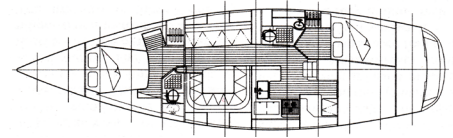
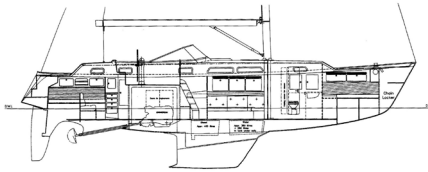


# SELECTING AN OFFSHORE CRUISING BOAT - 2024

presented by

**JOHN NEAL**

author of



Selecting and Purchasing an Ocean Cruising Sailboat - *free download mahina.com/book.pdf*

## Overview

1. Selecting & Purchasing a Cruising Boat
2. 20 Qualities of an Ideal Cruising Boat
3. Boat Design
4. Boat Construction
5. Sample of Current Boat Prices & Market Trends
15. Deep bilge sump
16. Adequate interior and deck storage
17. Comfortable cockpit
18. Low exterior & interior maintenance
19. Swim step
20. Good resale appeal and value

## 1. Boat Design

- 10 Types of Cruising Boats
- Negative design aspects to avoid
- Keel types
- Aft vs. center cockpit
- Steering position
- Transom
- Rig: sloop, cutter, ketch
- Engine

## 2. Boat Construction

- Hull construction material
- Tank material
- Bulkhead attachment
- Deck construction
- Hull to deck joint
- Mast support
- Chainplate load transmission
- Steering system and position

## 3. 20 Qualities of an Ideal Cruising Boat

1. Comfortable motion on the ocean
2. Quality construction
3. Ability to withstand 6 kt grounding
4. Sailing performance
5. Moderately stiff & can sail 150+ miles a day
6. Protected helm position
7. Ability to carry substantial payload
8. Responsive helm
9. Comfortable interior
10. Simple rig and sail plan
11. Good engine access
12. Fuel tankage sufficient for 800+ miles
13. Moderate draft, ideally around 6'
14. Keel, prop and rudder that won't snag lines

## 4. Selecting and Purchasing a Yacht

- When to purchase
- Boat cost, size and age
- Where to purchase
- How to find your boat
- Selecting the right boat
- Boat purchasing options
- Purchase process
- Regroup repair and outfit

## 5. Sample of Current Prices & Market Trends

- mahina.com/consult

### Resources

The Boat Repair Bible - Adlard Cole  
Surveying Yachts & Small Craft - Paul Stevens  
The Modern Cruising Sailboat - Charles Doane  
Twenty Affordable Sailboats - Greg Nester  
Surveying Fiberglass Boats - Henry Mustin  
Catamaran: Complete Guide for Cruising Sailors  
Pete McGonagle - pete@swiftsureyachts.com  
Grant Bowlby - grantandpat@harrisellis.com

**Mahina.com**

## Mahina Offshore Cruising Workshop - 2024

Featured Boats - Condensed from "Boats to Consider for Offshore Cruising" from  
OFFSHORE CRUISING COMPANION

Boat & (add'l models)	Mkt	Used	Sold	Change	Comments
Morgan 382, 383, 384	8	\$28-43	\$37,600	-\$4,000	Brewer design, good value, not sexy
Pearson 424 (385, 422)	7	\$50-89	\$52,800	-\$11,500	Cutters most desirable, old, but fairly solid
Island Packet 350 (380)	2	\$79-119	\$118,833	-\$9,500	Better performance than 35, well-built
Beneteau Oceanis 40CC	6	110-148	\$105,660	-\$673.00	Very practical, surprising sailing performance
Beneteau 423 (393, 473)	31	\$98-199	\$147,500	+\$11,643	OK for downwind tradewind cruising
Catalina 42 Mk II	10	\$118-229	\$124,000	New	Not a Cape Horner, but ok for downwind cruise
Caliber 40	7	\$119-259	\$139,600	-\$43,150	Good value, massive tankage on LRC series
Ovni 395 (400, 435, 455)	1	\$203	\$201,750	+\$250.00	Proven, innovative, solid value, high resale
Catalina Morgan 440	3	\$199-239	151,250	New	A lot of boat for the money, not the prettiest...
Valiant 42 (39,50)	1	\$229-299	\$217,500	-\$28,000	Solid boats, newer the better, V-drive is a neg.
Amel 52, 53, 54 (50, 55)	16	\$155-780	\$355,800	+\$78,000	Great choice for family cruising, SOLID!
Hallberg-Rassy 43 (39+)	3	\$328-360	\$303,500	-\$85,000	Perfect for a couple, hardtop is excellent
Outbound 44/46	1	\$378 (44)	\$470,150	+\$70,000	Quality built, low maintenance & good perf.
Garcia Exploration 45	0	\$695	\$801,500	No sales	Solid quality, go-anywhere SUV vessel
Hallberg-Rassy 40C	1	795	No sales	No sales	A real breakthrough design, hard to beat
Allures 45.9	1	\$800,721	\$600,330	New	Proven composite design, strong & fast
<b>Multihulls</b>					
Manta 40, 42	4	\$175-279	\$218,200	-\$15,550	Solid, heavy boats with strong resale value.
Fountaine Pajot Belize43	4	\$247-490	\$235,200	-\$15,550	Newer models not as sturdy as older ones.
Privilege 435	3	\$306-433	\$265,000	New	Good build quality and performance
Leopard 44 (46, 47, 48)	4	\$335-762	\$379,600	-\$51,730	Great choice, particularly non-charter boats
Outremer 45	9	\$383-1.08	\$802,000	+\$26,000	Fast, well-built. Less volume than slower boats
Catana 471,472	3	\$330-483	\$406,275	-\$31,125	Quality, lousy customer service on new builds
Antares 44i	1	\$745	\$658,330	-\$33,170	One of the best constructed cats, not fast

