

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius (2016-)

Brief Summary

Cruisers Yachts designed the 54 Cantius to fill in a gap between the 48' (14.6 m) and 60' (18.3 m) models in the manufacturer's popular Cantius express cruiser line. The design team followed the current trend of having the cockpit, salon, galley and helm all on the same deck level. Below decks she has three staterooms separated by a lower level lounge area that makes the boat more accommodating (and private) for two couples or more during a weekend getaway.

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

- Standard twin 725-hp Volvo Penta IPS950 engines
- Fuel capacity of 500 gallons (1,892.7 L)
- Standard swim platform
- Three stateroom layout
- Salon and galley all on one level
- 2- to 3-person starboard lounge with a portable cocktail table
- Side-by-side bucket seats

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
600	6.7	5.8	2.7	2.5	2.1	1153	1002.3	66
1000	9.5	8.3	9	1.1	0.9	494	429.6	71
1250	11.3	9.8	21.5	0.5	0.5	246	213.9	73

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
1500	17.2	14.9	29	0.6	0.5	277	240.7	77
1750	21.2	18.4	34	0.6	0.5	291	253.2	77
2000	29.1	25.3	41.5	0.7	0.6	328	285.4	79
2250	36	31.3	54	0.7	0.6	312	271.3	81
2500	42.7	37.1	73	0.6	0.5	273	237.8	83

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

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Specifications

Length Overall	53' 7" 16.33 m
BEAM	15' 6" 4.7 m
Dry Weight	43,000 lbs. 19,504 kg
Tested Weight	46,075 lbs. 20,899 kg
Draft	
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	

Max Headroom	
Bridge Clearance	
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	
Fuel Capacity	500 gal. 1,892 L
Water Capacity	75 gal. 284 L
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	46,075 lbs. 20,899 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	7.6 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	
Props	
Load	5 persons, 1/2 fuel, 1/2 water, 50 lbs. of gear
Climate	82 deg., 75 humid.; wind: 5-10 mph; seas: calm

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius running shot

The Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius has an LOA of 53’7” (16.33 m), a beam of 15’6” (4.72 m), and a dry weight of 43,000 lbs. (19,504 kg).

Mission

Cruisers Yachts designed the 54 Cantius to fill in a gap between the 48’ (14.6 m) and 60’ (18.3 m) models in the manufacturer’s popular Cantius express cruiser line. The design team followed the current trend of having the cockpit, salon, galley, and helm all on the same deck level. Below decks, she has three staterooms separated by a lower-level lounge area that makes the boat more accommodating (and private) for two couples or more during a weekend getaway.

In all practical respects, the new 54 Cantius is a smaller version of the 60 Cantius which was introduced just last summer. Because she is smaller, she is also less money, therefore, affordable to a wider audience. Nevertheless, she keeps most of the functionality of the 60. In keeping with the modern approach, the 54 Cantius is powered by twin 725-Volvo Penta IPS950 pod drives that should give the boat solid performance and make her feel user-friendly for captains with a range of skill levels.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius engine room

With a pair of 725-hp Volvo Penta IPS950 pod drive engines, the Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius is extremely maneuverable around the dock.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius layout

With the cockpit, salon, and galley all on one deck level, the Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius makes good use of available space for both entertaining and family cruising.

Features Inspection

The Stern

The Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius' surface-level swim platform has plenty of space for watersports and at 4'10" (1.47 m) x 14'6" (4.42 m), may be large enough to support a small tender or personal watercraft. Steps on each side lead to the aft deck where there is a U-shaped lounge wrapping around a hi/lo pedestal table with beverage holders to both sides. Just ahead are two bar stools with access to the galley, which we'll get into in a moment.

To port is an outdoor electric grill that is not only convenient but keeps cooking fumes in the open air where they belong. A standard SureShade extendable awning provides much-needed shade on those bright sunny days. Altogether, this makes the aft deck a comfortable gathering area, and, in fact, the first of many that we'll see on the 54 Cantius.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius cockpit

The cockpit has a large table with a wraparound settee, two stools at the bar with a grill alongside. Here the galley window is down, and the doors are opened to remove any separation of the inside and the outside.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius control station

A cockpit control station allows for added visibility when backing into a slip.

The Foredeck

Forward on the aft deck are two steps up to the side passageways that lead to the bow. Up front there are padded lounges where guests can stretch out. In the forepeak is an anchor locker with a windlass below

deck level. The anchor goes through the stem which further keeps the bow area clutter-free. Stainless steel rails provide a handhold as guests make their way forward and there are smaller ones outboard of the foredeck cushions on each side.

The Galley

Moving indoors, entry into the salon is through a sliding glass door offset to starboard. This door is hinged with a power-actuated window. To make it easier to serve meals outdoors, the U-shaped galley is aft and to port. There are lots of windows, so the cook has good views of the surroundings. The 54 Cantius is well-equipped with a convection microwave oven, dishwasher icemaker and storage.

