



BAIC

B81

South Africa • 2026 Hagalu Buyer's Guide

1498 cc

ENGINE

138 kW

POWER

235 mm

CLEARANCE

6 seats

SEATING

<https://www.hagalu.com/south-africa/baic/b81/>

Independent Automotive Research for Africa

Contents

01	Overview & Quick Facts	
02	Variant Pricing & Lifecycle	
03	Pros, Cons & Buyer Summary	
04	Variant Comparison Matrix	
05	Full Specs — Promotional Preview	
06	Links & Legal	

Source-backed	No rating inferred	1 Variants	0 Priced
---------------	--------------------	------------	----------

01 Overview & Quick Facts

BAIC B81 is one of the clearest signs of where BAIC wants its flagship off-road image to go next. BAIC Global's Auto China 2026 announcement places the B81 alongside the B70 and says both carry forward the brand's off-road heritage while moving from traditional hardcore mechanical performance towards a smarter outdoor experience. That is the confirmed global context. South African buyers do not yet have a local launch announcement, grade structure, price list or ownership programme, so this page is an early research destination rather than a local shopping guide. The supplied technical brief gives the preview much more substance than a show-stand name alone. It identifies the B81 as a mid-to-large SUV with a five-door body, body-on-frame construction and a six-seat 2+2+2 layout. Its dimensions are 4,845 mm long, 2,050 mm wide, 1,980 mm high and 2,810 mm between the axles. That is a substantial vehicle, and the second-row captain-style arrangement suggested by the 2+2+2 layout gives the B81 a different family role from a normal five-seat SUV. The brief records a range-extended electric powertrain built around a 1.5-litre...



Body Style	Mid-to-large five-door SUV
Launched	2026
Generation	Global BAIC B81 preview, also identified in the supplied technical brief as Beijing 81VJ; the South African derivative and launch specification remain unconfirmed.
Fuel Types	Range-extended electric drive using a turbocharged petrol range extender and dual electric motors
Colours	OG107 Military Green, Matte Black and Polar White are identified in the supplied preview brief; South African availability is not published.
OEM Website	https://www.baicglobal.com/news/newsRelease/detail/296

02 Variant Pricing & Lifecycle

Variant	Fuel	Transmission	Trim	Ex-Showroom
Promotional Preview	Plug-In Hybrid	Not Published	Preview	On Request

03 Pros, Cons & Buyer Summary

● STRENGTHS ✓ Six-seat 2+2+2 layout identified in the supplied preview brief ✓ 49.4 kWh battery and 145 km WLTC electric range ✓ Dual electric motors with electric 4WD preview hardware ✓ Front, centre and rear differential locks identified ✓ 1.5-litre turbocharged range extender ✓ 235 mm clearance and substantial off-road geometry disclosed	● CONSIDERATIONS ✗ Global showcase only; no South African launch ✗ No South African MSRP or grade structure ✗ Kerb weight, payload and luggage capacity not published ✗ No local warranty or service plan ✗ Charge-depleted fuel consumption remains unknown ✗ Local charging and high-voltage support are unconfirmed
---	---

Buyer Summary

"A compelling global technology preview whose South African buying case begins only when BAIC confirms local availability and support."

B81 deserves attention because it pairs a six-seat SUV body with a range-extended electric architecture and serious 4WD claims. The 49.4 kWh battery, 145 km WLTC electric range, dual motors and three differential locks create a clear engineering story. The missing ownership information is equally important: no South African price, grades, warranty, service plan, charge-depleted fuel-consumption claim, towing figure or local delivery date is confirmed. Those gaps prevent a fair value or practicality verdict today. Keep the model visible for searchers and enthusiasts, but keep every decision conditional on a local announcement and a production vehicle.

City Driving	The B81's 4,845 mm length and 2,050 mm width would make it a substantial urban vehicle if it reaches South Africa. The six-seat arrangement may help a family, but the practical test must include the third seating position, child-seat access, luggage behind occupied seats and the turning space at home. Electric drive could make stop-start traffic smooth, while the range-extender architecture introduces charging and fuel decisions that need a real handover explanation. Buyers should wait for local visibility, camera coverage, software language and parking-assistance details before judging daily convenience. A large premium SUV also brings tyre, insurance and repair-cost questions that cannot be answered from the global showcase alone.
Highway	The 145 km WLTC electric-range figure suggests a vehicle designed to cover many shorter journeys electrically while retaining petrol-supported flexibility for longer travel. A national-road buyer will need more than a laboratory range number: ask for charge-depleted fuel consumption, tank size, charging power, tow limits and the effect of the 22-inch wheels. The six-seat cabin may suit a family tour, but luggage capacity behind all seats is not yet published. The 170 km/h top speed is a disclosed global figure, not a reason to overlook route planning, passenger load or the absence of South African roadside and warranty terms.

