

Beneteau Flyer 8 SPACEdeck (2019-)

Brief Summary

Beneteau's Flyer 8 SPACEdeck (formerly the 23) is appropriately named. She measures 26'7" (8.1 m) long with an 8'2" (2.49 m) beam and she can seat up to 10 people in a cockpit with myriad seating configurations. The AirStep hull provides a fun efficient ride, even in less-than-ideal conditions.

Price

Base Price \$50900.00

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

- AirStep bottom
- All passenger areas on the same level
- Large private head
- Available T-top
- Trailerable

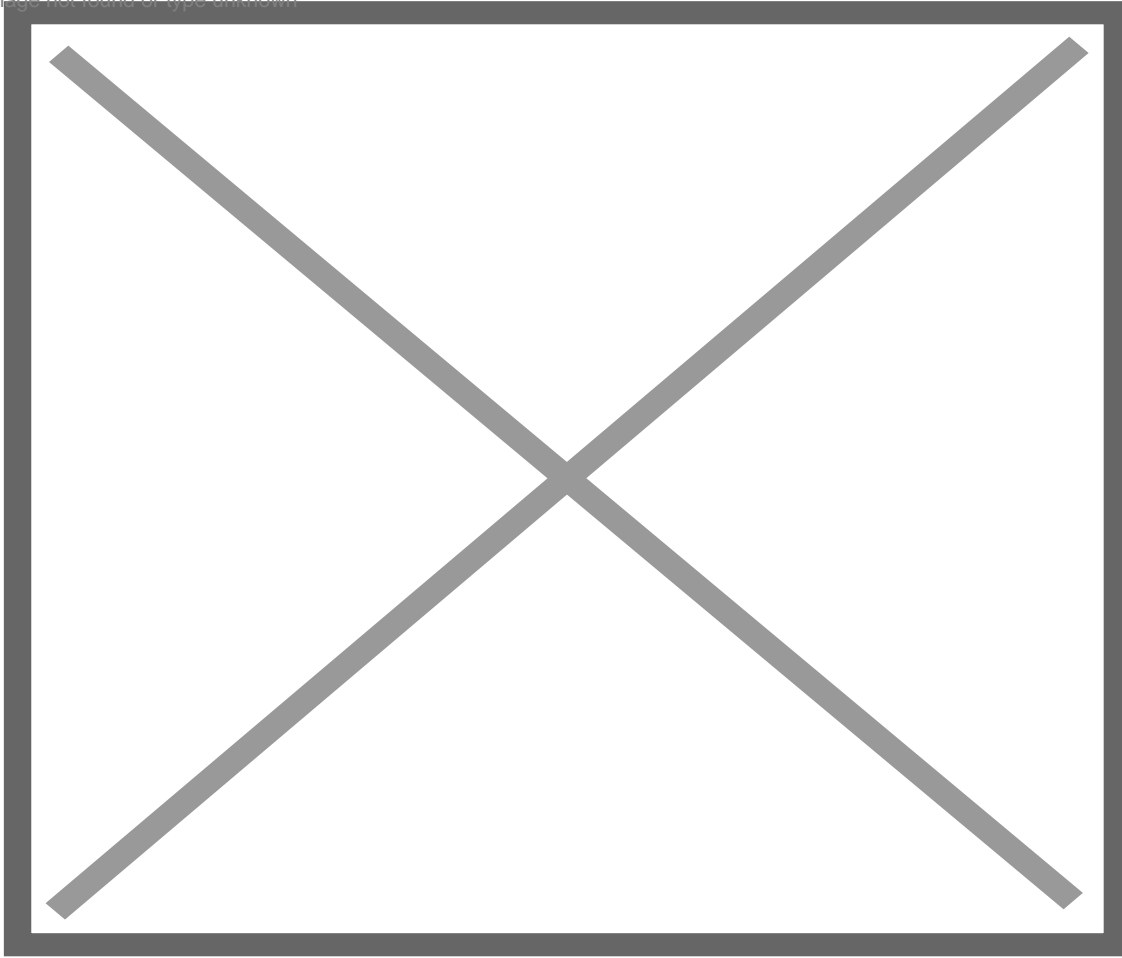
Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
600	3.4	3	0.7	5.2	4.5	433	376.6	55
1000	4.9	4.2	1.1	4.4	3.8	365	317.5	67
1500	7.1	6.1	2	3.6	3.1	299	260.3	68
2000	8.5	7.3	3.6	2.4	2.1	197	171.4	72
2500	10	8.7	4.7	2.1	1.9	176	153.2	78

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
3000	14.4	12.5	6.4	2.3	2	188	163	84
3500	25.5	22.2	8.5	3	2.6	250	217.3	85
4000	31.6	27.7	10.9	2.9	2.5	242	210.1	80
4500	37	32.2	13.5	2.7	2.4	227	197.3	82
5000	42.1	36.6	20.3	2.1	1.8	172	149.7	86
5500	45.6	39.6	23.6	1.9	1.7	160	139.3	87
5800	47.4	41.2	24.7	1.9	1.7	159	138.2	85

