

KIA

Sonet Panel Van

South Africa • 2026 Hagalu Buyer's Guide

1497 cc	85 kW	211 mm	16.9 km/l	2 seats
ENGINE	POWER	CLEARANCE	FUEL ECON	SEATING

ZAR 339,995 – 359,995

Ex-Showroom Starting Price

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

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 — 1.5 LS Panel Van Manual

06 Full Specs — 1.5 LS Panel Van CVT

07 Links & Legal

Source-backed	No rating inferred	2 Variants	2 Priced

01 Overview & Quick Facts

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 1.5-litre engine to a six-speed manual gearbox. The CVT variant deserves particular attention for fleet operators planning vehicle utilisation in intensive urban use. The CVT's seamless torque delivery removes this fatigue factor entirely, and the R20,000 premium for the CVT variant has a legitimate operational return-on-investment case for high-cycle urban delivery operations. Commercially, the Sonet Panel Van's status as a registered light commercial vehicle enables the full VAT input recovery that makes its purchase economics meaningfully better for registered businesses than the stated price suggests. Fleet operators who account…



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

Ex-Showroom Starting Price	ZAR 339,995 – 359,995	2 Listed Variants

Variant	Fuel	Transmission	Trim	Ex-Showroom
1.5 LS Panel Van Manual	Petrol	Manual	Base	**ZAR 339,995**
1.5 LS Panel Van CVT	Petrol	CVT	Mid	**ZAR 359,995**

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

Johannesburg	**ZAR 355,074**
Cape Town	**ZAR 357,394**
Durban	**ZAR 353,294**
Pretoria	**ZAR 354,184**

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

© 2026 Hagalu Automotive Research

03 Pros, Cons & Buyer Summary

● STRENGTHS

- ✓ Body style: Van
- ✓ Fuel type: Petrol
- ✓ South African price: R339,995
- ✓ Engine: 1.5-litre Naturally Aspirated Petrol
- ✓ Power output: 85 kW @ 6300 rpm
- ✓ Transmission: 6-Speed Manual

● CONSIDERATIONS

- ✗ Exact equipment for Sonet Panel Van can vary by derivative.
- ✗ Real fuel use for Sonet Panel Van depends on route, load and weather.
- ✗ The written Sonet Panel Van quotation should be checked before purchase.
- ✗ Tyre, insurance and service costs need a separate Sonet Panel Van budget.
- ✗ A short Sonet Panel Van test drive cannot represent every ownership route.
- ✗ Sonet Panel Van capability should not be inferred from body styling alone.

Buyer Summary

> *"Sonet Panel Van deserves a closer look when its price, equipment and powertrain fit the owner's route."*

The sealed bulkhead separating cab from cargo provides the theft-deterrence dimension that urban delivery operators in South Africa value practically — cargo is not visible from the cab, cannot be accessed through broken windows and is separated structurally from the passenger compartment. A fair review of Sonet Panel Van should end with the owner's route, not a universal verdict. The combination of a front-wheel drive drivetrain, a South African price reference of R359,995 and a CVT transmission can be valuable for the right driver

City Driving	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 urban test for Sonet Panel Van should resemble the owner's route: a cold start, queues, kerbs, a narrow turn and a place where people or goods must be loaded. The vehicle's a South African price reference of R359,995 is only useful if access and visibility work in practice
Highway	South Africa's urban commercial environment is characterised by surfaces that passenger cars handle poorly and that cargo vans based on passenger car platforms sometimes compromise: the off-tarmac industrial yard approach roads of Johannesburg's Industria and City Deep logistics zones, the unpaved driveways of the storage facilities and smallholdings that dot the peri-urban periphery of South African cities, the speed humps outside schools and community halls that commercial delivery drivers encounter multiple times per shift. For highway buyers, the Sonet Panel Van needs to make sense when passengers, luggage or work equipment are aboard. A Intelligent Variable Transmission (IVT) transmission helps frame the vehicle's intended workload; do not assume that a larger body automatically brings more reserve or comfort

