

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP (2015-)

Brief Summary

The Manitou 23 X-Plode combines deck boat performance with pontoon boat space and comfort in a family watersports package with room. The boat's bottom design, setting the center pontoon lower than the outside tubes, creates a planing hull that leans into hard turns like a vee bottom, and that also softens waves from ahead.

Price

Base Price\$87000.00

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

- Powder coated walls
- Stainless steel Bimini top and boot
- Chaise with flip-up arm rests
- Furniture with Diamonte marine vinyl
- 2 portable cupholders with stainless inserts
- Privacy station assembly in chaise
- Ski tow bar
- AM/FM Polk Bluetooth radio with 4 speakers
- Automotive style slider helm chair

Test Results

| RPM | MPH | Knots | GPH | MPG | NMPG | STAT. MILE | NM | dBa |
|------|-----|-------|------|------|-------|------------|-----|-----|
| 550 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 0.25 | 12.6 | 10.96 | 499 | 434 | 65 |
| 1000 | 5.2 | 4.5 | 0.6 | 8.67 | 7.54 | 343 | 298 | 69 |
| 1500 | 7.4 | 6.4 | 1.4 | 5.25 | 4.57 | 208 | 181 | 74 |

| RPM | MPH | Knots | GPH | MPG | NMPG | STAT. MILE | NM | dBa |
|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------------|-----|-----|
| 2000 | 10.1 | 8.8 | 3.05 | 3.31 | 2.88 | 131 | 114 | 81 |
| 2500 | 16.1 | 14 | 4.6 | 3.5 | 3.04 | 139 | 121 | 82 |
| 3000 | 19.7 | 17.1 | 6.2 | 3.18 | 2.76 | 126 | 109 | 83 |
| 3500 | 23.9 | 20.7 | 8.25 | 2.89 | 2.51 | 114 | 100 | 85 |
| 4000 | 29.9 | 26 | 10.85 | 2.76 | 2.4 | 109 | 95 | 86 |
| 4500 | 38.9 | 33.8 | 13.65 | 2.85 | 2.48 | 113 | 98 | 91 |
| 5000 | 45.8 | 39.8 | 16.95 | 2.7 | 2.35 | 107 | 93 | 94 |
| 5500 | 50.8 | 44.2 | 21.65 | 2.35 | 2.04 | 93 | 81 | 95 |

[View the test results in metric units](#)
[manitou_23xplodeshp_chart_15.jpg](#)

Specifications

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Length Overall | 24' 4" / 7.42 m |
| BEAM | 8' 6" 2.59 m |
| Dry Weight | 3,100 lbs. 1,406 kg |
| Tested Weight | 3,705 lbs. 1,681 kg |
| Draft | 14" 0.36 m |
| 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 | 3,705 lbs. 1,681 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 | 3.5 sec |
| 0 to 20 | |
| Ratio | N/A |
| Props | 19" Rebel |
| Load | 2 persons, 79/100 fuel, no water, 25 lbs. of gear |
| Climate | 71 deg., 76 humid.; wind: 0-5 mph; seas: calm |

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

The Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP has an LOA OF 24’4” (7.42 m) and a beam of 8’6” (2.59 m).

Mission Statement

The Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP continues to push the limits of traditional performance, amenities, and design in a pontoon boat. From her V-Toon hull design to her versatile seating options, distinctive graphics and color options, this boat not only looks sharp, but she also appears to be ready to provide a day of excitement and comfort on the water.

Distinguishing Features

- SRS Seating Group: Split rear seats that convert to luxurious loungers
- Powder-coated rails
- SHP Hull: Sport Handling Package
- Aluminum wake tower
- Energy-saving LED lighting

Performance

This 23 X-Plode SHP is engineered to handle an outboard rating of up to 250-hp. At WOT, we reached a top speed of 51.1 mph at 5500 rpm. At that speed, we were burning 21.6 gph giving us a range of 93 statute miles. Best cruise speed came in at 3000 rpm and was 19.7 mph. That produced a sedate ride with a 6.2 gph fuel burn which meant a range of 126 miles, while still maintaining a 10% reserve. We had a quick time to plane of only 3.5 seconds going 20 mph, and continued accelerating through 30 mph in 5.8 seconds.

Handling

Manitou has developed its own tube design that provides the sporty handling characteristics for the 23 X-Plode SHP.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

It's called SHP for Sport Handling Package, and it consists of three tubes, with the center being oversized. The outer tubes measure 23" in diameter each, while the center tube is 27". The center tube is also 5 1/4" lower than the outer tubes and this creates a pivot point for the boat on which to lean into the turns. Positive angle lifting strakes run down the full length of both sides of all the tubes. This pushes water away from the tubes to enhance the turning ability and get the boat up on plane quickly. At the nose cone, we find an integrated splash fin which is much stronger than a welded fin. This will keep the topside and passengers dry while underway. The nose cones are also thicker than the rest of the tubes.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

The deep crimps help reinforce the hull from the pressure of the water as the boat moves through the water and the lateral stiffener provides additional support.

As for handling, the 23 X-Plode SHP is quick to respond to the helm. She's clearly acclimated to watersports so break out the skis, tubes, or whatever is most desirable to tow.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

She stays dry crossing wakes, thanks to the splash guards so she can handle chop well. And there's no tendency to lean to the outside of the turn. She accelerates from a nearly level attitude and settles back into the water the same way.

