



A Fine FIRST IMPRESSION

Hull No. 1 of the Horizon FD77 proves a versatile cruiser with spacious interior design.
BY KEVIN KOENIG

Windows that stretch nearly from sole to ceiling make for lots of natural light in the salon.

OCTOBER 2019 YACHTING 99



80'6"
LENGTH
OVERALL
—
23'4"
MAXIMUM
BEAM

TAIWAN-BASED HORIZON YACHTS has long been known for building sturdy, seaworthy vessels with an unmistakable panache for creature comforts. The builder's latest model in its Fast Displacement series, the FD77, is directly in line with the brand's pedigree. ¶ The 80-foot, 7-inch FD77 is the sistership to Horizon's FD85, designed by Dutch yacht designer Cor D. Rover. The FD in FD77 stands for fast-displacement hull, and the boat has Horizon's high-performance piercing bow. The hull has a soft chine at amidships that Horizon says makes it slicker in the water and a hard chine forward that increases lift. The bow design is meant to cut cleanly through the water while stretching out the yacht's underwater length, thereby improving the vessel's hydrodynamic efficiency. ¶ The result is a yacht that can cruise at displacement and planing speeds. The FD77 is happy to

poke along at 8.5 knots for extended voyages, where she burns 6.9 gallons per hour for a projected range of 3,248 nautical miles—enough to get from Maine to England without refueling. She can also gallop at 20 knots. She cruises most comfortably at about 13 knots, which is where I had her in the Atlantic Ocean off Florida's southeast coast. At that speed, she burns 57 gallons per hour for a projected range of 630 nautical miles. ¶ Confused 4-foot swells crisscrossed the ocean's surface—a desirable field to see if the FD77 could play ball. It turns out, she can. At that 13-knot cruise speed, she ran quietly and her hull provided soft landings in even the deepest troughs. She was also nimble for a beamy boat that displaces 174,160 pounds. At her fast cruise speed, I turned her hard over to port and starboard in less than a single boat length. That kind of handling is something you're

INSIDE OUTSIDE

The Horizon FD77's salon is strikingly open. Sole-to-ceiling windows allow for natural light from port and starboard. The doors to the cockpit open fully, which lets cool sea breezes flood the interior. An aft-galley option is available (and Horizon says it's popular), which means cooks can essentially work outdoors. The idea is to let owners stay in touch with the natural environment no matter where they are on board.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY HORIZON YACHT

The shaded cockpit's dominant feature is this high-gloss dining table, just steps away from the optional aft galley.



EXPERIENCE > HORIZON FD77 > A spacious and seaworthy motor yacht



630 NAUTICAL MILES

MAXIMUM CRUISING RANGE AT 13 KNOTS

Fine woodwork in the FD77's interior extends to details such as doors, drawer fronts and steps.

EXPERIENCE > HORIZON FD77



**2,700 GAL.
FUEL
CAPACITY**

**400 GAL.
FRESHWATER
CAPACITY**

more likely to see from a 35-foot RIB than from an 80-foot motoryacht. ¶ The FD77 I was aboard had optional twin 1,200 hp MAN V-8s (twin 1,130 hp Caterpillar C13s are standard). The powerplants were housed in a gleaming engine room with a white gelcoat sole that made it easier to spot spills. Headroom measured 7 feet, 6 inches, and handholds nearly everywhere should be easy to grab in a seaway. Twin 29-kW Cummins Onan generators supplied redundancy, and access to them and all sides of the engines should make regular maintenance tasks easier. ¶ Inside, the master stateroom is on the main deck. Rectangular windows on either side pair with a skylight that runs nearly the full length of the stateroom for natural light. The FD77 carries her 23-foot, 8-inch beam almost completely forward, and that allows the master more space than what usually

might be found on a vessel this length. (A forward VIP stateroom belowdecks also benefits from carrying the beam forward.) ¶ Up above, the FD77's bridge is pre-plumbed for a hot tub, though there wasn't one on this particular FD77. A Steelhead ES Series 1500 davit can hoist a 16-foot tender. A high-low barbecue can stow away, and there's a bar for three to port that is an optimal choice for a sundowner or two. The partially enclosed helm has two Stidd chairs, four Garmin screens and excellent sightlines. ¶ The FD77 that I got aboard was Hull No. 1, and she already felt dialed in, including the fit and finish on the matte and high-gloss woods in the interior. This is a yacht that combines onboard appeal with serious seafaring capabilities. ♥

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WANT A LITTLE MORE?

The FD77 has a big sister: the FD85. The FD85 has a similar hull to the 77, with the same smooth ride. The 85 also has a main-deck master stateroom with a hot tub, as well as four guest staterooms belowdecks. The FD85 is slightly beamier than the FD77 at 23 feet, 4 inches and, like the smaller yacht, carries that beam forward for more interior volume. Cor D. Rover, who designed both vessels, describes the 85 as a pocket mega-yacht.