CHOOSING A HYBRID FAMILY SUV? FIVE QUESTIONS THE GAC GS4 MAX HEV HELPS ANSWER

From adaptable cabin space and no-plug convenience to driver assistance and ownership support, here is what growing Filipino families should consider beyond the specification sheet.

Choosing a family vehicle involves balancing a variety of real-world demands. A suitable mainstream family SUV must efficiently manage weekday school and work commutes, routine errands, shifting passenger needs, everyday cargo, longer provincial trips, and long-term ownership responsibilities. For growing households exploring the market, evaluating whether a hybrid can seamlessly fit into these daily routines without requiring a lifestyle overhaul is a key part of the car-buying journey.

Positioned as a mainstream hybrid SUV for modern Filipino families, the GAC GS4 MAX HEV serves as a practical focal point for these considerations. Rather than pushing a hard sell or focusing solely on a specification sheet, examining the vehicle through common buyer questions helps prospective owners compare, validate, and understand what its features mean in everyday use.

How is the space inside the GS4 Max?

A family vehicle should effortlessly adapt to shifting plans, eliminating the compromise between carrying loved ones or hauling bulky cargo. Daily routines require an interior capable of supporting school and work commutes, routine grocery runs, family passengers, sports equipment, strollers, and weekend luggage.

Built on a long 2,750 mm wheelbase within a broad 1,901 mm body, the GS4 MAX HEV provides generous, family-ready space with ample legroom and shoulder room across both rows. To keep passengers comfortable on any journey, the interior features supportive comfort seats, dedicated rear air vents, multiple storage areas, and a wide panoramic roof with an electric sunshade that brightens the cabin. When passenger capacity needs to make way for large cargo, the standard trunk capacity of 638 liters expands to an impressive 1,586 liters by folding down the second-row 40/60 split-folding backrests, creating a versatile payload zone capable of fitting roughly 5 golf bags or up to 10 large pieces of luggage for major family trips.

Delivering 300 Nm of max torque, the GAC GS4 Max HEV offers effortless, responsive performance for both quick city commutes and long-distance weekend getaways.

How does the GS4 MAX hybrid system translate to fuel savings and everyday convenience?

For households transitioning away from traditional fuel, understanding how hybrid technology works in practice is essential to removing uncertainty. The GS4 MAX HEV utilizes self-charging hybrid (HEV) operation, meaning drivers do not need to install a home charger or hunt for external charging stations. Refueling remains as simple and familiar as visiting conventional gas stations.

The vehicle manages its operating modes entirely on its own by intelligently shifting between electric power, hybrid drive, engine operation, and energy recuperation without requiring the driver to manually select modes. As secondary evidence of its long-distance efficiency, the system achieves a combined driving range of up to 1,250 kilometers on a single tank (based on approved test parameters), minimizing unplanned stops during road trips.

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How does the powertrain handle daily city driving and longer family trips?

Performance metrics matter most when they translate into smooth, predictable responses and passenger comfort during actual driving conditions. Instant motor responsiveness helps ease the strain of heavy stop-and-go city traffic, while offering confident power for highway merging and safe passing.

The powertrain pairs a 2.0-liter Atkinson-cycle hybrid engine with an electric motor to deliver a combined output of 232 horsepower and 300 N·m of maximum motor torque, providing the necessary pull when fully loaded. On the road, occupants benefit from a composed ride quality, a quiet cabin environment, and supportive seating designed to reduce fatigue on extended drives.

What safety and technology features of the GS4 Max HEV support everyday driving?

Advanced driver-assistance and connectivity features are most valuable when grouped around the specific tasks they support—helping the driver navigate heavy traffic, maintain lane discipline on expressways, and maneuver into tight parking spaces with greater confidence.

- Traffic & Commuting Support: Systems like Adaptive Cruise Control and Traffic Jam Assist actively manage pacing and spacing in demanding gridlock.
- Collision Awareness: Forward Collision Warning and Autonomous Emergency Braking act as vigilant backups to support driver awareness and reaction times.
- Highway & Parking Support: Lane assistance technologies keep the vehicle steady during long highway stretches, while the Surround View Camera simplifies parking and tight spatial navigation.
- Connectivity: Practical cabin tech includes seamless smartphone integration and wireless device charging to keep family members connected without cord clutter. (Note: Advanced driver assistance systems are designed to support, not replace, attentive driving.)

What long-term ownership and aftersales support can I expect?

Long-term peace of mind is central to reliable family vehicle ownership, making aftersales support and warranty coverage critical factors in the decision-making process.

The GAC ownership experience is backed by a nationwide network of 30 dealerships, a dedicated parts warehouse, two years of free roadside assistance, and tailored warranty coverage. Specifically, PHEV and HEV models—including the GS4 Max—offer a 5-year or 150,000 km basic warranty, complemented by an 8-year or 150,000 km policy covering the power battery, driving motor, and motor control unit. This structural support is reinforced by a local spare parts warehouse ensuring readily available components and minimized service turnaround times.

Evaluating Your Options

Deciding on a hybrid family SUV comes down to finding a balance of practical utility, everyday ease, and long-term assurance. By combining adaptable family space, straightforward self-charging operation, supportive driving technology, and robust ownership backing, the GAC GS4 MAX HEV offers a well-rounded option for households looking to step into electrified mobility without compromise.

Pricing

Reservations and test-drive bookings are now open at GAC dealerships nationwide. The GAC GS4 MAX HEV is available at an introductory price of PHP 1,218,000, reflecting PHP 80,000 in savings off the regular SRP of PHP 1,298,000 for reservations placed up to December 31, 2026. With manufacturing expertise shaped by over two decades of collaboration with Toyota and Honda, and growing strength in electrification and intelligent mobility, GAC brings together proven craftsmanship and next-generation technology—Where Craft Meets Technology.

