

## Horizon Aluminium Boats

### Enjoy the Versatility of Horizon Aluminium Boats

Basically, Horizon make aluminium boats and have been doing so for over a decade. This Queensland company carries out all its own design work and fabrication, and offers a range of over 40 boats in eight basic designs.

If you are seeking a smaller boat, up to about 5.7 metres or thereabouts, then Horizon should have a model to suit your needs. Most of their range are versatile and multifunctional, and can be used for a number of purposes such as fishing, skiing, diving or just for the pleasure that cruising in a small boat can provide you with.

They are constructed of pressed aluminium sheet, so if you are looking for a new tinny then Horizon produce the goods, from the normal vee-bow punt of the Horizon Pathfinder range, varying in size from the small 3.2 metres, to the seven models in the outstanding Horizon SunRunner range, with sizes up to 5.7 metres. The SunRunner is an ideal family runabout for all boating needs, including fishing boats, diving and skiing, and this boat is designed to handle outboards from 30hp to 150hp. It is an all-round cruising boat, and with all the room provided by a wide beam of up to 1.5 metres, is great for family cruising on lakes and rivers, but can also be used in open water.

However, if your primary use is fishing, then you might prefer the centre console of the Pacific, allowing access around the full circumference, making it popular not only with fishermen but also with divers. The centre console is also more suitable for the slappier conditions you can get with bay or ocean fishing. It's raised casting platforms render this boat ideal for its purpose, and if you add the optional raised baitboard then it is perfect. The 110L underfloor fuel tank makes sure that you have plenty fuel for your trip, and if you prefer a folding center console, you can have one as an optional extra.

However, if your preference is for a bow rider design, then Horizon offer the 2008 Modern Boating winner in the Horizon SeaBreeze 540. This design allows more than enough cockpit space fore and aft, and is suitable for the vast majority of boating uses for this size of boat. This is not your normal tinny, and is designed for outboards at 60 to 140 horsepower. If you are looking for an all rounder, then this is it, and the design is also available in a range of sizes from the 485 to the 570. The 570 has a 2.4 metre beam and the thicker 4 mm sheet bottom for added hull strength, and has a recommended maximum outboard motor power of 140 hp.

The Horizon Stalker, on the other hand, is not so versatile and is a specialist fishing boat for Australia's rivers and estuaries. The boat is stable and designed with safety in mind, with a raised casting platform, tackle box, four rod holders and an external live bait box. Comfort comes from the two fully upholstered swivel seats and full carpeting with underfloor flotation, and taken as whole, this is a fabulous range of four boats ranging in size from 3.85 to 4.6 metres.

If you prefer a cuddy cabin, and want to get away from it all for a day or two at a beautifully quiet, secluded anchorage, the aptly named Horizon Getaway range would be ideal for you. You can take the family away for a weekend on the water in any of these four boats that offer a stable and comfortable ride.

If you are using it for an overnight fishing trip, you can buy an optional baitboard and live bait tank, and a Humminbird Fish Finder. If just on a cruise, you can fix up a canopy or bimini, plug in your GPS and you can cruise anywhere, shaded from the sun, and you won't get lost. What a great way to spend a weekend!

The Getaway range are very versatile boats, and versatility is something that is common with all [Horizon boats](#) Horizon boats. Not only that, but also very reasonable priced, and Horizon's pressed boats are among the best in the business. There is always a compromise with aluminum boats, the same as with any material of construction, but aluminium is ideal for this type and size of boat. It is light and strong enough for inland waterways, lakes and bays. There are questions about the hull support with aluminium boats, so you should be sure to get the right trailer design for it. A skid trailer is best so the whole weight is not resting on the hull, but on the keel through the skids and keel rollers.

Once they are in the water, however, they are perfectly strong and stable, and Horizon tailor the thickness of the metal to suit the size and weight of the boat. Horizon boats are very popular and used not only by private customers, but also by government departments and survey groups. You will go a long way to find boats as good as these at the prices offered.

## About the Author

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