



KIA

Sonet Panel Van

South Africa • 2026 Official Buyer's Guide

1497 cc

ENGINE

211 mm

CLEARANCE

16.9 L/100

FUEL ECON

2 seats

SEATING

ZAR 284,995 – 309,995

Ex-Showroom Starting Price

<https://www.hagalu.com/south-africa/kia/sonet-panel-van/>

Independent Automotive Research for Africa

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	4.3 / 5.0 124 Reviews	2 Variants	2 Priced
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01 Overview & Quick Facts

South Africa's light commercial vehicle market tends toward bakkies, but the urban delivery sector has always needed something more agile, more fuel-efficient and easier to navigate in Johannesburg's congested inner-city delivery corridors. The Sonet Panel Van bridges the gap between the compact Picanto Panel Van and full-size European panel vans by applying the Sonet's sub-compact SUV credentials to a commercial vehicle application — combining genuine cargo utility with the elevated ground clearance, modern drivetrain and commercial registration advantages that urban delivery operators need. The proposition begins with the platform. The Sonet Panel Van shares its underpinning with the passenger Sonet — the same sub-compact SUV chassis, suspension geometry and 1.5-litre G4LC naturally aspirated engine, with the rear passenger compartment replaced by a sealed cargo bay. The result is a two-seat commercial vehicle with a load area proportionally larger than the Picanto Panel Van's, appropriate for operators whose delivery volumes and load dimensions exceed the Picanto's compact cargo envelope without requiring the size, fuel cost and purchase price of a traditional panel van. The LS Manual at R339,995 pairs the 85kW/143Nm...



Body Style	2-door panel van (SUV-based)
Launched	2022
Generation	Commercial derivative of first-generation Sonet BC3 platform
Fuel Types	Petrol (95 Octane)
Colours	Clear White, Aurora Black Pearl
OEM Website	https://www.kia.com/za/vehicles/sonet/

02 Variant Pricing & On-Road Costs

Starting From	ZAR 284,995 – 309,995			2 Variants Available
Variant	Fuel	Transmission	Trim	Ex-Showroom
1.5 LS Panel Van Manual	Petrol	Manual	Base	ZAR 284,995
1.5 LS Panel Van CVT	Petrol	Automatic	Mid	ZAR 309,995

Estimated On-Road Price — 1.5 LS Panel Van Manual (Base Variant)

Johannesburg	ZAR 299,414
Cape Town	ZAR 301,569
Durban	ZAR 297,744
Pretoria	ZAR 298,579

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

03 Pros, Cons & Expert Verdict

<p>● STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 205mm ground clearance navigates South African industrial areas and unpaved access roads... ✓ CVT variant reduces driver fatigue in high-cycle stop-start urban delivery operations ✓ Larger cargo capacity than Picanto Panel Van serves mid-range urban delivery requirements ✓ VAT-claimable commercial registration provides effective 15% purchase price benefit ✓ 85kW 1.5L engine provides confident performance on suburban and access road routes ✓ Modern SUV aesthetics project professional brand image for operator businesses 	<p>● CONSIDERATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Strictly two seats — cannot carry helper on deliveries ✗ No side cargo door — rear tailgate only access limits kerbside loading flexibility ✗ FWD only — limits traction on loose wet surfaces in some delivery environments ✗ Manual variant's 6-speed adds clutch wear in high-frequency stop-start urban cycles ✗ No turbocharged option — 85kW NA adequate but not effortless on longer loaded runs ✗ Limited colour options restrict fleet branding opportunities
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Expert Verdict

"The most modern and practically capable compact panel van in South Africa, combining SUV ground clearance, commercial tax advantages and KIA's warranty reliability in a sub-R360k package."

The Sonet Panel Van makes its strongest case for urban fleet operators who need more load space than the Picanto van, better ground clearance than a car-derived van, and the financial benefits of commercial vehicle registration. CVT variant is the pick for high-cycle stop-start delivery routes. The total ownership economics — VAT recovery, lower insurance, fuel efficiency — make the purchase price premium over the Picanto van thoroughly defensible.

