



BYD

DOLPHIN

South Africa • 2026 Hagalu Buyer's Guide

150 kW

POWER

155 mm

CLEARANCE

Not Applicable
km/l

FUEL ECON

5 seats

SEATING

ZAR 539,900 – 602,900

Ex-Showroom Starting Price

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

Independent Automotive Research for Africa

Contents

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

4.1 / 5

Hagalu editorial score

2 Variants

2 Priced

01 Overview & Quick Facts

The BYD DOLPHIN is a compact five-door electric hatchback that arrived in South Africa in 2024. Dynamic Standard Range EV costs R539,900 and uses a 44.9 kWh Blade Battery with a 70 kW front motor and 180 Nm. Premium Extended Range EV costs R602,900 and moves to a 60.48 kWh battery, 150 kW motor and 310 Nm. The official driving-range references are approximately 340 km for Dynamic and 427 km for Premium under their stated test basis. Unlike some ranges where the upper derivative adds only equipment, the DOLPHIN Premium changes battery capacity and performance materially. Its R63,000 premium buys about 15.58 kWh more battery, more than twice the motor power and a wider touring buffer. Dynamic remains the more economical urban choice for drivers whose normal routes fit comfortably inside its real-world range. The hatchback format is important. It provides five doors, a relatively compact footprint and a rear opening that is easier for tall objects than a sedan boot. The electric platform can devote more wheelbase to passengers, although adults should still test rear knee room, headroom and...



Body Style	Five-door compact hatchback
Launched	2024
Generation	First South African DOLPHIN generation, a dedicated battery-electric five-door hatchback using BYD's current electric platform.
Fuel Types	Electric
Colours	Dynamic: Urban Grey or Sand White. Premium: Atlantis Grey with Black roof, Blue with Grey roof, or Ski White with Grey roof.
OEM Website	https://www.byd.com/za/electric-cars/dolphin

02 Variant Pricing & On-Road Costs

Ex-Showroom Starting Price	ZAR 539,900 – 602,900	2 Listed Variants
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Variant	Fuel	Transmission	Trim	Ex-Showroom
Dynamic Standard Range EV	Electric	Single-Speed Reduction Gear	Base	ZAR 539,900
Premium Extended Range EV	Electric	Single-Speed Reduction Gear	Top	ZAR 602,900

Estimated On-Road Price — Dynamic Standard Range EV (Base Variant)

Johannesburg	ZAR 557,378
Cape Town	ZAR 560,298
Durban	ZAR 555,199
Pretoria	ZAR 556,288

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

03 Pros, Cons & Buyer Summary

● STRENGTHS ✓ Practical five-door hatchback body ✓ Two clearly different battery choices ✓ Premium offers 150 kW and 310 Nm ✓ Premium adds significant range for R63,000 ✓ Dynamic suits calm urban use ✓ Long eight-year battery warranty	● CONSIDERATIONS ✗ Three-year general vehicle warranty is shorter ✗ Dependable charging remains important ✗ Dynamic has modest 70 kW output ✗ Real range varies with speed and climate ✗ Front-wheel drive only ✗ Five seats and finite cargo space
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Hagalu Editorial Verdict

"A practical electric hatchback whose Premium derivative offers a rare combined upgrade in battery, range and performance."

The DOLPHIN range is easy to understand and harder to choose than the prices suggest. Dynamic at R539,900 is a calm, efficient urban EV with a useful 44.9 kWh battery. Premium at R602,900 adds a 60.48 kWh battery, around 87 km more official range, 150 kW and 310 Nm. That is a large technical step for R63,000, making Premium our all-round recommendation for buyers who can afford it. Dynamic remains sensible when daily mileage is modest. Both benefit from practical hatchback packaging and long battery cover, while the three-year general vehicle warranty deserves notice.

City Driving	Dynamic's 70 kW output is entirely adequate for traffic, and the instant electric response makes low-speed movement easy. Premium feels much stronger but cannot use most of its 150 kW in congestion. Both benefit from a compact hatchback body, regenerative braking and the ability to charge while parked. The rotating display and assistance alerts need configuration to avoid distraction. Dynamic's smaller battery can comfortably serve many commuters if overnight charging is routine. Premium provides a larger buffer for unexpected errands or missed charging. Parking sensors and cameras are aids rather than permission to ignore kerbs and cyclists, while quiet movement calls for extra awareness around pedestrians.
Highway	Premium is the better highway DOLPHIN. Its 150 kW and 310 Nm improve merging, and the approximate 427 km official range reduces charging frequency. Dynamic's 70 kW and around 340 km claim can still support touring with more patience and planning. Sustained speed cuts range more than urban driving, while headwinds, hills and cabin cooling further reduce the buffer. Drivers should identify two chargers at important stops, not one, and arrive with reserve. Seat support, tyre noise and straight-line stability should be assessed on a proper motorway test. The hatchback load area makes luggage easy to access, though a full rear compartment adds weight and can obscure visibility if loaded above the parcel shelf.
Off-Road	The DOLPHIN is a road hatchback, not an off-road vehicle. It can handle normal gravel access at reduced speed, but low body components, road tyres and front-wheel drive set clear limits. Premium's extra motor power does not increase clearance or traction at the rear wheels. Avoid deep ruts, sharp rocks, sand and water without specific official guidance. On a maintained dirt road, smooth steering and throttle protect passengers, tyres and the battery enclosure. Buyers who routinely travel on rough farm tracks should prioritise clearance and tyre sidewall height rather than trying to solve the problem with the larger battery.

