

Hamilton Jet Model HJ362
Application Review

First Jet Powered Catamaran Ferry for Santa Barbara, USA



In many places where whale hunting was once a major industry, today whale watching has become a popular tourist attraction. California is one such place, where Blue, Humpback and Grey whales cruise the coastline year round. The latest tour boat to enter service in the area has followed the trend set by many successful whale watching operations – a high speed catamaran utilising waterjet propulsion.

Condor Express is the new tourist/function boat for Santa Barbara based Condor Cruises. It is Southern California's first quad-jet charter catamaran and will be used for whale watch and dinner cruises, with occasional functions and educational excursions.

Cruising at 28 knots fully laden, Condor Express will make the run from Santa Barbara to the Channel Islands in one third the time of the old boat. This will allow for two or three trips per day instead of one.

At 28 knots the four Detroit Diesel engines operate at only 67% power, which will significantly increase their

longevity. Condor Express tops 34 knots at 85% power, has a top speed of 43 knots, and a cruising range of over 800nm.

Hull design and quadruple waterjets are the keys to Condor Express's efficiency. Teknikraft Design's foil assisted hull design adds lift and speed while enhancing stability and smoothness of ride. Hamilton Waterjets are very efficient at high speeds and are more reliable and flexible than other propulsion systems. They are safe and quiet, and improve manoeuvrability at all boat speeds, making them ideal for use around marine life and divers.

▶ Brief Specifications

NAME: Condor Express	WATERJETTS: Quad Hamilton Model HJ362
SERVICE: Tourist/Function Boat	ENGINES: Quad Detroit Diesels Series 60-14lt, each 552kW (740hp) @ 2300rpm
LENGTH: 22.70 metres [LOA]	DESIGNER: Nic de Waal, Teknikraft Design, Auckland, New Zealand
BEAM: 7.80 metres	BUILDER: All American Marine, Bellingham, WA, USA
DRAUGHT: 1.00 metres	OWNER/OPERATOR: Condor Cruises, Santa Barbara, CA, USA
CONSTRUCTION: Aluminium	Hamilton Jet DISTRIBUTOR: HamiltonJet Inc, Seattle, WA, USA
PAYLOAD: 149 passengers & 3 crew	
SPEED: 43 knots [maximum] 34 knots [cruise]	

Condor Express is the second high speed tourist ferry built through the partnership of Teknikraft Design and All American Marine, and powered by Hamilton Waterjets. The first, Chilkat Express (ref. JB 341), has proven extremely successful operating tours out of Haines, Alaska.