

Leopard 51 PC (2019-)

Brief Summary

Today we are reviewing the Leopard 51 PC. Leopard catamarans are built by Robertson and Caine in South Africa. They have become quite popular with charter operators, like The Moorings, for their sheer volume of entertainment space and the number of people they can accommodate. Add in a shallow draft, a reasonable cruising range plus good handling characteristics and one can easily see how they would appeal to private owners as well, particularly those entertaining weekend or overnight guests.

Price

Base Price\$739000.00

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.

Key Features

- 3 or 4 cabin layout, each with private ensuite heads
- Four distinct entertainment areas
- Optional crew berth and head with private entrances
- Forward cockpit for better ventilation and improved visibility
- Flybridge lounge, with optional grill and galley

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
550	3.9	3.3	0.4	9.6	8.4	3430	2982.9	59
1000	6.6	5.7	0.9	7.3	6.3	2594	2255.5	65
1250	7.9	6.9	1.8	4.4	3.8	1564	1360.2	67
1500	9.5	8.2	2.9	3.3	2.9	1182	1027.6	70

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
1750	10.6	9.2	4.6	2.3	2	830	722	72
2000	11.4	9.9	6.8	1.7	1.5	595	517.3	74
2200	12.1	10.5	9.3	1.3	1.1	462	401.6	75
2400	13.4	11.6	12.7	1.1	0.9	375	325.8	75
2600	15.3	13.3	15	1	0.9	365	317.2	76
2800	17.6	15.3	17.3	1	0.9	364	316.2	77
3000	19.6	17	20.2	1	0.8	345	299.9	77
3200	21.5	18.7	23.6	0.9	0.8	325	282.3	77
3400	23.3	20.2	28.4	0.8	0.7	292	254.2	79
3600	24.7	21.5	32.5	0.8	0.7	271	235.9	79
3800	26.7	23.2	37.4	0.7	0.6	254	221.2	79

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

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Specifications

Length Overall	51' 15.54 m
BEAM	25' 1" 7.65 m
Dry Weight	40,785 lbs. 18,500 kg

Tested Weight	45,366 lbs. 20,578 kg
Draft	3' 3" 0.99 m
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	
Max Headroom	6' 9" 2.06 m
Bridge Clearance	2' 10.6" 0.88 m
Weight Capacity	13,215 lbs. 6,000 kg
Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	396 gal. 1,499 L
Water Capacity	206 gal. 779 L
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	45,366 lbs. 20,578 kg
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	8.8 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	
Props	584mm x 586mm x 4
Load	3 persons, full fuel, full water, 50 lbs. of gear
Climate	70 deg., 58 humid; wind: 0-5 mph; seas: 0

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Leopard 51 PC running

Image provided by Tigerknot.com

Cruising at 1500 rpm, the Leopard 51 PC has a range of over a thousand miles.

Leopard 51 PC aft deck

Image provided by Tigerknot.com

Looking forward from the aft deck, right through the salon opening to the forward lounge makes apparent the natural ventilation available in the cabin. Yes, A/C is an option as is the composite teak decking.

Mission

The Leopard 51 PC is a blue-water cruising cat that has plenty of entertainment space, performs well, and is ruggedly constructed as attested to by the fact that a number of them have gone from South Africa to the Caribbean on their own bottoms.

Distinguishing Features

- Stepped hull design
- Forward lounge expands space and enhances ventilation
- Salon open concept to galley

Leopard 51 PC layout

The three-cabin layout of the Leopard 51 PC has the master suite to starboard and the private guest suites to port.

Leopard 51 PC layout

The four-cabin layout also shows the optional crew berth and head forward with private access through deck hatches.

Major Features

- Entertainment space
- Sleeping accommodations

Leopard 51 PC running

All Leopard catamarans are NMMA (U.S.) and CE (European) certified. Travelopia is the sole distributor worldwide, centralizing service and warranty through their Dania Beach, FL office in the U.S.

Design

Engine access is under the aft berths of each hull. It is not expected that one would be sleeping while underway, but we tested the decibel level at WOT just in case - 80db.

The walkthrough cabin has sliding doors on both fore and aft ends which lead to more entertainment areas, but also provide air flow through the main salon.

Leopard 51 PC side decks

Sidedecks that are 24" (.61 m) wide allow one to walk freely fore and aft without cutting through the cabin.

Performance and Handling

The Leopard 51 PC has an overall length of 51' (15.54 m), a beam of 25'1" (7.64 m) and a draft of 3'3" (.99 m). With an empty weight of 40,785 lbs. (18,500 kg), full fuel and three people on board, the Leopard 51 PC had an estimated test weight of 45,366 lbs. (20,578 kg).

With a pair of 370 Yanmar 8 LV diesels turning 584 mm x 586 mm 4-bladed props we reached a top speed of 23.2 kt at 3800 rpm. As is typical of a catamaran, the performance is rather linear so there really is no best cruise speed. We found her most comfortable to operate at 3000 rpm and 17 knots, where the 20.2 gph fuel burn resulted in .8 nautical miles per gallon and a range of just under 300 nautical miles. **For distance cruising**, 1500 rpm resulted in the speed of 8.2 knots and a fuel burn of 2.9 gallons per hour. That translated into nearly 3 nautical miles per gallon and a range of 1027.6 nautical miles, with a 10% reserve of the boat's 396 gallon (1,499 L) total fuel capacity.

Leopard 51 PC

The Leopard 51 PC accelerates on an even keel, coming up to planing speed in an average 8.8 seconds and continuing through 20 mph in 12.9. She's got excellent turning authority, so those boating in waters heavily laden with pot buoys will have little need for evasion tactics. Of course with a boat that should be rock solid in seas, we got flat calm conditions for our test with nothing but a wake here and there to jump, so we just can't comment on how well she handles rough water.

