

Electric vehicle range south africa

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TechCentral publishes a list, updated quarterly, of all the electric cars available for sale in South Africa, along with their prices, range and performance figures.

Since TechCentral first published the list in December 2022, there have been significant changes, including several new models and, unfortunately, a few price increases, too.

Several manufacturers increased the prices of their EVs in the fourth quarter of last year, and some Mercedes and Audi models that were previously available are no longer sold in the country.

The title of most budget-friendly electric vehicle in South Africa has shifted to the GWM Ora 300, priced at R686 950. This marks a significant change, as the previous most affordable option, the Mini, has seen a price hike, relegating it to fourth place in terms of affordability.

The GWM Ora 300 has generated considerable excitement upon its release. However, recent developments revealed a recall of all Ora vehicles in Australia due to a charging-related fault. As of now, there is no information on a similar recall affecting the model in South Africa.

The Ora, also recognised as Good Cat or Funky Cat in various markets, is an electric hatchback designed by former Porsche designer Emanuel Derta. Its aesthetic evokes memories of the boutique hatchbacks that were abundant in South Africa a decade ago, such as the R56 Mini Cooper and Citroen DS3. The local line-up comprises four distinct models.

This a lesser-known Chinese electric vehicle from the prominent electric car manufacturer BYD, which recently overtook Tesla to become the world's largest EV maker. In 2022, BYD made waves by selling over 900 000 electric vehicles, primarily in China but also gaining traction globally. The Atto 3, a compact to mid-size electric crossover, is a notable addition to the line-up.

Introducing a new era for Volvo and a departure from their traditional designs, this compact EV marks a significant shift for the Swedish brand as it embraces an all-electric platform. While Volvo labels it a crossover, in essence it embodies the characteristics of a nimble and elevated hatch, breaking away from the larger cars Volvo has been known for over the decades. This one will be a strong seller in South Africa.

BMW Group, which owns Mini, has installed the lithium-ion high-voltage battery pack and the electric motor from the BMW i3 S into a Mini Cooper body. Range is disappointing compared to other models in this list. (The BMW i3 is no longer for sale in South Africa.)

If you decide to go the EV route, the P6 Recharge model offers a more practical solution than the Mini: a vehicle that can travel much further, while maintaining good performance and a wealth of technological and comfort features.

The Maxus T90 EV is an electric bakkie that was launched in 2022, making it one of the first all-electric bakkies available on the local market. It should be a popular choice for businesses and individuals.

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