



STORY: DAVID LOCKWOOD PHOTOS: ELLEN DEWAR

Fjord 40 Open

The Hanse Fjord 40 Open has a bold view of the future

Though the 40 Open is, by virtue of its exciting centre cabin or virtual centre console layout, destined primarily as a dayboat, a restaurant runner, a commuter and entertainer, short-haul oceanic travel is a possibility.

It is priced from \$676,550 with IPS 400s, but costs \$751,000 as tested with upgraded IPS 500s Volvo 370hp D6 engines, a cool optional light-grey coloured hull, optional Simrad electronics and optional Volvo Penta docking system aka Joystick.

It has a polyester and foam deck but, with SP Systems epoxy for its hull, it enjoys at least 10 per cent weight savings.

The deck gear is a real highlight: trendy pop-up alloy cleats, stainless steel grabrails and pad eyes with trick snap-lock fittings. The boarding platform offers a central deep-reach swim ladder and hot/cold deck shower while the self-draining teak cockpit includes two transverse lounges, twin teak lunch tables and supplied spare cushions to create a large box-shaped seating area.

Fjord calls its moulding centre an on-deck galley

— behind the helm featuring a two-burner gas stove, deep sink, and fridge with freezer tray.

The cabin is surprising roomy. The highlight is the seductive island double berth in the bow, with Sharp Aquos 24in television and upmarket head with Corian-topped vanity, pull-out Bosini designer shower, Tecma loo and designer taps.

You couldn't help but whoop and smile behind the wheel. This is a dry boat that travelled across the water almost like an albatross on the wing.

The GPS read 14.6kts at 1750rpm, which is a handy low-speed cruise for traversing bad seas; 18.2kts at 2000rpm for a smooth easy ride; 25.8kts at 2500rpm for optimum cruising; and 32.5kts at 3000rpm should conditions allow. Top speed was 38.5kts.

HIGHS

Travels well at sea; plenty of acceleration; practical deck layout.

LOWS

Seating needs shade; need more protection from the elements while driving.



Price as Tested: \$751,000 w/ upgraded IPS 500s Volvo 370hp D6 engines, and options
Type: Monohull
Material: Epoxy hull and composite deck
Length overall: 11.99m
Beam: 3.99m
Rated HP: 370 at 3500rpm
Fuel capacity: 1000lt
Water capacity: 300lt

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