Features Inspection

Appearance

The first thing that we noticed on the 23 X-Plode SHP were the rails, wall panels and deck trim which were powder coated.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

Powder coating aluminum frames and panels add a luxurious, clean look to the boat and should provide added protection against the elements.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

A close up view of the high quality finish work on the powder coated rails and panels. Another new feature, which gives the boat a very distinctive sporty look is the aluminum wakeboard arch (with a bikini Bimini) that can be lowered for trailering.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

The arch also with a powder-coated finish, matched to the color scheme of the boat.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

A navigation light on the arch doubles as the tow pylon for wakeboarding.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

We think the graphics on the fencing of the 23-X-Plode add to the excitement and zest of the boat.

Stern to Bow

Starting off in the stern, and in keeping with the design elements of the boat, Manitou employs a polished stainless steel stern safety bar which is 24" high, as per ABYC standards.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

At the center of the stern safety bar is a towing eye for tubing. We would like to see this area protected by some additional cross rails for increased safety.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

At the stern, on the starboard side, is a 4 step stainless steel telescoping ladder. Note the high handholds to ease re-boarding, something we don't always see on pontoon boats. Stainless steel mooring cleats are positioned on both sides of the stern for easy docking and rafting up.

As the pontoon boats evolve, we are seeing more integration of the convenience and safety elements that we have come accustomed to in the fiberglass V-hull boats. For example, the builder has placed the large fuel tank down below inside one of the tubes. This increases the range of the boat, lowers the CG, and provides an additional level of safety.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

At the port side, there's a fuel fill cap and a vent port for the 44-gallon tank below deck.

The SRS floor plan at the stern consists of dual booth style seats to either side of the stern and allow two people to sit opposite one another and even create an aft-facing chaise lounge on each side. This booth/chaise seating arrangement is constructed on its own fiberglass module that drops into place and provides a level of fit-and-finish rarely seen on pontoon boats.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

The SRS is a dynamic split rear seating floor plan. Not only does it give dual access to the built-in swim platform for tubers, boarders, and skiers, but the seats also convert into rear-facing sun lounges.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

We started our look at the seating options with the chaise lounge position on the starboard side. Each of the seating configurations can be duplicated on each side of the boat.

From the chaise lounge position, the center pad is flipped back to create the stern seat. There is storage under the aft-facing seat that houses the pedestal table.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

Just flip the seat back forward, on the starboard side stern seat and lift the seat pad and there is the storage compartment that houses the battery and switch.

The side mount pedestal table can be installed to enjoy snacks and drinks on the water. This innovative design allows the stern of the 23-X-Plode SHP to be used in several different ways for different occasions. Some will like it for sunning, while others will like its intimate arrangement for a private picnic or even

cocktails

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

Here is a look at the versatility of the SRS seating group. A pair of booth style seats with a snack table installed or the very inviting chaise lounge configuration.

Storage is also welcome on a boat and here is some good use of the space forward of the aft seating group.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

On the port side, a trash bin is located between the companion seat and the aft lounge seat.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

On the starboard side behind the captain's chair, a stainless steel drawer and roomy storage area is underneath.

The captain's chair sits up on a raised platform for better visibility and is accented with the color scheme to match the boat. The seat has thigh and side bolsters and was comfortable.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

Both armrests flip up, there is a seat bolster and the seat can be adjusted either forward or back. Note the classy Gussi Italian steering wheel.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

The companion seat has all the matching features of the captain's chair, without the responsibility of running the boat.

The helm has two analog gauges flush-mounted and flanking a new Smart Screen System from Manitou. The leather-wrapped tilt wheel comes standard and is from Italian designer Gussi.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

This is one of the simplest instrument panels we have ever seen on a pontoon boat.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

At the lower left of the helm is a Polk stereo system with streaming Bluetooth capability.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

The throttle control has an electronic throttle adjustment feature that allows the operator to get just the right wakeboarding speed.

Soft and plush seating at the bow only begins to describe this area of the 23 X-Plode SHP. The quality of the vinyl and workmanship of the seats is noteworthy. Note the curves, multi-colors, red welting and the

smooth lay of the material's round compound curves. Soft to the touch Diamonte all-weather marine-grade vinyl is used throughout the boat.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

Ultra-soft padding, soft-touch two-tone materials highlight the seats. Note the absence of wrinkles or puckers in the upholstery.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

The contrasting designer colors are pleasing to the eye and check out the monogrammed head rest for a touch of class from the builder.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

The usual accommodations for storage are under the seats and articulating hinges allow the seats to lift up, slide open and sit on the deck.

Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP

Each of the seat compartments is set on a Roto-mold plastic liner that provides good support to the seat structure and will not rot.

Engine

Our test boat was equipped with the all-new Evinrude E-TEC G2 250-hp engine, turning a 19 Rebel propeller. Optional power ranges from 200-hp to 250-hp.

Options to Consider

- Barbecue grill, rail Mount or leg Mount
- Center in-tube storage
- Double Bimini
- Porta-Potti

Price

Manufacturer Suggested Retail (as tested, with engine) \$87,000

Observations

The design characteristics of the Manitou 23 X-Plode SHP are clearly taking the “toons” to a new level of sporty looks and comfort. But this is only part of the equation. The builder’s attention to detail in every aspect of the boat is impressive. The finish details on the upholstery have been crafted by experts. The powder-coated rails, walls and deck trim add a luxurious, clean look to the boat and should provide added protection against the elements. In all ways, we found this boat at the top of her class.