



BYD

DOLPHIN SURF

South Africa • 2026 Hagalu Buyer's Guide

55 kW

POWER

155 mm

CLEARANCE

Not Applicable
km/l

FUEL ECON

5 seats

SEATING

ZAR 341,900 – 395,900

Ex-Showroom Starting Price

<https://www.hagalu.com/south-africa/byd/dolphin-surf/>

Independent Automotive Research for Africa

BYD

Contents

01	Overview & Quick Facts	
02	Variant Pricing & On-Road Costs	
03	Pros, Cons & Buyer Summary	
04	Variant Comparison Matrix	
05	Full Specs — Comfort EV	
06	Full Specs — Dynamic EV	
07	Links & Legal	

4.2 / 5	Hagalu editorial score	2 Variants	2 Priced
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01 Overview & Quick Facts

The BYD DOLPHIN SURF is BYD's smallest current South African electric car and one of the range's most accessible entry points. Comfort EV costs R341,900 and combines a 30.08 kWh Blade Battery with a 55 kW front motor and 135 Nm. Dynamic EV costs R395,900, retaining the 55 kW and 135 Nm output while enlarging the battery to 38.88 kWh. Official WLTP range rises from 232 km to 295 km, and published DC charging capability rises from 30 kW to 40 kW. The derivative choice is therefore about range, charging margin and equipment rather than acceleration. Comfort is officially listed at 14.2 seconds from 0-100 km/h, while Dynamic is listed at 15.5 seconds despite its larger battery. These figures show that the car is tuned for economical city mobility, not fast performance. At 3,925 mm long, 1,720 mm wide and 1,590 mm high on a 2,500 mm wheelbase, the SURF is easy to place in congested streets and tight parking. It still provides five seats, although five adults should try the cabin before assuming comfortable long-distance use. Published ground clearance...



Body Style	Compact five-door city hatchback
Launched	2025
Generation	First South African DOLPHIN SURF generation, a compact dedicated battery-electric five-door hatchback.
Fuel Types	Electric
Colours	Lime Green, Cream White, Cosmos Black and Ice Blue are listed for South Africa.
OEM Website	https://www.byd.com/za/car/dolphin-surf

02 Variant Pricing & On-Road Costs

Ex-Showroom Starting Price	ZAR 341,900 – 395,900			2 Listed Variants
Variant	Fuel	Transmission	Trim	Ex-Showroom
Comfort EV	Electric	Single-Speed Reduction Gear	Base	ZAR 341,900
Dynamic EV	Electric	Single-Speed Reduction Gear	Top	ZAR 395,900

Estimated On-Road Price — Comfort EV (Base Variant)

Johannesburg	ZAR 357,002
Cape Town	ZAR 359,328
Durban	ZAR 355,219
Pretoria	ZAR 356,110

* On-road prices are estimates including registration, road tax and insurance.

03 Pros, Cons & Buyer Summary

● STRENGTHS ✓ Low R341,900 Comfort entry price ✓ Compact dimensions simplify parking ✓ Five doors and five-seat packaging ✓ Quiet 55 kW electric urban operation ✓ Dynamic claims 295 km WLTP range ✓ Dynamic raises DC charging to 40 kW	● CONSIDERATIONS ✗ Ground clearance falls to 120 mm with a full seating load ✗ Modest 55 kW highway performance ✗ Small batteries require conservative trip planning ✗ Peak DC charging is relatively low ✗ Three-year general vehicle warranty ✗ No maintenance plan beyond the two-service package
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Hagalu Editorial Verdict

"An excellent city EV when its range and clearance fit the job, with Dynamic the stronger all-round derivative."

The DOLPHIN SURF makes electric ownership accessible without pretending to be a long-range performance car. Comfort at R341,900 is the financial headline and can be all the car a short-range commuter needs. Dynamic at R395,900 is the more rounded recommendation because its 38.88 kWh battery, 295 km WLTP claim, 40 kW DC capability, side airbags and driving-position upgrades improve everyday flexibility. Both share modest 55 kW output and 155 mm unladen clearance that falls to 120 mm with a full seating load. Published complete-vehicle, power-battery and drive-unit warranty terms are clear, roadside assistance is published for five years or 100,000 km, and the booklet includes a four-year/two-service service plan with no separate maintenance plan.

