

Sea Ray 36 Sedan Bridge

Feels like you're riding sky high.
by Tom Thompson

The first thing you'll notice about the Sea Ray 36 Sedan Bridge is that it's tall—very tall. The boat stands a commanding 18 feet, 6 inches above the water. From the flybridge, you have a great view of your surroundings, not only for docking and maneuvering, but also for simply enjoying the world around you.





The downside of a tall boat is that it can be hard to control on a windy day. But that wasn't the case with the 36 Sedan Bridge. There was a brisk breeze with gusts up to 20 mph on the day I tested the boat out of Sea Ray's Sykes Creek manufacturing facility on Merritt Island, Florida. While cruising a wide section of the Intracoastal Waterway near the Kennedy Space Center, the 36 Sedan Bridge handled like a charm. Whether running at cruising speed or doing docking maneuvers, helm response was quick and responsive.

Standard power for the 36 Sedan Bridge is a pair of MerCruiser 8.1S Horizon gas engines rated 370 hp at the prop. They provided excellent get-up-and-go on our test boat. There was minimal bow rise when coming on plane, although with the flybridge view, this was a non-issue. Mid-range acceleration was strong and immediate. Punch the throttles to avoid an obstacle, and the boat quickly gets out of the way.

The 36's performance is well matched with amenities. The spacious flybridge on our test boat had bench seats along the starboard side and across the aft, as well as a pair of swivel bucket seats at the helm. A combination electronics arch and hardtop covered the forward half. It's optional, as is the canvas package that provides shade aft, but I would recommend both, as they'll keep you out of sun and rain.

The high-tech helm on our test boat featured a pair of Northstar 6000i display panels that show you everything from charting and radar images to an echosounder and engine monitoring. Sea Ray also offers the Navigator system and Raymarine's E-120 as electronics display options. Standard instrumentation includes a Mercury SmartCraft diagnostics display with system view.

There's more high-tech gadgetry below. Where you would expect to find the master electrical control panel with its rows of breakers and switches, Sea Ray has installed a state-of-the-art touch-screen electronic power distribution system. Even the wall switches to control lighting and other functions throughout the boat are touch pads.

The salon has a sofa along the starboard side and a love seat to port. The dinette is one step above the main deck, and the L-shaped seating has excellent sightlines to the outside through the large expanse of glass surround-



ing the salon. The stainless steel handrail with a tempered glass inset divides the dinette from the galley.

Speaking of the galley, there are separate, under-counter refrigerator and freezer units that operate on either 12 or 120 volts. A two-burner stove with a powered vent, microwave oven and coffeemaker round out the list. Sea Ray thoughtfully put plate and glass storage racks in the cabinets to prevent things from breaking. There's also a large storage compartment beneath the wood floor.

A high-tech entertainment center resides in a cabinet at the aft port corner of the salon. There's a 20-inch flat-screen LCD TV and DVD player. The audio system includes a Clarion AM/FM receiver that's Sirius satellite radio-capable. You get a six-month subscription when you buy the boat. There's also a six-CD changer and a subwoofer, along with eight speakers throughout the vessel. All these components, plus a digital remote on the bridge, come standard.

The master stateroom is forward and has a full-size pedestal berth with an innerspring mattress, two hanging lockers, shelf storage, a hope chest seat at the foot of the berth and a standard 14-inch TV/DVD combo. The second stateroom, along the starboard side under the dinette, has twin beds that convert with a filler cushion into a queen. There's standing headroom in the forward portion, where

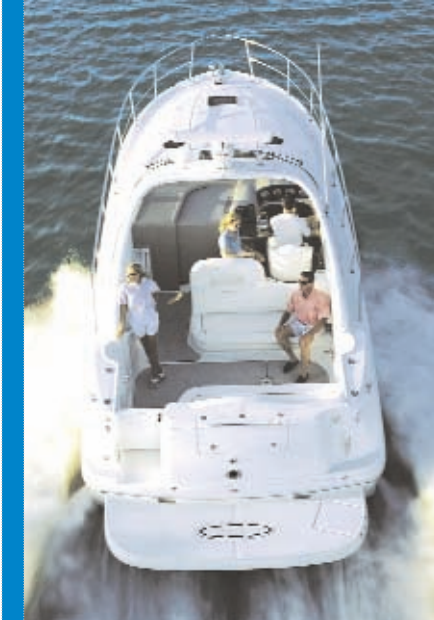
you'll find a hanging locker. Matching pillows, sheets and bedspread are standard. A split head is shared by the staterooms. The toilet is to port and has a private access from the master suite; the shower is to starboard.

The boat also comes equipped with air conditioning, a generator and a windlass. A few of the notable options include bow- and stern-thrusters, an icemaker or refrigerator in the cockpit and a central vacuum system. One more item worth mentioning is the grabrail that runs across the sliding glass door from the cockpit to the salon. How many times have you seen a small recess with a latching mechanism on doors like these that's tough to grip while underway? Little things such as this make for a well-designed boat. Would you expect anything less from a Sea Ray? ↓

Specs

LOA	37'6"
Beam	13'
Draft	3'4"
Weight	20,500 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	300 gals.
Sleeps.....	4
Base power	T/MerCruiser 8.1 Horizons (370 hp)
Base price	\$345,903

800-SR-BOATS
www.searay.com



The biggest of the bunch

You'll be livin' large in the 60 Sundancer, the largest model in Sea Ray's express cruiser line. All this space equates to luxury living in three staterooms and a salon below, plus an expansive deck.

The 60 Sundancer has an impressive complement of high-tech gear. The nav system at the helm includes a Raymarine E-120 network display and a Sea Ray Navigator III system. On the other side of the fully enclosed and air-conditioned bridge deck, a 27-inch LCD HDTV screen rises out of the cherrywood cabinetry.

Sea Ray calls the enclosed deck the "upper sunroom." Two retractable glass panels in the hardtop can open to let in sun and breezes, can close to allow in just light, or can be shaded to keep the area cool. In addition to plush Ultraleather sofas and chairs, the space has a pair of Slid seats—a tall-backed captain's chair and a doublewide bench seat for both the navigator and first mate.

The galley has all the tools to prepare simple snacks or gourmet meals. An oversize ottoman converts to a versatile table. TVs in each stateroom, plus one in the salon, are standard.

The 60 Sundancer is powered by a pair of MAN V10 1100 CR diesels rated at 1,051 hp each that can take it to a 40-mph top speed.

Specs

LOA	61'6"
Beam	16'9"
Draft	4'2"
Weight	55,700 lbs.
Fuel capacity	900 gals.
Sleeps.....	6
Base power	T/MAN V10 1100 CR diesels (1,051 hp)
Base price	\$1,766,049