The double-basin stainless steel sink and two-burner stove are both covered when not in use so as to increase the usable counter space. When in use, the covers all have dedicated storage. Opening the large aft window blends the galley with the aft deck and makes serving and conversation that much easier. The double wide doors open fully to create a seamless transition between the inside and the outside, all on a single level.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius windows

The large arching windows provide the cook and the settee occupants with good views.

The Salon-Dinette

To starboard and across from the forward end of the galley, is a two- to three-person sofa with a portable cocktail table available. On the port side just ahead of the galley, the four-seat dinette is raised and has a wraparound lounge that should accommodate four or, if desired, six with the addition of two inboard deck chairs. All decking is low-maintenance Amtico. These provide two separate and distinct gathering areas that only add to the 54 Cantius' appeal as an entertainment platform. Having both of these areas flanking the galley adds to that allure, as they are always within ear- and eye-shot of the host/hostess.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius salon

Notice the slotted overhead panel in the 54 Cantius' salon that lets in natural light.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius sun roof

The retractable sunroof gives owners a choice of enjoying the sea air and breezes or closing it and chilling out with the air conditioning.

The Helm

A double wide bench seat at the helm gives the captain and a companion comfortable perches during a cruise. There's a single flip-up bolster and a single armrest as well. The glass dash is now a staple of the

modern design theme, and on the 54 Cantius, Cruisers Yachts does not disappoint. Here, we have a pair of 15" (38 cm) flat panel multi-function displays adorning the upper panel. The helm is located to the starboard side of the console, and an opening side window adds to the ventilation. The digital throttles are on top of the starboard subpanel. The joystick is mounted to port. While this location may make it inconvenient for a starboard-to docking, it is certainly more convenient for stern-to as we can now stand next to the console, put the left hand on the joystick, and face aft while maneuvering into the slip. We'd like to see the joystick to the starboard side, aft of the digital engine controls, so that we can better utilize the starboard windows for visibility. A second control station is already installed in the aft deck for the stern-to scenario. That control may be better suited to the port side. With the seats moved back there is full standing headroom for the captain at the helm. Mullions are a bit wide but not overly obstructing. An opening sunroof brings the outdoors in.

Accommodations Deck

Lower Salon

Centrally positioned stairs adjacent to the helm lead to, if opted for, a wide open atrium, which gives those aboard the new 54 Cantius a feeling of being on a far larger motoryacht. At the base of the stairs, there's an option to put a sofa to starboard. To our eye, this makes an ideal place to unwind at the end of the day, and certainly a place for two people to gather while their spouses are simultaneously preparing to turn in in their respective private heads. Opposite is storage with an open countertop to port. A chilled wine cabinet is below, and a flat-screen TV can be located above.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius foyer

The foyer area below deck can be fitted with a couch or converted into a cabin with over under berths. There's no price penalty for either choice. Here, of course is the cabin version.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius wine

The storage cabinet has a wine cooler and open counter space. An optional TV can be mounted above. Cruisers Yachts calls this area "The Atrium" and offers it as an option. It is designed for elegant cruising. However, the 54 Cantius comes standard with three staterooms.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius accommodations layout

Shown here is the optional layout for the 54 Cantius that has two staterooms with a lounge area separating them. This gives the cabin deck a more open feel.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius stairs

Cruisers Yachts kept its design approach consistent, using open style stairs from the salon to the cabin deck.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius
Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius sofa

Outboard to starboard, there's a small sofa-style lounge where guests can relax.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius
Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius tv

To port, there's a flatscreen TV and storage in this chest of drawers.

Standard Third Stateroom

Cruisers Yachts is all about customer feedback, and the jury seems split on either having this lower salon, a third stateroom, or an office. So the builder chose to do the right thing and offer all three available at the owner's discretion. With the cabin, there are over/under berths. In all cases, the hull side windows completely remove any feeling of claustrophobia, at least for the upper berth.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius
Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius guest room

The upper berth measures 6'9" (2.06 m) x 2'3" (.69 m). The lower measures 6'6" (1.98 m) x 3' (.91 m).

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius
Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius

The ship's main electrical panel is located in a cabinet to the aft bulkhead.

Master Stateroom/Head

Just aft of the foot of the cabin-deck stairs to starboard, the owner enters the master stateroom. Immediately to port is the head with a separate toilet and shower areas. Just across from the head door is the walk-in closet. Cruisers Yachts did a good job in ensuring that the modern look of the yacht is maintained here with contemporary fixtures that can't help but draw in the eye. A single portlight allows air and natural light into the compartment.

Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius
Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius master stateroom entry

As we enter the master stateroom, a head is to the right (boat's port side) and a walk-in closet is to the left. This full-beam design approach gives the sleeping/living area in the master stateroom plenty of real estate, which, again creates an extra-large feel on a boat of this size. The massive hull side windows that blend the inside with the outside, and provide excellent vantage points to the water, accompany this in no small way. Automatic blinds can be opened or closed at the touch of a button. Headroom throughout is 6'5" (1.96 m). The queen-sized island berth measures 6'7" (2.01 m) x 5' (1.52 m) and is on the boat's centerline so that vessel movements will have a minimum effect on sleep.