Best For

The DOLPHIN suits a commuter, couple or small family that wants an electric car larger and more capable than a city runabout but easier to park than a full SUV. Dynamic fits predictable urban routines and a buyer who values lower cost over rapid acceleration. Premium is appropriate when regular regional travel, fewer charging stops and stronger overtaking are important. Reliable charging remains the defining requirement. The car is less suitable for large families, high-clearance rural work or owners who transport very bulky loads. Buyers should measure their longest weekly route, test the rear seats with real passengers and obtain written quotes for insurance and a wall unit. The R63,000 derivative gap should be weighed against years of actual use rather than only the first monthly payment.

04 Variant Comparison Matrix

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

SPEC	Dynamic Standard Range EV	Premium Extended Range EV
Price (ex-showroom)	ZAR 539,900	ZAR 602,900
Fuel Type	Electric	Electric
Transmission	Single-Speed Reduction Gear	Single-Speed Reduction Gear
Trim Level	Base	Top
Engine	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Max Power	70 kW (94 bhp)	150 kW (201 bhp)
Max Torque	180 Nm (133 lb-ft)	310 Nm (229 lb-ft)
Drivetrain	FWD	FWD
Fuel Economy	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Seating	5	5
Boot Space	345 L	345 L
Ground Clearance	155 mm	155 mm
Kerb Weight	1506 kg	1658 kg

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

05 BYD DOLPHIN — Dynamic Standard Range EV

ZAR 539,900

POWER 70 kW · 94 bhp	TORQUE 180 Nm · 133 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	4290 mm	Width	1770 mm
Height	1570 mm	Wheelbase	2700 mm
Ground Clearance (Default)	155 mm	Ground Clearance (With Full Seating Load)	130 mm
Fuel Tank Capacity	0 l	Boot/Cargo Space	345 l
Kerb Weight	1506 kg	Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)	1916 kg
Payload Capacity	410 kg	Towing Capacity	0 kg

MILEAGE & EFFICIENCY

Range Real World Mixed	265 km	Electric Consumption	15.2 kWh/100 km (WLTP)
Charging Type	AC and DC	Charging Port Type	Type 2 AC; CCS2 DC
Combined Driving Range	340 km	Range Real World Highway	240 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	7	Engine Immobiliser	Not Applicable
ABS EBD	Standard	BA	Standard

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

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

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

→ See Dynamic Standard Range EV full specs and lifecycle details in South Africa

Compare with rivals →

06 BYD DOLPHIN — Premium Extended Range EV

ZAR 602,900

POWER 150 kW · 201 bhp	TORQUE 310 Nm · 229 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	4290 mm	Width	1770 mm
Height	1570 mm	Wheelbase	2700 mm
Ground Clearance (Default)	155 mm	Ground Clearance (With Full Seating Load)	130 mm
Fuel Tank Capacity	0 l	Boot/Cargo Space	345 l
Kerb Weight	1658 kg	Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)	2068 kg
Payload Capacity	410 kg	Towing Capacity	0 kg

MILEAGE & EFFICIENCY

Range Real World Mixed	398 km	Electric Consumption	15.9 kWh/100 km (WLTP)
Charging Type	AC and DC	Charging Port Type	Type 2 AC; CCS2 DC
Combined Driving Range	427 km	Range Real World Highway	315 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	7	Engine Immobiliser	Not Applicable
ABS EBD	Standard	BA	Standard

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Keyless Entry	Standard	Climate Control	Automatic
Power Windows	Standard	Push Button Start	Standard
Wireless Charging	Standard	Sunroof	Panoramic
Electric Tailgate	Not Available	Rain Sensing Wipers	Standard
AC Type	Automatic climate control		—

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

→ See Premium Extended Range 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

→ [Dynamic Standard Range EV](#) — ZAR 539,900

→ [Premium Extended Range EV](#) — ZAR 602,900

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

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

→ Open

→ [Side-by-Side Comparison](#)

Compare BYD DOLPHIN vs any rival model.

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