. North Carolina manufacturing facility has been building cats since 1989. World Cat takes pride in the belief that its hull design is superior in rough conditions and the company manufactures its boats to be able to handle the unique stresses that catamarans have.

Multiple layers of knitted fiberglass are laminated in hand lay-up. Eliminating wood in the construction costs more, but it provides a longer life and no-rot worries anywhere, especially in the places that take the most strain.

Observations

The World Cat 230SD has greater interior space than a deck boat, the comfort and good-looks of a dual console, the stability of a pontoon boat, and the sea keeping abilities that only a catamaran can offer. As such she is an appropriate option anywhere that a deckboat, dual console, or a pontoon boat might be considered. In short, she is a sportboat on steroids. We think she is a particularly exciting -- and practical -- option for people who do their boating in "big water" -- the Great Lakes or in saltwater locations. There the cat offers the most stable platform available, and, perhaps, the safest one as well. And of course, most pontoon and deck boats are not appropriate for those applications. The 230SD costs more than many monohulls of the same length. As noted, there is significantly more material in the boat and, of course, it has two engines, not just one. For those wanting to do some serious entertaining afloat, the ability to have two tables, large, comfortable seating areas, a full size head (with headroom), and stability at its best, we think the World Cat 230SD is compelling.