City Driving	The SURF is in its natural environment in town. Its short length and modest width make parking and U-turns easier, while instant motor response is enough for normal traffic. Regenerative braking can make congestion smoother and help recover some energy. Comfort's smaller battery covers many commutes; Dynamic adds reserve for errands or missed charging. The 155 mm unladen clearance falls to 120 mm with a full seating load, requiring slow, angled approaches to severe speed humps or steep driveways. Quiet movement demands awareness around pedestrians. Dynamic's telescopic steering adjustment and electric seat can improve driving position, while its side airbags are a significant specification difference. Owners should set phone and climate controls while stationary.
Highway	Regional highway travel is possible with planning, especially in Dynamic, but the 55 kW motor and compact battery require realistic expectations. Overtaking needs a larger gap than in the more powerful DOLPHIN, and sustained speed reduces range quickly. Comfort's 232 km and Dynamic's 295 km WLTP claims should be discounted for wind, hills, heat, rain and passenger load. A 30 or 40 kW DC peak can extend the journey, but charger availability and the full charging curve determine stop duration. Keep a reserve and identify backup sites. Seat comfort, crosswind stability and road noise should be checked on a representative high-speed drive before using the SURF as a regular intercity car.

Off-Road	With 155 mm unladen ground clearance that falls to 120 mm at full seating load, front-wheel drive and urban tyres, the SURF should remain on tar and well-maintained gravel. It is not intended for ruts, sharp rocks, deep sand or water crossings. A small body can fit narrow tracks, but that does not protect the battery enclosure or bumpers from impacts. Slow down on broken surfaces, avoid tall grass that conceals obstacles and inspect tyres after gravel travel. Neither the larger Dynamic battery nor extra equipment adds off-road ability. Buyers who must reach remote properties over poor roads should prioritise clearance and rugged tyres rather than the lowest electric purchase price.
Best For	The DOLPHIN SURF suits an urban commuter, student, retiree, small household or business user with predictable daily distances and reliable charging. Comfort is ideal when purchase cost matters most and the daily route sits well inside a conservative version of 232 km. Dynamic suits someone who occasionally leaves the city, cannot charge every night or values its extra seat, steering and safety equipment. It is a poor fit for repeated long motorway journeys, rough rural roads or a family that regularly carries five adults and holiday luggage. Buyers should log their longest normal day, include unexpected detours, test every seating position and obtain a wall-unit quotation. Compact affordability should never be confused with universal capability.

04 Variant Comparison Matrix

All 2 variants of the BYD DOLPHIN SURF side-by-side. Use this to spot the smallest differences quickly — fuel, power, gearbox and price all in one view.

SPEC	Comfort EV	Dynamic EV
Price (ex-showroom)	ZAR 341,900	ZAR 395,900
Fuel Type	Electric	Electric
Transmission	Single-Speed Reduction Gear	Single-Speed Reduction Gear
Trim Level	Base	Top
Engine	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Max Power	55 kW (74 bhp)	55 kW (74 bhp)
Max Torque	135 Nm (100 lb-ft)	135 Nm (100 lb-ft)
Drivetrain	FWD	FWD
Fuel Economy	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Seating	5	5
Boot Space	230 L	230 L
Ground Clearance	155 mm	155 mm
Kerb Weight	1225 kg	1280 kg

→ [Compare these variants on hagalu.com](#) (published prices, on-road estimates, source-backed specifications and buyer guidance)

05 BYD DOLPHIN SURF — Comfort EV

ZAR 341,900

POWER 55 kW · 74 bhp	TORQUE 135 Nm · 100 lb-ft	ECONOMY Not Applicable km/l	FUEL Electric Single-Speed Reduction Gear
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Base Trim · Electric · Single-Speed Reduction Gear

View live price & EMI →

ENGINE & PERFORMANCE

Engine	Single-motor battery-electric powertrain	Engine Code	Not Applicable
Fuel Type	Electric	Hybrid System	Not Applicable
Engine Displacement	Not Applicable cc	Cylinders	Not Applicable
Cylinder Layout	Not Applicable	Valves	Not Applicable
Valves per Cylinder	Not Applicable	Aspiration	Not Applicable
Fuel System	Not Applicable	Compression Ratio	Not Applicable

TRANSMISSION & DRIVETRAIN

LSD Available	Not Available	Gearbox	Single-Speed Reduction Gear
Drivetrain Layout	Front motor, front-wheel drive	Transfer Case	Not Applicable
Differential Lock	Not Available	Paddle Shifters	Not Applicable
Transmission Speeds	1	Rear Differential Lock	Not Applicable
Drivetrain	FWD	Axle Layout	4x2
Low Range	Not Applicable	Low Range Ratio	Not Applicable

DIMENSIONS

Length	3925 mm	Width	1720 mm
Height	1590 mm	Wheelbase	2500 mm
Ground Clearance (Default)	155 mm	Ground Clearance (With Full Seating Load)	120 mm
Fuel Tank Capacity	0 l	Boot/Cargo Space	230 l
Kerb Weight	1225 kg	Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)	1635 kg
Payload Capacity	410 kg	Towing Capacity	0 kg