ACMobility sustains infra builds, takes 45% EV charging network share in H1

ACMobility maintains 10 charge points, including six AC and four DC chargers, at this EV Charging Hub at UP Town Center, Quezon City, one of the biggest charging locations in Metro Manila.

ACMobility, the country's leading end-to-end electric mobility provider, held a dominant share in electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across the country as of end June, reflecting its commitment to enabling the country's electric shift through an expansive EV charging backbone.

As of the first half of the year, ACMobility continued to lead in both number of EV Charging Hub locations and charge points among all operators in the Philippines, according to data from the Department of Energy.

ACMobility's network share in fixed charging locations was at 45%, with 222 EV charging hubs out of the total 492. Of 1,246 charge points across the country, ACMobility accounted for 542, or 43.5%.*

"Our goal at ACMobility is to help drive the Philippines' shift to electric mobility by making EV charging accessible where people live, work, play and travel. Through the Philippine EV Spine, we are committed to connecting the archipelago with charging hubs that will enable Filipinos to charge anywhere, drive everywhere with EVs," said Carla Buencamino, Head of Mobility Infrastructure at ACMobility.

As demand for EVs increased due to oil supply volatility this year, ACMobility ramped up its EV charger builds, leveraging its wide dealership network while partnering with fuel stations, malls, residential and office buildings, restaurants, and other retail brands to access strategic locations.

Earlier this year, ACMobility's campaign "Drive Electric, Love Pinas" with BYD and the Department of Tourism proved that cross-country EV drives is now possible in the Philippines, with a continuous 3,500-km journey from Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte down to General Santos City across 102 cities and towns in 22 days.

The trip landed ACMobility two Guinness World Records: one for "Most cities visited in a continuous journey by a battery electric vehicle (BEV)," and another for "Most cities visited in a continuous journey by a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)."

ACMobility's EV charging hubs, which offer both AC and DC fast chargers, are available for use by private EVs and public transport fleets across all brands. Its chargers are accessible via partner app Evro, which allows drivers to locate available chargers at any given time, monitor their charging sessions, and pay via GCash or credit card.

"By making EV charging accessible to owners of all vehicle brands and types, we are optimizing our infrastructure to power the country's growing EV community. We hope to encourage more Filipinos to embrace electric mobility so they could enjoy a more cost-effective and sustainable transport option," said Buencamino.

TCS renews title partnership with Jaguar TCS Racing and expands role as official AI partner ahead of Formula E's GEN4 era

The renewed collaboration blends cutting-edge digital innovation with world-class engineering, strengthening trust and driving performance on and off track

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) (BSE: 532540, NSE: TCS), a global leader in IT services, consulting, and business solutions, and Jaguar TCS Racing announced a multi-year extension of their title partnership, strengthening a collaboration that has helped deliver success on track while accelerating innovation in electric mobility. As part of the renewed agreement, TCS will become Jaguar TCS Racing's Official AI Partner, expanding its role as the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship enters the high-performance GEN4 era.

The enhanced partnership will explore how artificial intelligence can unlock new efficiencies across racing operations and engineering while generating insights that support the development of next-generation Jaguar electric vehicles.

The renewal builds on five successful years together, during which Jaguar TCS Racing secured the 2024 and 2026 ABB FIA Formula E Teams' World Championships and established itself as one of the sport's most successful teams of the GEN3 Evo era, more wins and podiums than any other. Beyond race victories, the partnership has delivered consistent performance across multiple regulations, circuits, and seasons, demonstrating an ability to adapt at speed as all-electric racing evolves.

The renewal reflects the success of TCS' partnership with Jaguar TCS Racing and TCS' role as a trusted strategic partner to JLR for more than a decade.

Abhinav Kumar, Global Chief Marketing Officer, TCS, said: "This partnership demonstrates what is possible when world-class teams come together with a shared ambition to innovate. At the close of a great season, culminating in the Teams' World Championship, we are pleased to extend our partnership and build on that momentum as Formula E enters the GEN4 era. With this renewal, we will further harness AI and advanced technologies to unlock new performance opportunities to help Jaguar TCS Racing compete for more podiums and championship wins."

Chris Thorp, Chairman of JLR Motorsport, which operates Jaguar TCS Racing, said: "Our partnership with TCS has been instrumental in helping Jaguar TCS Racing push the boundaries of performance, efficiency, and innovation. As the Championship enters the GEN4 era, this collaboration helps us drive the future of all-electric motorsport while informing the next generation of Jaguar cars. Extending our partnership with TCS is grounded in proven delivery, shared values, and a clear vision for how data and AI can elevate motorsport performance."

Over the past five years, TCS and Jaguar TCS Racing have used cloud and digital twin technology to improve race performance and accelerate the electrification journey from race to road. At the heart of the partnership is TCS's Virtual Vehicle Validation Model (V3M), a capability that allows Jaguar TCS Racing engineers to validate software changes, run continuous simulations, and make decisions with confidence, even under the sport's tightest time constraints.

As part of a shared commitment to purpose-driven innovation, the partnership has extended beyond the racetrack, using Formula E as a living classroom to inspire future engineers, data scientists, and sustainability leaders.

Through TCS' Ignite My Future (IMF) initiative, since 2023, nearly 30,000 students in 16 countries have explored real-world applications of racing data, design, and strategy through custom lesson plans and exclusive behind-the-scenes content featuring the team. Hundreds of students have also participated in at-track experiences with TCS and Jaguar TCS Racing at E-Prix around the world.

The partnership underscores TCS' long-term commitment to being a trusted innovation partner for leading businesses in the UK. With a 50-year presence, TCS works with over 200 of the UK's top brands. Earlier this year, TCS confirmed plans to create 5,000 new jobs across the UK in the next three years.