

FOTON

Asambe Taxi

South Africa • 2026 Hagalu Buyer's Guide

Not

Not

2400 cc

ENGINE

100 kW

POWER

**Officially
Disclosed**
CLEARANCE
mm

**Officially
Disclosed**
FUEL ECON
km/l

16 seats

SEATING

ZAR 439,900 – 499,900

Ex-Showroom Starting Price

<https://www.hagalu.com/south-africa/foton/asambe-taxi/>

Independent Automotive Research for Africa

FOTON

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Hagalu editorial score

2 Variants

2 Priced

01 Overview & Quick Facts

Foton South Africa lists the 2.4i Petrol (16 Seater) at R439,900 and the 2.8 Diesel (16 Seater) at R499,900. The petrol engine produces 100 kW and 200 Nm; the diesel produces 96 kW and 280 Nm. Both have five-speed manual gearboxes. A 3,110 mm wheelbase supports the long high-roof body, whose length is 5,390 mm, width 1,920 mm and height 2,285 mm. The page lists 16 passenger seats, a single sliding door, tilt-up rear door, driver airbag, ABS with EBD and belts for all passenger positions. Warranty is two years/200,000 km and service plans are available. Foton does not state a combined fuel-consumption figure. The R60,000 powertrain gap needs a route calculation. Petrol has slightly higher listed power and lower purchase price; diesel has 80 Nm more torque and may suit repeated laden gradients or high annual distance, but its fuel and maintenance case must be measured rather than assumed. Both remain manual. An operator must confirm registration category, driver licence, operating permit, insurance, roadworthy obligations and seating definition independently. Sixteen advertised seats do not by themselves prove legal authority...

Body Style	16-seat high-roof minibus taxi
Launched	2024
Generation	High-roof, long-wheelbase 16-seat View-based minibus measuring 5,390 mm long.
Fuel Types	Petrol or diesel
Colours	Exterior colour availability is not specified.
OEM Website	https://fotonsa.co.za/new-models/asambe-taxi-16-seater/

02 Variant Pricing & On-Road Costs

Ex-Showroom Starting Price	ZAR 439,900 – 499,900			2 Listed Variants
Variant	Fuel	Transmission	Trim	Ex-Showroom
2.4i Petrol (16 Seater)	Petrol	5-Speed Manual	2.4i Petrol 16 Seater	ZAR 439,900
2.8 Diesel (16 Seater)	Diesel	5-Speed Manual	2.8 Diesel 16 Seater	ZAR 499,900

Estimated On-Road Price — 2.4i Petrol (16 Seater) (Base Variant)

Johannesburg	ZAR 456,178
Cape Town	ZAR 458,798
Durban	ZAR 454,199
Pretoria	ZAR 455,188

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

03 Pros, Cons & Buyer Summary

● STRENGTHS ✓ Two officially priced engine choices ✓ Sixteen-seat current local listing ✓ Petrol offers lower acquisition cost ✓ Diesel provides 280 Nm ✓ Five-speed manual common to both ✓ All-passenger belts are listed	● CONSIDERATIONS ✗ Only a driver airbag is explicitly listed ✗ Foton publishes no official consumption figures ✗ Two-year warranty duration is short ✗ Service plan is optional ✗ Permit and licence suitability needs confirmation ✗ Loaded clearance and payload need exact confirmation
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Hagalu Editorial Verdict

"Asambe's petrol-versus-diesel decision is commercial arithmetic around route length, load, torque and a R60,000 price gap."

The Asambe provides a transparent two-engine, 16-seat choice at accessible published prices. Petrol minimises acquisition cost; diesel supplies substantially more torque. The correct derivative depends on measured fuel, gradient, mileage and maintenance rather than habit. Safety hardware, legal permissions and passenger-mass calculations must be verified on the exact vehicle. Its short two-year cover also makes dealer support and downtime planning as important as the kilometre allowance. The final engine choice should come from a loaded route trial and a fare model that includes quiet days, maintenance stoppages, permits and passenger cover.