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

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Specifications

Length Overall	26' 7" 8.10 m
BEAM	8' 2" 2.49 m
Dry Weight	4,519 lbs. 2,050 kg
Tested Weight	5,520 lbs. 2,504 kg
Draft	
Draft Up	1' 5" 0.43 m

Draft Down	2' 11" 0.89 m
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	
Max Headroom	open
Bridge Clearance	6' 4" 1.93 m
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	74 gal. 280 L
Water Capacity	21 gal. 79 L
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	5,520 lbs. 2,504 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	3.8 seconds
0 to 20	
Ratio	1.75:1
Props	Enertia ECO 16x18 3-bl.
Load	3 persons, 3/4 fuel, no water, 50 lbs. of gear
Climate	68 deg., 54 humid; wind: 8-12 mph; seas: 1-2

By Capt. Martin Frobisher

Beneteau Flyer 26 SPACEdeck

The Beneteau Flyer 8 SPACEdeck is 26'7" long (8.10 m) with an 8'2" (2.49 m) beam. She comes exclusively in the U.S. with Mercury power up to 300-hp.

Mission Statement

The Beneteau Flyer 8 SPACEdeck is a dayboat with configurable seating to accommodate double-digit passengers and a smart design that places all passenger areas on the same level. There's nothing to trip on. The AirStep hull provides a smooth efficient ride and the optional 300-hp Mercury outboard delivers scintillating performance and more than enough grunt for towing wake sports and skiers.

Major Features

- Flexible seating options with benches that fold away when not in use.
- Large console with lots of interior space
- Mercury outboard power up to 300-hp
- Available high-back bucket seats at the helm
- Available shore power
- Available bow thruster

floor plan found or type unknown

The Beneteau Flyer 8 SPACEdeck is designed first and foremost for versatility.

Features Inspection

Cockpit. The Flyer 8 SPACEdeck's cockpit is a study in paying attention to the small details. It measures 7' x 3 ½' ((2.31m x 1.07m) and is 2'4" (68.58 cm) deep. The versatility starts with a 70" (177.80 cm) wide bench seat across the transom that has a backrest that can be set in three positions: fully upright, slightly angled or laid flat to create a 35" (88.90 cm) wide sun pad. The front of the pad can also be picked up to create an aft-facing spectator spot for watersports viewing. Back in the cockpit, the bottom cushion lifts up to access open storage below. A pedestal-mounted table can be installed and bench seats fold in from the gunwales. The twin helm seats can also be spun around to create space all the way around the table. There are also rod and beverage holders in the caprails and 2" (5.08 cm) diameter drains move water overboard.

Beneteau Flyer 23 SPACEdeck Cockpit

With all the cockpit seats set up for entertaining, there's space for up to eight people around the removable table.

back rest found or type unknown

The backrest for the aft bench seat can be set for upright or angled seating.

sun pad found or type unknown

The seat can also be laid flat with the cushions pushed together to create a two-person sun pad.

aft bench not found or type unknown

To meet her Class A certification requirements for Europe, the 8 Flyer SPACEdeck has space for a liferaft under the aft bench.

cockpit seat not found or type unknown

Seats fold out of the bulwarks on each side and notice the heavy-duty stainless steel hardware that supports them.

Cockpit Storage. There are three hatches in the cockpit deck. With the center one open, we had access to the batteries and charger, the 95-gallon water tank, the fuel tank and the blackwater tank. Hoses on the thru-hull fittings are double-clamped and have plastic guards on the ends of the clamps. The seacocks are within easy reach and the hatch is held open with dual gas-assist struts. There's a dedicated slot for the cockpit table complete with clips to secure it in place. Outboard of the large hatch on each side are two smaller ones with the locker to port also housing the steering pump.

hatch not found or type unknown

The center hatch in the cockpit deck opens on twin gas struts and provides access to all tankage and storage.

deck hatch not found or type unknown

The starboard deck hatch opens on a gas strut and notices the depth of the drain channel that the hatch closes into. It will rid the cockpit of water quickly.

clamped not found or type unknown

Not only are all the hoses double-clamped, but the sharp ends of the clamps are also covered with rubber caps to reduce the risk of injury.

retainers not found or type unknown

Retainers hold the table in place in the dedicated rack under the center cockpit deck hatch.