Boat Inspection

Aft Deck

Leopard 51 PC side deck

On the side deck behind the enormous 4'4" x 4'8" (1.32 m x 1.42 m) aft table is a transparent hatch. This provides light and ventilation (when open) to the aft cabin on the port side. All the cabins have similar opening skylights.

Leopard 51 PC aft deck

The aft deck also has a hardtop. Note the black edge near the perimeter of the hardtop; this is the drop-down soft enclosure in its stowed position.

Leopard 51 PC tender

Our test boat had the optional tender platform with its 1,000 lb. (454 kg) lift capacity. The optional stainless racks on either side are for dive bottle stowage.

Leopard 51 PC hull

Each hull has a step-down stern platform. Below the top step is access to the rudder head steering gear.

Salon

The high 6'9" (2.06 m) overhead and panoramic windows make the large salon feel even larger.

Leopard 51 PC U-shaped

The U-shaped seating in the salon has a drop down table for additional berth space.

Leopard 51 PC Helm

The lower helm in the salon does not have a wheel, as you would typically be on autopilot if you need to be inside.

Leopard 51 PC Galley

Open concept galley is available with optional upgrades to a four-burner propane stove and a larger oven.

Leopard 51 PC Fridge

A drawer-front refrigerator and freezer is below the electrical panel. Simply swing the 40" (1.02 m) flatscreen TV away to access the panel.

Forward Lounge

An L-shaped settee with swing up tables is flanked by lounge pads to either side.

Leopard 51 PC Lounge

The forward lounge is covered by a hardtop with a sun pad (accessible via the flybridge). Note the sliding hatch in the center of the hardtop, just in front of the sun pad, that provides additional protection to the lounge area or opens to give better access from the lounge to the foredeck. Also note how the edge of the hardtop has a lip to channel water off to the sides.

Leopard 51 PC Lounge area

Decks slope inwards leading to direct overboard drainage, seen here in the forward lounge area.

Bow

Leopard 51 PC Foredeck

The foredeck is massive with permanent seats. The black hatch tops open to the optional crew berth and crew head, respectively.

Leopard 51 PC Bow storage

Storage in front of the forward lounge opens to a fresh water tank on left, the anchor windlass center, and an optional 9 kW generator on the right.

Flybridge

Leopard 51 PC fly bridge helm

The flybridge helm has an adjustable tilt wheel, which is almost unnecessary in tight spaces, as the engines are so wide apart on the 25' (7.62 m) beam that one can steer and maneuver with the throttles alone.

Leopard 51 PC fly bridge

The entertainment space of the flybridge would make Cleopatra's barge envious. The space on the left, behind the settee, is roomy enough for deck chairs on the large "back porch". The backrest bolsters flip to adjust the seating to suit.

Leopard 51 PC wet bar

The flybridge wet bar with Corian top has additional options shown here: an electric grill, an icemaker and a refrigerator. The island serves to protect the flybridge access ladder just in front.

Leopard 51 PC helm

The primary helm station on the flybridge has a door just to the center for access to a sun pad measuring 77" x 61" (195.58 cm x 154.94 cm). Again, note the drop down enclosure on the 6'10" (2.08 m) overhead.

Accommodations

Master

Leopard 51 PC master

The master berth has three opening ports for light and ventilation, a berth that measures 80" x 58" (203.20 cm x 147.32 cm) with built-in shelving on one side, a small bench seat outboard at the foot of the bed, and a 6'7" (2.01 m) overhead. The bed hinges up to access the engine.

Leopard 51 PC master

The master suite has five in-deck storage compartments, a vanity with soft-close top, and more cabinet storage. Note the sliding privacy door at the stair opening (right) to secure the entire suite.

Leopard 51 PC shower

Entering the master head, notice the walk-in shower stall with a bench seat directly ahead. On the right tucked away behind closed doors is a combination washer-dryer laundry.

Master Head

With a three-stateroom configuration, there is a large light-filled master ensuite head forward. The light comes from a side window and opening overhead skylight. A walk-in shower stall behind a glass door flanks the sink, with its solid countertop. There is storage underneath, a mirrored medicine cabinet, and a full-

length mirror on the privacy door.

Guest Quarters

The double berths of each guest cabin are practically the same size as the master berth.

Leopard 54 PC guest cabin

Each guest cabin has its own ensuite bath with a standup shower stall.

Equipment Discussion – same price

- Three or four-cabin layout
- 110v or 220v electrical

Optional Equipment

- Forepeak berth and head with A/C supply
- Cruisair air conditioning
- 9 kW generator
- Electric powered tender/swim platform
- Dive bottle racks
- Flybridge wet bar accessories (grill, icemaker, etc.)
- Lifteraft - USCG safety package
- Anchor and anchor bridle, fenders and docklines
- Solar panels
- 110v shorepower pack
- Battery charger, inverter, upgrade to AGM batteries
- Electric flushing toilets
- Composite teak decking
- Exterior color package
- Washdown system
- Select electronics and navigation upgrades

Price

\$739,000 base, with above options \$972,101.

Observations

We are always skeptical of builders' claims so when the description "blue-water" catamaran was pronounced, we naturally took it with a grain of salt. However, when you realize one of the delivery options from South Africa to the U.S. is on its own bottom, belief is warranted.

Overall, the 51 PC maneuvered easily, turning in its own length without a bow thruster. It's no wonder that Leopard does so well with their charter partner, The Moorings, keeping these models quite busy. It's easily an owner-operated boat, but there's also room for privacy even with a captain aboard.