City Driving	Urban taxi work puts the manual clutch, sliding door, cooling system, brakes and driver ergonomics under repeated stress. Petrol's lower entry cost may suit shorter routes with lower annual distance; diesel's torque may matter more on gradients and consistently full loads. Neither conclusion is universal. Test boarding at actual kerbs, rear visibility, turning space and cabin ventilation when occupied. The 2.285-metre height also requires depot and wash-bay clearance.
Highway	For longer commuter or group routes, compare engine response with sixteen occupied positions and realistic luggage. Diesel's 280 Nm is the stronger official torque number, while petrol's 100 kW is the higher power figure. Monitor consumption, noise, crosswind behaviour, braking and driver fatigue on the real corridor. Passenger restraint and luggage control remain essential at speed, and scheduled rest cannot be replaced by a vehicle feature.
Off-Road	Asambe is a rear-driven high-roof minibus, not a validated off-road vehicle. Rural routes should be assessed for potholes, shoulders, bridge approaches and low-traction sections while loaded. No official loaded clearance or full obstacle geometry is used here. If an unsealed route is unavoidable, tyres, spare support and recovery planning matter, but a serious off-road requirement points elsewhere.
Best For	Asambe is intended for licensed 16-seat route, staff or community transport where purchase price, torque and utilisation can be calculated per trip. The petrol model lowers capital cost by R60,000 and may suit shorter schedules. Diesel provides 280 Nm and deserves attention on loaded gradients or higher annual distance, subject to a real fuel and maintenance comparison. Both are five-speed manuals, so driver suitability is part of the decision. Operators must check luggage room with all seats occupied, passenger insurance, permits, daily belt inspection and workshop cover. A private buyer who rarely fills the cabin would carry the cost and size without exploiting the vehicle's commercial purpose.

04 Variant Comparison Matrix

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

SPEC	2.4i Petrol (16 Seater)	2.8 Diesel (16 Seater)
Price (ex-showroom)	ZAR 439,900	ZAR 499,900
Fuel Type	Petrol	Diesel
Transmission	5-Speed Manual	5-Speed Manual
Trim Level	2.4i Petrol 16 Seater	2.8 Diesel 16 Seater
Engine	2400 cc (2.4L)	2800 cc (2.8L)
Max Power	100 kW (134 bhp)	96 kW (129 bhp)
Max Torque	200 Nm (148 lb-ft)	280 Nm (207 lb-ft)
Drivetrain	Not Officially Disclosed	Not Officially Disclosed
Fuel Economy	Not Officially Disclosed	Not Officially Disclosed
Seating	16	16
Boot Space	Not Officially Disclosed	Not Officially Disclosed
Ground Clearance	Not Officially Disclosed	Not Officially Disclosed
Kerb Weight	Not Officially Disclosed	Not Officially Disclosed

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

05 Foton Asambe Taxi — 2.4i Petrol (16 Seater)

ZAR 439,900

ENGINE 2400 cc	POWER 100 kW · 134 bhp	TORQUE 200 Nm · 148 lb-ft	ECONOMY Not Officially Disclosed km/l	FUEL Petrol 5-Speed Manual
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2.4i Petrol 16 Seater Trim · Petrol · 5-Speed Manual

View live price & EMI →

ENGINE & PERFORMANCE

Engine	2.4-litre Naturally Aspirated Petrol	Engine Code	Not Officially Disclosed
Fuel Type	Petrol	Hybrid System	Not Applicable
Engine Displacement	2400 cc	Cylinders	Not Officially Disclosed
Cylinder Layout	Not Officially Disclosed	Valves	Not Officially Disclosed
Valves per Cylinder	Not Officially Disclosed	Aspiration	Naturally Aspirated
Fuel System	Not Officially Disclosed	Compression Ratio	Not Officially Disclosed

TRANSMISSION & DRIVETRAIN

LSD Available	Not Officially Disclosed	Gearbox	5-Speed Manual
Drivetrain Layout	Not Officially Disclosed	Transfer Case	Not Officially Disclosed
Differential Lock	Not Officially Disclosed	Paddle Shifters	Not Officially Disclosed
Transmission Speeds	5	Rear Differential Lock	Not Officially Disclosed
Drivetrain	Not Officially Disclosed	Axle Layout	Not Officially Disclosed
Low Range	Not Officially Disclosed	Low Range Ratio	Not Officially Disclosed

