

2001 Nissan Altima



Nissan Altima Continues to Provide 'Affordable Luxury' for 2001; New Limited Edition Model Offered on GXE

Fresh from the major enhancements made to the 2000 Altima, the 2001 model continues to provide "affordable luxury," spirited performance, active safety abilities, numerous amenities, quality and competitive pricing.

Though the second generation Nissan Altima was introduced only three years ago, the popular mid-size sedan received major changes for the 2000 model year, enhancing its competitiveness in the increasingly crowded mid-size sedan segment. For 2001, changes have been mainly evolutionary, making an already outstanding car even better. Improvements include a new Limited Edition (LE) package on GXE models and an in-dash 6-disc CD changer (standard on SE, optional on GXE).

Refinements that were made to the 2000 Altima include a dozen styling modifications, more than 20 noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) improvements, 18 comfort and convenience enhancements, 11 engine hardware changes and a greatly revised suspension system - including the first original equipment manufacturer (OEM) passenger car application of acceleration-sensitive strut valving.

"It's unusual to make such an extensive hardware investment midway through a vehicle's product cycle. But with the introduction of the all-new 2000 Maxima and all-new 2000 Sentra, we wanted to pump up Altima's performance, luxury and value at the same time," said Bill Kirrane, vice president and general manager, Nissan Division, Nissan North America, Inc. "We now have the strongest sedan lineup in Nissan history - with Maxima, Altima and Sentra all feeling like they were cut from the same cloth."

First introduced as a 1993 model, Altima has been best-in-class in J.D. Power and Associates' Initial Quality Study (IQS) three of the past four years, an IntelliChoice "Best Overall Value" winner five straight years and a Consumer Digest "Best Buy" four times.

Exterior Design

The Altima's North America-designed exterior was freshened in 2000 with an aggressive new front fascia (with a distinctive lower treatment for the SE model), new grille and new integrated clear-lens headlights. The headlights include turn

signals and cornering lamps in a one-piece, wrap-around design, giving Altima a longer, wider look. Clear lens foglights are standard on Altima SE and GLE models. The previous external radio antenna was also replaced by a rear window in-glass antenna for an improved overall appearance.

The vehicle's front end was lowered seven millimeters, giving the new Altima a slightly pronounced rake. 16-inch wheels with lower profile tires for the SE and GLE models (standard 15-inch wheels for XE, GXE) provide a smooth, sporty silhouette. In the rear, a revised fascia with bright red taillights and a rear deck lid finisher continue the elegant styling theme. Overall length of the 2000 model was increased slightly (+2.1 inches) versus the 1999 car.

The 2001 Altima's coefficient of drag remains unchanged at a low 0.32. Body stiffness remains high through use of a rear tunnel brace and front strut tower brace (on models with 16-inch wheels). Altima is assembled at Nissan North America Manufacturing Smyrna & Decherd Tennessee Plant using the Intelligent Body Assembly System (IBAS) - the same method used to assemble the Infiniti Q45 - to produce panel fit accuracy within +/- 1.0 mm.

The 2001 Altima is offered in nine colors, including two new colors - Satin White and Opal Blue Metallic.

Interior Design

Inside, the 2001 Altima receives a new 8-way cloth power seat (standard on SE, part of the LE package on GXE), as well as a new AM/FM stereo with an in-dash 6-disc CD changer.

These enhancements complement the improvements made to the 2000 Altima, which included new front seats for improved cushion and seatback comfort, revised seat cloth for GXE and SE models, new combination instrument cluster (including a LCD odometer with dual trip meters), a center console with dual level storage and dual rear cupholders (automatic transmission vehicles only), new audio units, an overhead sunglass storage compartment, a vehicle immobilizer security system and redesigned sunvisors with available HomeLink Integrated Transceiver.

Extensive attention was paid to reducing noise, vibration and harshness levels - including measurable improvements in wind, road and engine noise. Among the many NVH changes that were made for 2000 are new outside mirror designs, use of expandable foam in the windshield pillars, roof rails, front doors and sills, thicker front door glass, new foam seals in the engine compartment, increased suspension mounting stiffness and a new driveshaft design with low friction joints (automatic transmission models).

Engine/Suspension

The 2001 Altima continues on with the acceleration and handling improvements that made the driving experience different between the 2000 Altima and the previous year's edition. "The Altima feels much more spirited, from the first push

of the throttle from a standing stop to the flatter cornering and firmer, sportier steering feedback," said Kirrane.

