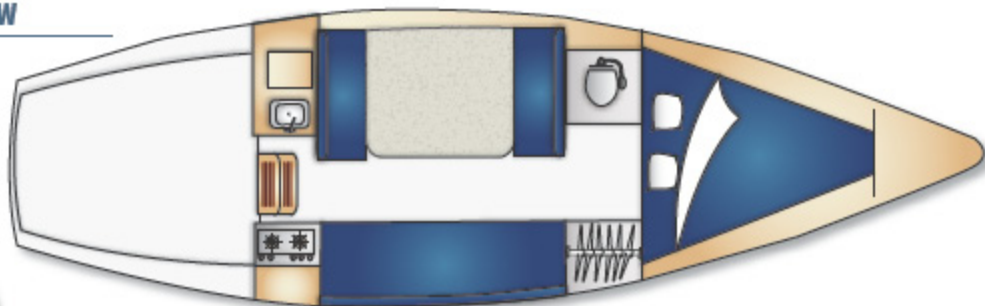


BOAT REVIEW



The roomy cabin (above) features berths for five on a boat that truly can support only a couple or a small family for coastal cruises. Galley and cockpit space suffer as a result. The brochure sail plan (left) shows a small sail, but a 120-percent, roller-furling genoa should be sufficient in most regions. Comparing specs with two contemporaries (below), the classic Cal 25, and the Columbia 26, the Balboa gains a performance edge in light airs with more sail area, less weight, and a longer static waterline. The swing keel (up) adds versatility and minimizes wetted surface, but the fixed, lead ballast keels of the Cal and the Columbia (whose long overhangs distort its performance ratios) offer fewer keel maintenance worries.

BALBOA 26 IN CONTEXT

	Balboa 26	Cal 25	Columbia 26
LOA	25' 7"	25'	26' 4"
LWL	20' 10"	20'	19' 0"
Beam	7' 11.5"	8'	8'
Draft (shoal)	5' (1' 10")	4'	4'
Displacement	3,600 lbs.	4,000 lbs.	5,200 lbs.
Ballast	1,200 lbs.	1,700 lbs.	2,300 lbs.
Sail area (100%)	293 sq. ft.	286 sq. ft.	321 sq. ft.
Engine	6-8 hp.	6-8 hp.	9.9 hp.
Water	20 gal.	15 gal.	9 gal.
Fuel	6 gal. (portable)	6 gal. (portable)	5.5 gal.
SA/D ratio	20	18.16	15.7
D/L ratio	178	223	338
Used boat price*	\$7,500	\$6,500	\$7,500

* Average price posted on used boat websites, condition may vary greatly.