The Helm Console. A sliding door on the port side of the helm console opens to 18" (45.72 cm) wide. Three steps lead down into the compartment that is fitted with a portable toilet. Standing headroom is 5'3" (1.60 m) and seated clearance from the head is 36" (91.44 cm). With this headroom and overall spaciousness, the area would work well as a changing room and it has enough space for storing cushions for the cockpit lounges. The battery for the bow thruster is forward and the battery switches are in this area as well. A pair of access panels also let the owner or technicians get to the helm rigging. There is a Fusion Apollo Series stereo and a spot for the optional 42-liter refrigerator.

cabin door not found or type unknown

On the port side of the helm, the sliding cabin door opens a passageway that is 18" (45.7 cm) wide.

steps not found or type unknown

The steps are hinged and have storage underneath. There's also a compartment outboard.

head not found or type unknown

Inside, the console is finished in accent wood and notice the battery for the bow thruster.

battery switch not found or type unknown

Battery switches and the circuit breaker for the windlass are alongside the head in the console.

hatches not found or type unknown

Two removable hatches in the cabin provide access to the MFD and instruments.

The Helm. The first thing we noticed about the Flyer 8 SPACEdeck's console is that it's truly double wide.

The captain and a companion will be fully protected from the elements behind it. The upper panel is a contrasting color Lexan and ours was fitted with an optional 9" Garmin multifunction display that has controls for the Fusion stereo integrated into it. The MFD can also display the engine data and to back that up, there's a Mercury SmartCraft tachometer with an integrated scroll-through screen in the bottom. Just below is a fuel gauge. Across the bottom of the vertical section of the dash are the accessory switches and the bow thruster joystick is to port. The steering wheel is on a tilt base and the binnacle shift-throttle control has selectable function buttons. The compass is to the left and partially hidden by the electronics. It looks like an afterthought.

The acrylic windshield is framed in a powder-coated aluminum frame. We noticed no distortion at the curved edges and above, our test boat had the optional T-top that also had a black powder-coated finish, a canvas insert and rocket-launcher-style rod holders on the trailing edge. The headroom beneath the T-top is 6'6" (1.98 m). An owner can also opt for a Bimini top.

The driver and a companion travel in bucket seats that have height adjustments, slide fore and aft and spin around to face aft. Grab handles are on the seatbacks and are finished in the same black powder coating. A leaning post wide enough for 2 ½ people with a flip-up bench is available.

gps not found or type unknown

The electronics panel at the helm has space for a larger screen or dual side-by-side models.

gauges not found or type unknown

The buttons on the bottom of the tachometer let the operator scroll through the various engine functions.

accessories not found or type unknown

The accessory switches have icons instead of labels and they illuminate when turned on.

steering wheel not found or type unknown

The steering wheel is mounted on a tilt base and to starboard are the Mercury digital controls on a binnacle mount.

~~bow thruster~~ type unknown

Beneteau chose to put the bow thruster control on the opposite side of the wheel from the shift/throttle control.

~~storage net~~ type unknown

A storage net on the console base will come in handy for things like truck keys or sunblock.

~~windscreen~~ type unknown

Even in the wraparound corners, the view through the acrylic windscreen was distortion-free.

~~rocket launcher~~ type unknown

The optional T-top is built on a powder-coated ½" (1.27 cm)-diameter pipework.

The Bow. Moving forward, with the T-top frame, the side passage between the console and gunwales is 11.5" (29.21 cm) wide. It would be 15" (38.1 cm) without the top. Outboard of the helm console, the freshwater fill is in the port inwale and the waste pump-out is to starboard.

In the bow, Beneteau carries the boat's beam as far forward as possible to ensure that there's space for six people to enjoy the area. Seating starts on the front of the console with a lounge that's 42" (106.68 cm) wide and 15" (38.10 cm) fore to aft and has a fixed padded backrest. In the bow, there are two lounge seats on each side and padded bolsters secured to the bulwarks provide padded backrest cushioning all the way around. Available as an option, there are filler cushions that can be used to create a large forward playpen/sun pad. There's storage under all of the seats that are held up with a retaining line that clips to the bow rails, which are also finished in black powder coating. The rails are 6" (15.23 cm) off the caprail and the foredeck is raised 28" (71.12 cm) above the bow lounge area, which makes it comfortable to kneel down on the cushions and tend to the grounding tackle. A hatch opens the anchor locker and our test boat had the optional windlass plus a flip-out roller for the anchor and rode. The wired remote control mounts under the hatch and rode access is to both sides.

~~side deck~~ kind or type unknown

There are cleats forward, amidships and aft on each side. The T-top frame extends into the passageway, narrowing it by 3 ½" (8.89 cm).

~~freshwater fill~~ type unknown

The freshwater fill is easily accessed in the port inwale just outboard of the helm console.