The front-wheel drive Altima's proven 2.4-liter in-line 4-cylinder powerplant received subtle refinements in 2000 that add up to a significant performance improvement - including a 0.8-second reduction in 0 to 60 mph acceleration (Nissan preliminary testing). Horsepower was increased to 155 at 5,600 rpm, while torque is rated at 156 ft-lbs at 4,400 rpm.

For this power gain, the engine's cam profile was changed to increase torque at low- to mid-range rpm levels. In addition, aluminum valve lifters, reshaped intake valves and reduced valve spring rates were adopted. The exhaust manifold was modified and exhaust system backpressure was reduced.

Dual-tipped platinum spark plugs with 100,000-mile service intervals were added, and all 2001 Altimas are now 50-state emissions certified.

A 5-speed manual transmission is standard on Altima XE, GXE and SE models. Standard on Altima GLE and available on XE, GXE and SE is an electronically controlled 4-speed automatic transmission.

Both transmissions received new final drive ratios in 2000 (3.823:1 versus 3.650:1 manual, 4.087:1 versus 3.619:1 automatic) for quicker acceleration. First through third gear ratios were revised on the manual transmission, and the automatic features a refined shift schedule to improve acceleration from slow speeds.

The 2001 Altima's responsive 4-wheel independent strut suspension with coil springs and rear Super Toe Control features an acceleration-sensitive strut design developed by Monroe exclusively for Altima (available with 16-inch wheels and tires only). These struts automatically adjust dampening firmness, using an oil flow bypass valve to reduce compression damping at a preset vertical acceleration (0.5g), to improve handling without sacrificing ride quality.

A front strut tower brace (16-inch wheel models), large front and rear stabilizer bars, increased front and rear spring rates (SE model) and low profile 16-inch tires (205/55R16) ensure that Altima is ready for when the roads get twisty.

Steering is provided by a power rack-and-pinion design. Both the power steering pump and steering gear have been tuned to provide a firmer, sportier steering feel. Altima XE, GXE and GLE models offer power-assisted front disc/rear drum brakes, with 4-wheel discs standard on the SE model. Optional on GXE, SE and GLE models is a 4-channel/4-sensor Anti-lock Braking System (ABS).

Safety and Security

Standard safety equipment includes a new-for-2001 emergency inside trunk release, as well as second generation dual front supplemental air bags, child safety rear door locks, child safety anchors and tethers (called LATCH - Lower Anchors and Tether for CHildren) and pipe-style steel side-door guard beams. Every

Altima features 3-point front and rear seat belts (now including the center rear position) with standard pretensioners on the height-adjustable front belts. Front seat side-impact supplemental air bags are now offered as standard equipment on the GLE model and optional on GXE and SE models.

An Immobilizer Enhancement System is optional on GLE and SE models.

Model Availability

Four models of Altima are again available for 2001: the entry level XE, value-oriented GXE, luxurious GLE and sporty SE. In addition to separate options, three special option packages are offered: the XE Option Package, the GXE Value Option Package (VOP) and new for 2001, the GXE Limited Edition Package. The GXE Limited Edition Package includes a cloth power driver's seat, remote keyless entry with trunk release, vehicle security system, floor mats and special badging, plus all of the features on the GXE VOP.

2001 Altima Specifications & Features

ENGINE	XE	GXE	SE	GLE
KA24DE 2.4-liter DOHC 16-valve 4-cylinder engine with cast iron block and aluminum head	•	•	•	•
Displacement	2.4-liter/2,389cc			
Horsepower (SAE net)	155 hp @ 5,600 rpm			
Torque (SAE net in ft-lbs)	156 ft-lbs @ 4,400 rpm			
Bore X stroke (inches)	3.50 X 3.78			
Bore X stroke (millimeters)	89.0 X 96.0			
Compression ratio	9.2:1			
Induction system	Sequential multi-point fuel injection			
Valvetrain	DOHC, 4-valves-per-cylinder, direct acting			
Recommended fuel	Unleaded regular			
Emissions system	EGR, oxygen sensor, catalyzer			
Maximum engine speed	6,100 rpm			
DRIVETRAIN				
Drive configuration	Front engine/front-wheel drive			