© 2026 Hagalu Automotive Research

Off-Road	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
Best For	The best buyer for Sonet Panel Van can describe a recurring reason for choosing its van layout. Then compare a 6-Speed Manual transmission and a front-wheel drive drivetrain with insurance, tyres, maintenance and the monthly finance payment

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 339,995**	**ZAR 359,995**
Fuel Type	Petrol	Petrol
Transmission	6-Speed Manual	CVT
Trim Level	Base	Mid
Engine	1497 cc (1.5L)	1497 cc (1.5L)
Max Power	85 kW (114 bhp)	85 kW (114 bhp)
Max Torque	143 Nm (105 lb-ft)	143 Nm (105 lb-ft)
Drivetrain	FWD	FWD
Fuel Economy	16.9 km/l	16.9 km/l
Seating	2	2
Boot Space	1296 L	1296 L
Ground Clearance	211 mm	211 mm
Kerb Weight	1210 kg	1230 kg

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

05 KIA Sonet Panel Van — 1.5 LS Panel Van Manual

ZAR 339,995

ENGINE	POWER	TORQUE	ECONOMY	FUEL
1497 cc	85 kW · 114 bhp	143 Nm · 105 lb-ft	16.9 km/l	Petrol 6-Speed Manual

Base Trim · Petrol · Manual

View live price & EMI →

ENGINE & PERFORMANCE

Engine	1.5-litre Naturally Aspirated Petrol	Engine Code	G4LC
Fuel Type	Petrol	Engine Displacement	1497 cc
Cylinders	4	Cylinder Layout	Inline
Valves	16	Valves per Cylinder	4
Aspiration	Naturally Aspirated	Fuel System	Direct Injection
Compression Ratio	13.0:1	Bore	75 mm

TRANSMISSION & DRIVETRAIN

Transmission Speeds	6	Differential Type Rear	Not Available
Differential Type Front	Not Available	4WD Selector	Not Applicable
Gearbox Type	6-Speed Manual	4WD Engagement	Not Applicable
4WD Hi Range	Not Applicable	Engine Position	Front Transverse
4WD Lo Range	Not Applicable	Transfer Case	Not Applicable
Rear Differential Lock	Not Applicable	Front Differential Lock	Not Applicable

DIMENSIONS

Length	3995 mm	Width	1790 mm
Height	1635 mm	Wheelbase	2500 mm
Ground Clearance (Default)	211 mm	Ground Clearance (With Full Seating Load)	190 mm
Fuel Tank Capacity	45 l	Boot/Cargo Space	1296 l
Kerb Weight	1210 kg	Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)	1650 kg
Payload Capacity	350 kg	Towing Capacity	1100 kg

MILEAGE & EFFICIENCY

Fuel Tank Capacity	45 l	Claimed Mileage	16.9 km/l
City Mileage	13.7 km/l	Highway Mileage	20.0 km/l
Real-world Mileage	7.1 km/l	Auto Start Stop	Yes
Emission Standard	Euro 6	Low Fuel Warning	Yes
AdBlue Tank Capacity	No l	Range Real World Mixed	Not Applicable km
Range Real World Highway	Not Applicable km	Combined Driving Range	Not Applicable

SAFETY

Speed Alert System	Yes	Hill Start Assist	Yes

Anti Theft Alarm	Yes	Driver Passenger Airbags	6
Driver Front Passenger Airbags	6	ESC With Traction Control	Yes
ABS EBD	Yes	Lane Change Warning	No
Whiplash Protection	Yes	Seatbelt Warning All Seats	Yes
Seatbelt Reminder	Yes	Seatbelt Pretensioners	Yes

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Intercooler	No	Remote Central Locking	Yes
Seat Type	Fabric Seats	Door Ajar Warning	Yes
Fuel Lid Opener	Remote	Boot Opener	Remote
Power Windows	Yes	Power Mirrors	Yes
Heated Mirrors	No	Electric Folding Mirrors	No
Electric Mirror Folding	No	Remote Side Mirror	Yes

+ 13 more spec categories (Infotainment & Connectivity, Interior, Exterior, Driver Assistance, …) available on the live model page.

