

# Manitou 22 Aurora VP (2013-)

## Brief Summary

For people shopping for a toon that is high-quality yet not loaded up with bells and whistles -- and therefore priced accordingly -- we have a suggestion: take a look at the Manitou 22 Aurora VP. On deck she has all of the basics -- seating for a max rating of 11 people, a functional raised helm station, and plenty of deck space for entertaining. But below the waterline is another story -- this triple-toon is built for decent performance with a maximum outboard size of 150-hp. Taken together we think this model offers lots of utility, the class of a top-tier builder, and good value.

## 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.*

## Specifications

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Length Overall   | 22' 10"   6.96 m      |
| BEAM             | N/A                   |
| Dry Weight       | N/A                   |
| Tested Weight    | 2,250 lbs.   1,020 kg |
| Draft            | N/A                   |
| Draft Up         |                       |
| Draft Down       |                       |
| Air Draft        |                       |
| Deadrise/Transom | N/A                   |

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Max Headroom       | open                  |
| Bridge Clearance   | N/A                   |
| Weight Capacity    |                       |
| Person Capacity    |                       |
| Fuel Capacity      | 44 gal.   167 L       |
| Water Capacity     | N/A                   |
| Length on Trailer  |                       |
| Height on Trailer  |                       |
| Trailer Weight     |                       |
| Total Weight       | 2,250 lbs.   1,020 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 |  |
| 0 to 20       |  |
| Ratio         |  |
| Props         |  |
| Load          |  |
| Climate       |  |

## The Mission of the Manitou 22 Aurora VP

This boat is for people who want a basic pontoon boat on deck with a bottom design that has the potential for exciting performance when wanted. By keeping expensive options off the boat, and delivering on the quality approach to the components that are employed, Manitou maintains its reputation as a top-tier builder without having to charge top dollar for this model. As a result we think it is a good buy for people who don't need more boat.

### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

Manitou Auroras come in several optional bright colors and graphics packages. Note the bright special graphics on the side.

## The VP Toons

The VP (Value Performance) toons are a relatively new configuration for Manitou which has discarded the more conventional flat-bottom shape seen in its older triple-toons. The reason for the change is that the builder wanted to make this boat appropriate for moderate speeds and smaller horsepower engines. This boat is less expensive to buy and operate and also has enough performance baked in to keep most buyers -- and their kids -- happy.

#### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

Manitou's VP bottom configuration is a variation on the SHP design which is on its high performance models.

The VP bottom configuration has some of the characteristics of Manitou's high-performance SHP design, but is oriented to more normal use, slower -- but still planing -- speeds. The drawing above highlights the important attributes of the 22 Aurora VP -- (A) Integrated splash guards throw water down rather than let it run up the outer toons, picked up by the wind and blown on guests. (B) Manitou is known for its artful welds that are respected in the boating industry. (See below.) (C) A special structure allows the Aurora's 27" center toon to extend over 5" below the outside 23" tubes. This gives the bottom an effective V-shape which allows the boat to comfortably bank into turns. (D) The positive angle lifting strake fitted on both sides of the center toon creates an effective chine that adds lift and stability. (E) The reinforced leading edges of all three toons keep the tubes from being damaged or punctured when obstructions are hit. (F) The "M"-shaped brackets on the outside tubes provide strength and rigidity to the deck.

#### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

If you have ever seen a weld on a pontoon boat which looked like the welder was in a hurry to go home, then you will appreciate the quality of the welds on every Manitou.

#### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

Manitou's VP hull is capable of speeds in the mid-30s with a 150-hp outboard and can be used for towing skiers. Note the lifting strakes on the large, center toon.

## Modified-V Bottom Concept.

Because the 27" center tube is placed over 5" deeper than the 23" outboard tubes, the 22 Aurora has what is effectively a "modified-V" bottom. The design allows the 22 Aurora to turn easier and to lean in when turning at higher speeds.

#### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

Bird's eye view of the 22 Aurora Lounger VP.

## Standard Equipment

The standard equipment that is most impressive on this boat is the hull itself which has been described above. After that we would say that the materials used are most impressive, things such as stainless steel fasteners instead of regular steel, roto-molded furniture that eliminates rot and rust, and a 44 gallon (167 L) fuel tank which is almost twice the normal size. Other items of standard equipment include the Bimini top, a stainless steel swim ladder, a mooring cover and a "Soft Touch" steering wheel, among other things.

## Optional Equipment

The model's option list is the same as those for other lines the builder makes. In keeping with the Aurora series there is an emphasis on simplicity. Here is what we found to like on the options list for the 22 Aurora--

### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

Tables are handy on any pontoon boat and we'd probably spec two for the 22 Aurora -- one for the bow and one for the stern.

### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

A pontoon boat is a luxurious swim platform and as such it needs a large, comfortable, deep stainless steel swim ladder, like this option.

### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

Every boat should have a cooler or two, so we would recommend Manitou's 24-can cooler option. It has been designed to fit in spaces provided.

### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

These drink holders are a nice design and will come in handy on any boat. We would order three or four of them.

### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

Depending on the use of the boat, this changing room/water closet could come in handy. Our experience is that when it is needed, people are glad they spent the money for it.

### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

A portable toilet is an inexpensive option and obviously needs the option above to make it complete.

### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

Owners into towing sports will want the optional tow eye and bracket. The ski tow bar is standard on the VP hull.

### Manitou 22 Aurora VP

Most any boat could use a good set of fenders and we would probably purchase six and have them strapped up all the time both port and starboard. When not needed they can be easily flipped over the rail and be hidden behind the "fencing". Please don't run the boat with the fenders flapping in the breeze!

Towing sports are one of the most popular uses of the 22 Aurora VP.

## Other Aurora Models

There are four models in the Aurora series -- 18', 20', 22' and 24'. One should be the right size for all but the most aggressive applications. Within each model, except the 18, there are three different toon configurations -- two twin toons (choose from either 23" or 25" diameter tubes), or the triple-toon. Within each of the models, there are also different interior furniture layouts.

## Warranty

Model year 2013 Manitou warranty coverage--

- Limited Lifetime Decking Warranty (transferable)
- Limited Lifetime Warranty on Structural Components (pontoons, motor mounts, boat understructure, fence assemblies, Bimini top frames)
- 5-year warranty on furniture vinyl
- 5-year warranty on Bimini top fabric
- 5-year warranty on carpet
- 5-year warranty on Aqualon and Sunbrella mooring covers and seat covers (3 years on Odyssey III mooring covers, standard on Aurora models)
- 3-year bow to stern warranty on all other components

## Observations

The 22 Aurora is an "entry-level" boat for some people, but for most others, we think it is probably a good bet either because the boater is trying to keep things simple, or does not plan to use the boat much -- yet wants good quality and a marquis nameplate.

## More or Less?

As Ludwig Mies van der Rohe said, "Less is More." When it comes to pontoon boats we think this motto applies to the Manitou 22 Aurora VP. It is about as minimalist as is possible without getting down into a category of pontoon boat which has as its main virtue a low price. For people who are only going to leisurely cruise around the lake on evenings, then we would suggest considering the twin-toon version of the 22 Aurora with a 60-hp to 115-hp outboard. For people who will want to do some towing of kids or grandkids, the 22 Aurora VP with a 150-hp outboard is more than adequate to get the job done with most loads.

Dad holds the rod while Johnny fiddles with his bait. Pontoon boats are ideal for going into the weeds like this -- a place where record-size Muskies hang out in certain lakes.