MILEAGE & EFFICIENCY

Range Real World Mixed	208 km	Electric Consumption	≤15.6 kWh/100 km (WLTC)
Charging Type	AC and DC	Charging Port Type	Type 2 AC; CCS2 DC
Combined Driving Range	232 km (WLTP)	Range Real World Highway	162 km
Real-world Mileage	Not Applicable km/l	Fuel Tank Litres	Not Applicable
Auto Start Stop	Not Applicable	AdBlue Tank Capacity	Not Applicable l
Emission Standard	Not Applicable	Fuel Tank Capacity	Not Applicable l

SAFETY

Brake Assist	Standard	ISOFIX Mounts	Standard
Child Safety Lock	Standard	Hill Start Assist	Standard
Hill Descent Control	Not Applicable	Traction Control	Standard
Electronic Stability Control	Standard	ABS	Standard
Airbags	4	Engine Immobiliser	Not Applicable
ABS EBD	Standard	BA	Standard

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Keyless Entry	Standard	Climate Control	Electric air conditioner
Power Windows	Standard	Push Button Start	Standard
Wireless Charging	Not Available	Sunroof	Not Available
Electric Tailgate	Not Available	Rain Sensing Wipers	Standard
AC Type	Electric air conditioner		—

+ 12 more spec categories (Infotainment & Connectivity, Interior, Exterior, Driver Assistance, ...) available on the live model page.

→ [See Comfort EV full specs and lifecycle details in South Africa](#)

[Compare with rivals →](#)

06 BYD DOLPHIN SURF — Dynamic EV

ZAR 395,900

POWER 55 kW · 74 bhp	TORQUE 135 Nm · 100 lb-ft	ECONOMY Not Applicable km/l	FUEL Electric Single-Speed Reduction Gear
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Top Trim · Electric · Single-Speed Reduction Gear

[View live price & EMI →](#)

ENGINE & PERFORMANCE

Engine	Single-motor battery-electric powertrain	Engine Code	Not Applicable
Fuel Type	Electric	Hybrid System	Not Applicable
Engine Displacement	Not Applicable cc	Cylinders	Not Applicable
Cylinder Layout	Not Applicable	Valves	Not Applicable
Valves per Cylinder	Not Applicable	Aspiration	Not Applicable
Fuel System	Not Applicable	Compression Ratio	Not Applicable

TRANSMISSION & DRIVETRAIN

LSD Available	Not Available	Gearbox	Single-Speed Reduction Gear
Drivetrain Layout	Front motor, front-wheel drive	Transfer Case	Not Applicable
Differential Lock	Not Available	Paddle Shifters	Not Applicable
Transmission Speeds	1	Rear Differential Lock	Not Applicable
Drivetrain	FWD	Axle Layout	4x2
Low Range	Not Applicable	Low Range Ratio	Not Applicable

DIMENSIONS

Length	3925 mm	Width	1720 mm
Height	1590 mm	Wheelbase	2500 mm
Ground Clearance (Default)	155 mm	Ground Clearance (With Full Seating Load)	120 mm
Fuel Tank Capacity	0 l	Boot/Cargo Space	230 l
Kerb Weight	1280 kg	Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)	1690 kg
Payload Capacity	410 kg	Towing Capacity	0 kg

MILEAGE & EFFICIENCY

Range Real World Mixed	288 km	Electric Consumption	13.4 kWh/100 km (measured)
Charging Type	AC and DC	Charging Port Type	Type 2 AC; CCS2 DC
Combined Driving Range	295 km (WLTP)	Range Real World Highway	245 km
Real-world Mileage	Not Applicable km/l	Fuel Tank Litres	Not Applicable
Auto Start Stop	Not Applicable	AdBlue Tank Capacity	Not Applicable l
Emission Standard	Not Applicable	Fuel Tank Capacity	Not Applicable l

SAFETY

Brake Assist	Standard	ISOFIX Mounts	Standard
Child Safety Lock	Standard	Hill Start Assist	Standard
Hill Descent Control	Not Applicable	Traction Control	Standard
Electronic Stability Control	Standard	ABS	Standard
Airbags	6	Engine Immobiliser	Not Applicable
ABS EBD	Standard	BA	Standard

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Keyless Entry	Standard	Climate Control	Electric air conditioner
Power Windows	Standard	Push Button Start	Standard
Wireless Charging	Standard	Sunroof	Not Available
Electric Tailgate	Not Available	Rain Sensing Wipers	Standard
AC Type	Electric air conditioner		—

+ 12 more spec categories (Infotainment & Connectivity, Interior, Exterior, Driver Assistance, ...) available on the live model page.

→ [See Dynamic EV full specs and lifecycle details in South Africa](#)

[Compare with rivals →](#)

07 Explore More on Hagalu

Jump to each variant's price and specification record

→ [Comfort EV](#) — ZAR 341,900

→ [Dynamic EV](#) — ZAR 395,900

→ [Live Prices & On-Road Costs — BYD DOLPHIN SURF](#)

Latest ex-showroom and city-wise on-road prices in South Africa.

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Compare BYD DOLPHIN SURF vs any rival model.

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