The boats on this list are a small example from the 147 builders listed on our "Boats to Consider for Offshore Cruising" list in the Offshore Cruising Companion. "Mkt" refers to the number of boats currently listed on [www.yachtworld.com](http://www.yachtworld.com). The number and price of listings is as of January 15, 2024. The selling prices are a one-year average from soldboats.com. "Change" denotes the change in average selling price from the previous year.

If you are looking for a cruising boat, consider my professional **Boat Purchase Consultation** for \$1500, with no time or geographic limits. Complete and return the questionnaire located at [www.mahina.com/questionnaire](http://www.mahina.com/questionnaire) and I will

evaluate the boats you are presently considering and suggest additional boats for you to consider. I will provide referrals to honest, unbiased brokers and surveyors, assistance in making an offer, negotiating cost of repairs following the survey, title search, flagging options, shipping, insurance, additional gear needed and overall weather and passage planning. Full details: [www.mahina.com/consult](http://www.mahina.com/consult) or by emailing: [sailing@mahina.com](mailto:sailing@mahina.com).

### Why Some Boats Are More Expensive Than Others

Component	Lower Quality/Charter/Local Cruising	Higher Quality/Offshore
Structure	No or minimal grid reinforcing system Bulkheads & decks glued in place	Substantial grid system Bulkheads & deck glassed (tabbed) in place
Ballast	Cast iron: rusts & doesn't absorb impact	Lead, which absorbs impact, more expensive
Keel	Poor impact absorption and distribution, keel may fall off with serious grounding	Able to withstand 6kt grounding without structural damage
Sailing Ability	Great downwind	Equally good upwind & downwind performance
Bilge	Shallow & flat; <20 gallon capacity	Deep; >50 gallon capacity
Tank Material	Aluminum, plastic or black iron	Stainless steel or fiberglass
Tank Location	Under settees	Above keel, under cabin sole
Fuel Tankage	<60 gallons, <600 miles	>100 gallons, >1000 miles
Interior Storage	Space under settees taken by tankage	Substantially more storage available
Deck Storage	Minimal storage lockers	Substantial deck storage lockers
Deck Core	Balsa or non-marine ply	Inorganic closed-cell foam or none
Rig	Lower strength or complex (B&R)	Simple & strong, ideally w/ fore & aft lowers & removable cutter stay for storm staysail
Battery Capacity	<300 amp hours	>500 amp hours
Charging Output	<100 amps	>100 amps

### Refit and Maintenance Costs

#### Initial Refit and Outfit Budget:

Percent of original purchase price to prepare a stock 10+ year old 40'-46' boat for extended cruising: 30 – 100% depending on quality and condition of vessel.

#### Maintenance Items to Budget For:

(Approximate prices for 40' – 46' boat)

- Repower or rebuild main engine at 5000 to 10,000 hours 5,000 - 30,000
- Remove antifoul paint and epoxy bottom job every 8 -10 years 2,000 - 20,000
- Pull mast, replace rigging, repaint every 10 years 4,000 - 15,000
- Replace sails every 20,000 - 30,000 miles 10,000 - 20,000
- Replace batteries every 2-6 years 1,500 - 20,000
- Repack liferaft (1-3 years), replace at 12-15 yrs 1,500 - 5,000
- Regalvanize chain every two years (tropical waters) 600 - 800
- Replace chain every 6 years in tropical waters 1,500 - 2,000
- Rebuild or replace windlass every 4-8 years 300 - 4,000
- Drop rudder for inspection & repair every 5 years 1,000 - 4,000
- Replace tender and motor every 5-10 years 4,000 - 10,000
- Replace failed or outdated electronics every 2-12 years 2,000 - 20,000
- Replace fresh water and head hoses every 5 yrs 300 - 500
- Replace thru-hulls and ball valves every 8-10 yrs 2,000 - 10,000
- Replace solar panels and regulator every 4-8 years 2,000 - 5,000

#### Maintenance Costs While Cruising

First 1-4 years: 5% of purchase price annually, 5-10 years: 8% annually, over 10 years: 10% annually.

The older the boat, the higher the annual maintenance costs and the more time required for maintenance.

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