City Driving	Excellent — SUV ground clearance, compact footprint and smooth CVT option ideal for urban delivery cycles
Highway	Good — 85kW 1.5 NA comfortable on suburban and secondary roads; suited to 100km urban radius
Off-Road	Light unpaved access roads — 205mm clearance handles industrial yard and informal commercial area surfaces
Best For	VAT-registered small business; urban delivery operator needing more cargo capacity than Picanto van; fleet operator prioritising fuel economy and commercial tax advantages

04 Variant Comparison Matrix

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

SPEC	1.5 LS Panel Van Manual	1.5 LS Panel Van CVT
Price (ex-showroom)	ZAR 284,995	ZAR 309,995
Fuel Type	Petrol	Petrol
Transmission	Manual	Automatic
Trim Level	Base	Mid
Engine	1497 cc (1.5L)	1497 cc (1.5L)
Max Power	85 kW	85 kW
Max Torque	143 Nm	143 Nm
Drivetrain	FWD	FWD
Fuel Economy	16.9 km/l	16.9 km/l
Seating	2	2
Boot Space	392 L	392 L
Ground Clearance	211 mm	211 mm
Kerb Weight	1210 kg	1230 kg

→ [Compare these variants on hagalu.com](#) (live prices, on-road costs, real owner reviews and EMI calculator)

05 KIA Sonet Panel Van — 1.5 LS Panel Van Manual

ZAR 284,995

ENGINE 1497 cc	POWER 85 kW kW	TORQUE 143 Nm Nm	ECONOMY 16.9 km/l	FUEL Petrol Manual
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Base Trim · Petrol · Manual

[View live price & EMI →](#)

ENGINE & PERFORMANCE

Engine	1.5 G4LC Inline-4 DOHC Petrol NA	Engine Type	Inline 4 Cylinder Naturally Aspirated
Engine Type Config	Inline 4 Cylinder (I4) DOHC 16-Valve	Engine Code	G4LC
Cylinder Layout	Inline 4 (I4)	Cylinders	4
Valves per Cylinder	16	Displacement	1497 cc
Engine Displacement	1497 cc	Engine Aspiration	Naturally Aspirated
Turbocharger	No	Cylinder Bore	75.0 mm

TRANSMISSION & DRIVETRAIN

Transmission	6-Speed Manual	Transmission	6-Speed Manual
Transmission Type	Manual Transmission	Number of Gears	6
Clutch Type	Single Dry Disc	Paddle Shifters	No
Final Drive Ratio	3.73	Drivetrain	FWD
Drive Type	FWD	Drivetrain Layout	FWD
Transfer Case	N/A	Differential Lock	No

DIMENSIONS

Length	3995 mm	Width	1790 mm
Height	1635 mm	Wheelbase	2500 mm
Front Track Width	1544 mm	Rear Track Width	1536 mm
Ground Clearance	211 mm	Turning Radius	10.4 m
Front Overhang	800 mm	Rear Overhang	695 mm
Kerb Weight	1210 kg	Gross Vehicle Weight	1650 kg

MILEAGE & EFFICIENCY

AdBlue Tank Capacity	No I	Claimed Fuel Consumption	5.9 l/100km
Claimed Mileage	16.9 km/l	City Mileage	13.7 km/l
Highway Mileage	20.0 km/l	Average Fuel Consumption	5.9
Real-world Mileage	7.1 km/l	Fuel Efficiency	5.9 L/100km l/100km
Auto Start Stop	Yes	Emission Standard	Euro 6
Distance To Empty	N/A	Low Fuel Warning	Yes

SAFETY

Engine Immobiliser	Yes	Engine Immobiliser	Yes
Brake Override System	Yes	Tyre Pressure Monitor	Yes

Airbags	6	Driver Airbag	Yes
Passenger Airbag	Yes	Side Airbags	Yes
Curtain Airbags	Yes	Knee Airbag	No
Side Impact Beams	Yes	Seatbelt Pretensioners	Yes

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Valves Per Cylinder	4	Intercooler	No
Launch Control	No	Rev Matching	No
Performance Data Logger	No	Fuel Consumption Combined	5.9
Engine Start Stop	Yes	Engine Start Stop Button	No
Engine Start Button Illumination	No	Engine Check Warning	Yes
Gear Shift Type	Manual	Ground Clearance Unladen	211

+ 11 more spec categories (Infotainment & Connectivity, Interior, Exterior, Driver Assistance, ...) available on the live model page.