Off-Road	The B81 is the more technically explicit of the two upcoming BAIC previews. Electric 4WD, a part-time 4WD system, front, centre and rear differential locks, 235 mm clearance, a 39-degree approach angle, a 33-degree departure angle and a 1,300 mm wading figure point to serious outdoor intent. The body-on-frame construction and 305 mm tyre width reinforce that direction. Even so, a number on a preview brief is not a substitute for a local owner manual. Buyers should confirm the exact tyre type, recovery points, underbody protection, water procedure, differential-lock logic and allowable speed before planning sand, mud, rocks or flood crossings. Route discipline still matters more than the badge.
Best For	B81 is relevant to a buyer who wants to follow an electrified off-road SUV before local launch, has a use for six seats and is prepared to verify charging, fuel and service support. It is not yet a vehicle that can be compared on a South African cash-price or dealer-stock basis.

04 Variant Comparison Matrix

All 1 variants of the BAIC B81 side-by-side. Use this to spot the smallest differences quickly — fuel, power, gearbox and price all in one view.

SPEC	Promotional Preview
Price (ex-showroom)	On Request
Fuel Type	Plug-in Hybrid
Transmission	—
Trim Level	Preview
Engine	1498 cc (1.5L)
Max Power	138 kW (185 bhp)
Max Torque	—
Drivetrain	4WD
Fuel Economy	—
Seating	6
Boot Space	—
Ground Clearance	235 mm
Kerb Weight	—

→ [Compare these variants on hagalu.com](#) (retained specifications, lifecycle status and historical or launch pricing)

05 BAIC B81 — Promotional Preview

Price on Request

ENGINE 1498 cc	POWER 138 kW · 185 bhp	FUEL Plug-in Hybrid
----------------------	------------------------------	------------------------

Preview Trim · Plug-In Hybrid · Not Published

View retained specs & lifecycle →

ENGINE & PERFORMANCE

Engine	1.5-litre turbocharged petrol range extender with dual electric motors	Engine Code	A156T2H
Fuel Type	Plug-in Hybrid	Hybrid System	Series Hybrid
Engine Displacement	1498 cc	Aspiration	Turbocharged
Maximum Power	138 kW	Combined Power	403 kW
Motor Type	Dual electric motors	Number of Motors	2
Motor Location	Front + Rear	Drive Type	4WD

TRANSMISSION & DRIVETRAIN

Drivetrain	Electric 4WD	Drivetrain Layout	4WD
Differential Lock	Front; Centre; Rear		—

DIMENSIONS

Length	4845 mm	Width	2050 mm
Height	1980 mm	Wheelbase	2810 mm
Ground Clearance (Default)	235 mm	Seating Capacity	6 seats

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Side Steps	Yes		—
------------	-----	--	---

+ 8 more spec categories (Infotainment & Connectivity, Interior, Exterior, Off-road Capability, ...) available on the live model page.

→ See Promotional Preview full specs and lifecycle details in South Africa

Compare with rivals →

06 Explore More on Hagalu

Jump to each variant's price and specification record

→ Promotional Preview

Retained Prices & Specifications — BAIC B81

→ Historical or launch pricing and complete retained specifications in South Africa.

→ Open

Side-by-Side Comparison

→ Compare BAIC B81 vs any rival model.

→ Open

Browse All BAIC Models

→ Explore the full BAIC lineup in South Africa.

→ Open

Buyer's Guides — Finance, Pricing & New Launches

→ In-depth SA guides: car finance, monthly EMI math, upcoming launches.

→ Open

Hagalu.com — Africa's Car Research Platform

→ Independent prices, specs and reviews for South Africa and beyond.

→ Open

This brochure was generated on 13 October 2026 by Hagalu Automotive Research. All prices shown are ex-showroom and subject to change without notice. On-road price estimates include typical registration, licence and insurance costs. Specifications are sourced from manufacturer data and may vary by market. Hagalu is an independent platform not affiliated with any automotive manufacturer.

[Terms of Use](#) · [Privacy Policy](#) · [Editorial Policy](#) · [Contact Hagalu](#)