DIMENSIONS

Length	5390 mm	Width	1920 mm
Height	2285 mm	Wheelbase	3110 mm
Ground Clearance (Default)	Not Officially Disclosed mm	Ground Clearance (With Full Seating Load)	Not Officially Disclosed mm
Fuel Tank Capacity	Not Officially Disclosed l	Boot/Cargo Space	Not Officially Disclosed l
Kerb Weight	Not Officially Disclosed kg	Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)	Not Officially Disclosed kg
Payload Capacity	Not Officially Disclosed kg	Towing Capacity	Not Officially Disclosed kg

MILEAGE & EFFICIENCY

Range Real World Mixed	Not Officially Disclosed km	Electric Consumption	Not Officially Disclosed
Charging Type	Not Officially Disclosed	Charging Port Type	Not Officially Disclosed
Combined Driving Range	Not Officially Disclosed	Range Real World Highway	Not Officially Disclosed km
Real-world Mileage	Not Officially Disclosed km/l	Fuel Tank Litres	Not Officially Disclosed
Auto Start Stop	Not Officially Disclosed	AdBlue Tank Capacity	Not Applicable l
Emission Standard	Euro 4	Fuel Tank Capacity	Not Officially Disclosed l

SAFETY

Brake Assist	Not Officially Disclosed	ISOFIX Mounts	Not Officially Disclosed
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Child Safety Lock	Not Officially Disclosed	Hill Start Assist	Not Officially Disclosed
Hill Descent Control	Not Officially Disclosed	Traction Control	Not Officially Disclosed
Electronic Stability Control	Not Officially Disclosed	ABS	Yes
Airbags	Not Officially Disclosed	Engine Immobiliser	Yes
ABS EBD	Yes	BA	Not Officially Disclosed

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Keyless Entry	Not Officially Disclosed	Climate Control	Not Officially Disclosed
Power Windows	Not Officially Disclosed	Push Button Start	Not Officially Disclosed
Wireless Charging	Not Officially Disclosed	Sunroof	Not Officially Disclosed
Electric Tailgate	Not Officially Disclosed	Rain Sensing Wipers	Not Officially Disclosed
AC Type	Not Officially Disclosed		—

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

→ [See 2.4i Petrol \(16 Seater\) full specs and lifecycle details in South Africa](#)

[Compare with rivals →](#)

06 Foton Asambe Taxi — 2.8 Diesel (16 Seater)

ZAR 499,900

ENGINE 2800 cc	POWER 96 kW · 129 bhp	TORQUE 280 Nm · 207 lb-ft	ECONOMY Not Officially Disclosed km/l	FUEL Diesel 5-Speed Manual
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2.8 Diesel 16 Seater Trim · Diesel · 5-Speed Manual

View live price & EMI →

ENGINE & PERFORMANCE

Engine	2.8-litre Diesel	Engine Code	Not Officially Disclosed
Fuel Type	Diesel	Hybrid System	Not Applicable
Engine Displacement	2800 cc	Cylinders	Not Officially Disclosed
Cylinder Layout	Not Officially Disclosed	Valves	Not Officially Disclosed
Valves per Cylinder	Not Officially Disclosed	Aspiration	Not Officially Disclosed
Fuel System	Not Officially Disclosed	Compression Ratio	Not Officially Disclosed

TRANSMISSION & DRIVETRAIN

LSD Available	Not Officially Disclosed	Gearbox	5-Speed Manual
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Hill Descent Control	Not Officially Disclosed	Traction Control	Not Officially Disclosed
Electronic Stability Control	Not Officially Disclosed	ABS	Yes
Airbags	Not Officially Disclosed	Engine Immobiliser	Yes
ABS EBD	Yes	BA	Not Officially Disclosed

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Wireless Charging	Not Officially Disclosed	Sunroof	Not Officially Disclosed
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AC Type	Not Officially Disclosed		—

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

→ See 2.8 Diesel (16 Seater) 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

→ 2.4i Petrol (16 Seater) — ZAR 439,900

→ 2.8 Diesel (16 Seater) — ZAR 499,900

Live Prices & On-Road Costs — Foton Asambe Taxi

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

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→ Compare Foton Asambe Taxi vs any rival model.

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