→ [See 1.5 LS Panel Van Manual full specs, live price & on-road costs in South Africa](#)

[Compare with rivals →](#)

06 KIA Sonet Panel Van — 1.5 LS Panel Van CVT

ZAR 309,995

ENGINE 1497 cc	POWER 85 kW kW	TORQUE 143 Nm Nm	ECONOMY 16.9 km/l	FUEL Petrol Automatic
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Mid Trim · Petrol · Automatic

[View live price & EMI →](#)

ENGINE & PERFORMANCE

Engine	1.5 G4LC Inline-4 DOHC Petrol NA	Engine Type	Inline 4 Cylinder Naturally Aspirated
Engine Type Config	Inline 4 Cylinder (I4) DOHC 16-Valve	Engine Code	G4LC
Cylinder Layout	Inline 4 (I4)	Cylinders	4
Valves per Cylinder	16	Displacement	1497 cc
Engine Displacement	1497 cc	Engine Aspiration	Naturally Aspirated
Turbocharger	No	Cylinder Bore	75.0 mm

TRANSMISSION & DRIVETRAIN

Transmission	Intelligent Variable Transmission (IVT)	Transmission	Intelligent Variable Transmission (IVT)
Transmission Type	Continuously Variable Transmission	Number of Gears	CVT
Clutch Type	Torque Converter	Paddle Shifters	No
Final Drive Ratio	3.56	Drivetrain	FWD
Drive Type	FWD	Drivetrain Layout	FWD
Transfer Case	N/A	Differential Lock	No

DIMENSIONS

Length	3995 mm	Width	1790 mm
Height	1635 mm	Wheelbase	2500 mm
Front Track Width	1544 mm	Rear Track Width	1536 mm
Ground Clearance	211 mm	Turning Radius	10.4 m
Front Overhang	800 mm	Rear Overhang	695 mm
Kerb Weight	1230 kg	Gross Vehicle Weight	1670 kg

MILEAGE & EFFICIENCY

AdBlue Tank Capacity	No I	Claimed Fuel Consumption	5.9 l/100km
Claimed Mileage	16.9 km/l	City Mileage	13.7 km/l
Highway Mileage	20.0 km/l	Average Fuel Consumption	5.9
Real-world Mileage	7.1 km/l	Fuel Efficiency	5.9 L/100km l/100km
Auto Start Stop	Yes	Emission Standard	Euro 6
Distance To Empty	N/A	Low Fuel Warning	Yes

SAFETY

Engine Immobiliser	Yes	Engine Immobiliser	Yes
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Brake Override System	Yes	Tyre Pressure Monitor	Yes
Airbags	6	Driver Airbag	Yes
Passenger Airbag	Yes	Side Airbags	Yes
Curtain Airbags	Yes	Knee Airbag	No
Side Impact Beams	Yes	Seatbelt Pretensioners	Yes

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Valves Per Cylinder	4	Intercooler	No
Launch Control	No	Rev Matching	No
Performance Data Logger	No	Fuel Consumption Combined	5.9
Engine Start Stop	Yes	Engine Start Stop Button	No
Engine Start Button Illumination	No	Engine Check Warning	Yes
Gear Shift Type	Automatic	Ground Clearance Unladen	211

+ 11 more spec categories (Infotainment & Connectivity, Interior, Exterior, Driver Assistance, ...) available on the live model page.

→ [See 1.5 LS Panel Van CVT full specs, live price & on-road costs in South Africa](#)

[Compare with rivals →](#)

07 Explore More on Hagalu

Jump to live prices for each variant

→ 1.5 LS Panel Van Manual — ZAR 284,995

→ 1.5 LS Panel Van CVT — ZAR 309,995

Live Prices & On-Road Costs — KIA Sonet Panel Van

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

→ Open

Side-by-Side Comparison

→ Compare KIA Sonet Panel Van vs any rival model.

→ Open

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