→ See 1.5 LS Panel Van Manual full specs and lifecycle details in South Africa

Compare with rivals →

06 KIA Sonet Panel Van — 1.5 LS Panel Van CVT ZAR 359,995

ENGINE	POWER	TORQUE	ECONOMY	FUEL
1497 cc	85 kW · 114 bhp	143 Nm · 105 lb-ft	16.9 km/l	Petrol CVT

Mid Trim · Petrol · CVT

View live price & EMI →

ENGINE & PERFORMANCE

Engine	1.5-litre Naturally Aspirated Petrol	Engine Code	G4LC
Fuel Type	Petrol	Engine Displacement	1497 cc
Cylinders	4	Cylinder Layout	Inline
Valves	16	Valves per Cylinder	4
Aspiration	Naturally Aspirated	Fuel System	Direct Injection
Compression Ratio	13.0:1	Bore	75 mm

TRANSMISSION & DRIVETRAIN

Transmission Speeds	CVT	Differential Type Rear	Not Available
Differential Type Front	Not Available	4WD Selector	Not Applicable
Gearbox Type	Intelligent Variable Transmission (IVT)	4WD Engagement	Not Applicable
4WD Hi Range	Not Applicable	Engine Position	Front Transverse
4WD Lo Range	Not Applicable	Transfer Case	Not Applicable
Rear Differential Lock	Not Applicable	Front Differential Lock	Not Applicable

DIMENSIONS

Length	3995 mm	Width	1790 mm
Height	1635 mm	Wheelbase	2500 mm
Ground Clearance (Default)	211 mm	Ground Clearance (With Full Seating Load)	190 mm
Fuel Tank Capacity	45 l	Boot/Cargo Space	1296 l
Kerb Weight	1230 kg	Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)	1670 kg
Payload Capacity	350 kg	Towing Capacity	1100 kg

MILEAGE & EFFICIENCY

Fuel Tank Capacity	45 l	Claimed Mileage	16.9 km/l
City Mileage	13.7 km/l	Highway Mileage	20.0 km/l
Real-world Mileage	7.1 km/l	Auto Start Stop	Yes
Emission Standard	Euro 6	Low Fuel Warning	Yes
AdBlue Tank Capacity	No l	Range Real World Mixed	Not Applicable km
Range Real World Highway	Not Applicable km	Combined Driving Range	Not Applicable

SAFETY

Speed Alert System	Yes	Hill Start Assist	Yes

Anti Theft Alarm	Yes	Driver Passenger Airbags	6
Driver Front Passenger Airbags	6	ESC With Traction Control	Yes
ABS EBD	Yes	Lane Change Warning	No
Whiplash Protection	Yes	Seatbelt Warning All Seats	Yes
Seatbelt Reminder	Yes	Seatbelt Pretensioners	Yes

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Intercooler	No	Remote Central Locking	Yes
Seat Type	Fabric Seats	Door Ajar Warning	Yes
Fuel Lid Opener	Remote	Boot Opener	Remote
Power Windows	Yes	Power Mirrors	Yes
Heated Mirrors	No	Electric Folding Mirrors	No
Electric Mirror Folding	No	Remote Side Mirror	Yes

+ 13 more spec categories (Infotainment & Connectivity, Interior, Exterior, Driver Assistance, …) available on the live model page.

→ See 1.5 LS Panel Van CVT 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

→ 1.5 LS Panel Van Manual — ZAR 339,995

→ 1.5 LS Panel Van CVT — ZAR 359,995

Live Prices & On-Road Costs — KIA Sonet Panel Van → Open
Latest ex-showroom and city-wise on-road prices in South Africa.

Side-by-Side Comparison → Open
Compare KIA Sonet Panel Van vs any rival model.

Browse All KIA Models → Open
Explore the full KIA lineup in South Africa.

Buyer's Guides — Finance, Pricing & New Launches → Open
In-depth SA guides: car finance, monthly EMI math, upcoming launches.

Hagalu.com — Africa's Car Research Platform → Open
Independent prices, specs and reviews for South Africa and beyond.

This brochure was generated on 03 November 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