Transmission type	5-speed manual or electronically controlled			
	4-speed automatic transmission			
Gear ratios		4-speed automatic	5-speed manual	
	1st	2.785	3.400	
	2nd	1.545	1.955	
	3rd	1.000	1.272	
	4th	0.694	0.954	
	5th	--	0.740	
	reverse	2.272	3.428	
Final drive ratio (:1)		4.087	3.823	
Differential type		Conventional		
BODY, SUSPENSION AND STEERING				
Body type	All-steel unibody			
Front suspension	Subframe mounted, independent, MacPherson struts with coil springs, 21.0 mm stabilizer bar			
Rear suspension	Independent MacPherson struts with coil springs and Super Toe Control, 16.0 mm stabilizer bar			
Steering ratio	17.0:1			
Turning circle (curb-to-curb in feet)	37.4			
Turns (lock-to-lock)	2.7			
Steering type	Power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering			
BRAKES	XE	GXE	SE	GLE
Front: Power-assisted 11.02-inch vented discs	•	•	•	•
Rear: Power-assisted 9.0-inch drums	•	•	-	•
Rear: Power-assisted 10.16-inch disc	-	-	•	-
4-channel/4-sensor Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)	-	o	o	o
ELECTRICAL	XE	GXE	SE	GLE
Electronic ignition system	•	•	•	•

100 amp alternator	•	•	•	•
Low-maintenance 12-volt, 49 amp-hour battery	•	•	•	•
WHEELS AND TIRES	XE	GXE	SE	GLE
15-inch steel wheels with covers (6.0JJ X 15)	•	•	-	-
16-inch aluminum-alloy wheels (6.0JJ X 16)	-	-	•	•
P195/65-15 all-season steel-belted radial tires	•	•	-	-
P205/60-15 all-season steel-belted radial tires	-	o	-	-
P205/55-16 all-season steel-belted radial tires	-	-	•	•
EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS				
Wheelbase (in inches)	103.1			
Overall length (in inches)	185.8			
Overall width (in inches)	69.1			
Overall height (in inches)	55.9			
Front track width (in inches)	59.3			
Rear track width (in inches)	58.9			
Trunk liftover height (in inches)	29.1			
Minimum ground clearance (in inches)	4.1			
Coefficient of Drag (Cd)	0.32			
EXTERIOR FEATURES AND OPTIONS	XE	GXE	SE	GLE
Flush-mounted multi-parabola halogen headlights	•	•	•	•
Cornering lamps	•	•	•	•
Fog lights	-	-	•	•
Body-color front grille bar	-	-	•	-
Chrome front grille bar	•	•	-	•
Body-color front and rear bumpers	•	•	•	•
Dual black power outside mirrors	•	-	-	-
Dual body-color power outside mirrors	-	•	•	•
Body-color door handles	•	•	•	•

Body-color rear spoiler	-	o	•	o
Green-tinted glass with dark-tint upper windshield band	•	•	•	•
Chrome side window moldings	•	•	•	•
Black front and rear splash guards	-	o	o	o
Power sliding glass sunroof with tilt feature and vented sliding sunshade	-	o	o	o
INTERIOR DIMENSIONS	Front		Rear	
Head room (in inches)	39.4		37.7	
Leg room (in inches)	42.0		33.9	
Hip room (in inches)	52.5		52.6	
Shoulder room (in inches)	55.7		54.8	
INTERIOR FEATURES AND OPTIONS	XE	GXE	SE	GLE
4-way adjustable driver's seat	•	-	-	-
8-way manual adjustable driver's seat	-	•	•	-
8-way power adjustable front seats with lumbar support adjustment	-	o	o	•
Adjustable lumbar support	-	-	•	•
4-way manual passenger seat	•	•	•	•
Cloth seat trim	•	•	•	-
Leather seating surfaces (sporty perforated on SE)	-	-	o	•
Rear seat center armrest with trunk pass-through	-	-	•	o
60/40 split fold-down rear seat	-	•	•	•
Leather-wrapped steering wheel	-	-	•	•
Leather-wrapped shift knob (M/T only)	-	-	•	-
Full cut-pile carpeting	•	•	•	•
Dual front-door map pockets	•	•	•	•
Large center console box with tissue storage, CD (9), cassette (12) storage and credit card case with armrest-style console lid	•	•	•	•
Dual cup holders	•	•	•	•