Outboard to starboard is a booth-style seating area with a small table between the seats. With hinged tops, the table serves double-duty as a vanity, but we mostly appreciate the floating mount design that leaves occupants' legs free from support to smack the knees against. Just ahead, the 36" (91 cm) TV is mounted to the bulkhead and transforms the master stateroom into a private theater. The combination washer/dryer is also located in the master, making it convenient to put clothes away, as least for the couple that will always be aboard when there's laundry to be done.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius master stateroom

The island berth in the master stateroom has storage drawers in the base and the large window lets in natural light and provides good views of the surroundings.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius master tv

For folks who like to watch TV while lying in bed, the 54 Cantius' master stateroom is laid out accordingly. Note the café table deployed in the background.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius master head

The master head has a separate shower stall and has good headroom for tall users.

VIP Stateroom

In the 54 Cantius' bow, the VIP stateroom has a 6'7" (2.01 m) x 5' (1.5 m) queen island berth also on the centerline and headroom of 6'9" (2.06 m). As expected, there are lengthy hull side windows, trapezoidal in this case, to port and starboard that are further supplemented with the natural light from the overhead hatch and skylights running the full length of the overhead.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius shade

A blackout shade can cover up the full-length skylights and overhead hatch in the VIP stateroom.

Small and convenient storage spaces are below the side windows. There's a full-height hanging locker to port with additional storage to starboard. The en suite head has a private entry from the VIP stateroom and also an entry door from the atrium area for day use.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius vip stateroom

Windows on each side of the 54 Cantius' bow and an overhead deck hatch bathe the VIP stateroom in natural light.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius vip tv

The flatscreen TV is in the aft port corner of the VIP cabin and notice the skylight in the overhead that lets in more light.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius third stateroom

The 54 Cantius comes standard with a third stateroom.

VIP Head

The VIP stateroom has a feature that we frequently see on other boats and one that we've come to appreciate. We're talking, of course, of the split head. The shower is to starboard, while the sink and toilet are located to port. This feature not only saves on much-needed space but also allows for two people to prepare for a night on the town at the same time.

Power

The Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius is powered by twin 725-hp (504 kW) Volvo Penta IPS950 diesels with pod drives. During our tests, we reached a top speed of 37.1 knots at 2500 rpm. Dialed back to best economic cruise speed, we were running at 25.3 knots and 2000 rpm. That reduced setting produced a fuel burn of 41.5 gph, which translated into a range of 285.4 nm, all while holding back a 10% reserve of the boat's full 520-gallon (1,968 L) fuel capacity.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius running shot

The Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius had a best cruise of 2000 rpm at 25.3 knots.

Performance and Handling

As for her handling, she has the typical characteristic of the wide turning radius of an IPS-powered boat, due to the limited arc of turn that the pods have at speed. This keeps the Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius rather docile, even at the control of a heavy-handed test captain. Underway she has good seakeeping qualities. She has auto trim tabs installed and they did a good job of keeping the workload off the operator, but there were still times at the mid-range where we still found ourselves adding some bow down trim to further improve the ride.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius running shot

During her test runs, the Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius reached a top speed of 37.1 knots at 2500 rpm powered by 725-hp Volvo Penta IPS950 diesels with pod drives.

 Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius profile shot

With her large arching pilothouse windows, the 54 Cantius has an almost hybrid feel between an express and an open cockpit boat.

A Proven Recipe.

Cruisers Yachts builds the 54 Cantius with alternating layers of hand-applied fiberglass. The laminate consists of 0 to 90-degree woven fiberglass, uni-directional knitted and bi-directional cloth and chopped

strand matt wetted out with isophthalic, dicyclopentadiene resin from Cook Composites. After the gelcoat is sprayed, a vinylester barrier coat is applied beneath the waterline to improve resistance to blistering. A variety of cores including Coremat, balsa, plywood and aluminum is used, depending on the location.

Liner Construction.

Like all Cruisers Yachts models, the 54 Cantius is constructed with a fiberglass liner on the inside of the hull. It permanently attaches to the stringers and sheer shelf with methacrylate adhesive mechanical fasteners approximately every 12" (30.5 cm) and fiberglass tabbing. This gives the hull added strength and provides a finished surface inside.

Observations

With the 54 Cantius, it could be said that less is more. Because she has three staterooms with a more open feel, the boat could be attractive for two couples or more to take extended cruises or possibly for a couple to live aboard during the winter. The appeal of the new Cruisers Yachts 54 Cantius is that she is one of the most modern-looking express cruisers on the water and she can go most anywhere her fuel capacity can take her. For those who think that the 60 Cantius might be too much boat, the 54 Cantius should be the answer.