~~bottom cushion~~ type unknown

The bottom cushion for the console seat is removable but the backrest is fixed in place.

bow table not found or type unknown

The side cushions in the bow are hinged and the bolsters that run up each side are removable in the event that they need to be repaired or if the owner wants to keep them indoors during the winter.

bow table not found or type unknown

Look straight down on the bow, notice that it barely tapers inward. Beneteau carries the beam as far forward as possible.

hatch string not found or type unknown

It has kind of an old-school feel, using a simple rope and clip to hold open the bottom cushions in the bow works.

anchor locker not found or type unknown

A wide bow means an extra-large anchor locker hatch with enough space for beverage holders outboard on each side.

anchor locker open not found or type unknown

Our test boat had the optional Lewmar windlass and the hatch uses the same line and clip to keep it from flopping over onto the deck.

Platform. When the time comes to cool off or gear up for a wake or surfboard ride, it's easy to head aft because of all of the passenger areas on the same level. Then it's a 6" (15.24 cm) step up to the 13" (33.02 cm) wide walkthrough that leads aft on the port side. There are 28" (71.12 cm) platforms on each side of the Mercury outboard with a walkway that connects them. A reboarding ladder is to port and a grab handle right alongside facilitates the process. A freshwater shower is in the stern and wet storage is to starboard beneath a hatch that closes with a lift-and-lock latch. The top of the transom is 9" off the waterline and to the sides are 7" (17.78 cm) cleats with shore power connectivity to starboard.

stern gate not found or type unknown

A gate closes off the gate to port, but we would like to see it fill in with plastic or something to create a better obstacle.

cockpit shower not found or type unknown

The shower is hidden behind this flip-up hatch in the passageway from the cockpit to the stern.

swim not found or type unknown

Swim platforms extend aft past the motor on each side of the Flyer 8 SPACEdeck's stern.

ladder not found or type unknown

The four-step reboarding ladder complies with American Boat & Yacht Council standards and the grabrail to starboard is properly placed.

rigging found or type unknown

A single wire harness and two hydraulic hoses are all that is needed to rig the Mercury 300-hp four-stroke outboard.

Performance

The Numbers. The Beneteau Flyer 8 SPACEdeck measures 26'7" (8.10 m) long with an 8'2" (2.49 m) beam and a draft of 2'11" (.89 m). With an empty weight of 4,519 lbs. (2,050 kg), three people, 66 gallons of fuel (250 L) of fuel and test equipment on board, we had an estimated test weight of 5,520 lbs. (2,504 kg). With the single 300-hp Mercury 4.6-liter four-stroke outboard spinning a 16" x 18" (37.1 cm x 53.3 cm) Enertia ECO three-blade stainless-steel propeller at a maximum rpm of 5800, we hit a top speed of 47.4 mph. Best cruise came at 3500 where we saw 25.5 mph and a fuel burn of 8.5 GPH, giving us 3.0 mpg and a range of 250 statute miles while holding 10 percent of the boat's 92-gallon (348.26-liter) fuel capacity in reserve. For those interested in trolling speed data, we recorded 3.4 mph at 600 and a fuel burn of 0.7 GPH, which translated into 5.2 mpg. At 1000 rpm, speed was 4.9 mph with a fuel burn of 1.1 GPH for a MPG rating of 4.4.

Beneteau Flyer 26 Spacedeck

Beneteau says the AirStep2 hull improves efficiency and improves the boat's handling.

Handling

With the AirStep hull, the Flyer 8 SPACEdeck exhibits quick acceleration and agile handling. Time to plane was 3.8 seconds and the boat ran through 20 mph in 4.7 seconds and through 30 mph in 5.9 seconds. In maneuverability tests, the boat handled smoothly and the hull pierced waves with zero pounding or hull slap when we crossed the wakes of our photo boat. Even with the wide bow, she still has a sharp entry and the chines sweep downward as they head aft.

running found or type unknown

The AirStep2 hull has a sharp entry and reversed chines to help the boat pop on plane and pierce bay chop.

Price

The base retail price with the Mercury 300-hp outboard in black is \$81,100.

Warranty

- 7-year structural and 3 years on parts and labor.

Options to Consider

- Comfort package with solid wood cockpit table, extended swim platform with boarding ladder, an offshore compass, two-color upholstery
- An electronic package with Garmin Echomap Plus 72cv multifunction screen
- Fusion RA 70N stereo
- Telescopic bow ladder
- Fishing station
- Watersports mast

Observations

European manufacturers have always taken a different approach to center consoles. A model built on the other side of the Atlantic has never been a utilitarian fishing machine. The Beneteau 8 Flyer SPACEdeck is all about fun and hanging out with friends. Sure you can fish from the boat and the removable cushions go away in minutes, but that's like saying a Lincoln SUV is meant for off-roading. We all know it's a luxury vehicle for carting the kids to soccer practice.

As tested weight is just over 5,500 lbs. (2,495 kg). Add the weight of a trailer and an owner would need a vehicle capable of towing about 7,000 lbs. (3,175 kg) to tow it. That's important because many mid-sized vehicles, including the new Ford Ranger mid-size pickup, can handle that when properly equipped.