CAPACITIES					
Seating capacity		5			
Interior passenger volume (cu. ft.)		94.0			
Cargo volume (cu. ft.)		13.8			
Fuel tank (gals.)		15.9			
Engine coolant (qts.)		7.0			
Engine oil (qts.)		3.63			
Maximum towing capacity (lbs.)		1,000			
CURB WEIGHTS (lbs.)		XE	GXE	SE	GLE
Manual transmission		2,851	2,945	2,962	N/A
Automatic transmission		2,933	3,027	3,044	3,057
Weight distribution (front / rear %)	Manual trans.	61/39	61/39	61/39	N/A
Automatic trans.		62/38	62/38	62/38	62/38
COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE FEATURES AND OPTIONS		XE	GXE	SE	GLE
CFC-free air conditioning		o	o	•	•
Power windows with driver-side one touch auto-down feature		•	•	•	•
Power door locks		-	o	•	•
Cruise control with steering wheel- mounted controls		o	o	•	•
Remote trunk, fuel filler door and hood releases		•	•	•	•
Tilt steering column		•	•	•	•
2-speed wipers		•	•	-	-
Variable intermittent wipers		-	o	•	•
Front window defogger with front and side vents		•	•	•	•
Rear window defogger with indicator light and timer		•	•	•	•
Remote keyless entry		-	o	•	•
Dual visor vanity mirrors with extender		•	•	-	-
Dual illuminated visor vanity mirrors with extender		-	o	•	•
Interior courtesy lights - overhead, trunk and glove compartment		•	•	•	•

AUDIO SYSTEMS		XE	GXE	SE	GLE
Electronically tuned 60-watt AM/FM/CD 4-speaker audio system, Dolby® Noise Reduction, automatic metal tape capability, automatic program, clock display		o	o	-	-
Electronically tuned 120-watt AM/FM/cassette/CD 6-speaker audio system, Dolby® Noise Reduction, automatic metal tape capability, automatic program, clock display		-	-	-	•
AM/FM/in-dash 6-disc CD changer with six speakers		-	-	•	o
In-glass antenna		•	•	•	•
SAFETY AND SECURITY FEATURES		XE	GXE	SE	GLE
Dual supplemental air bags		•	•	•	•
Front seat side supplemental airbags		-	o	o	•
Vehicle Security System		-	o	o	o
Immobilizer anti-theft system		•	•	•	•
Child safety rear door locks		•	•	•	•
Child seat anchors (3 in rear seat) LATCH		•	•	•	•
3-point seat belts in all seating locations		•	•	•	•
ALR/ELR seat belt system for all seating positions (ELR only driver's position)		•	•	•	•
Front seat belts with pretensioners and adjustable upper anchors		•	•	•	•
Shift interlock system		•	•	•	•
Hood buckling creases and safety stops		•	•	•	•
Body side reinforcements		•	•	•	•
Energy-absorbing steering column		•	•	•	•
Front and rear crumple zones		•	•	•	•
Emergency inside trunk release		•	•	•	•
EPA MILEAGE ESTIMATES		XE	GXE	SE	GLE
Manual transmission	City	23	23	23	N/A

Highway		31	31	31	N/A
Automatic transmission	City	21	21	21	21
Highway		28	28	28	28
INSTRUMENTATION		XE	GXE	SE	GLE
Speedometer, coolant temperature gauge		•	•	•	•
Tachometer		•	•	•	•
Dual trip odometer		•	•	•	•
Titanium-colored electroluminescent speedometer and tachometer gauges		-	-	•	-
Digital quartz clock (in audio display)		•	•	•	•
FACTORY OPTIONS & PACKAGES		XE	GXE	SE	GLE
Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) (requires side air bags for GXE and SE)		-	o	o	o
Power sliding glass sunroof (requires appearance and convenience package on GXE)		-	o	o	o
Leather seat trim/8-way power driver's seat with adjustable lumbar support and rear seat center arm rest		-	-	o	•
XE Option Package - includes 100-watt AM/FM/CD audio system, CFC-free air conditioning and cruise control		o	-	-	-
GXE Limited Edition Package - 8-way cloth power driver's seat, remote keyless entry, vehicle security system, floor mats, and LE badging, plus GXE Value Option Package		-	o	-	-
GXE Value Option Package - CFC-free air conditioning, 100-watt AM/FM/CD 4-speaker audio system, cruise control, power door locks, P205/60-15 all-season radial tires, variable intermittent wipers, dual illuminated visor vanity mirrors, rear cupholders/rear power point (A/T), phone storage compartment (A/T), dual overhead map lamps, sunglass holder, battery saver system, slant cut tailpipe, illuminated entry/exit fade out system		-	o	-	-
Color-keyed spoiler		-	o	•	o
Splash guards		-	o	o	o

Electronically controlled 4-speed automatic overdrive transmission	o	o	o	•
Front seat side airbags	-	o	o	•
Vehicle Security System	-	o	o	o
		•	Standard Equipment	
		o	Optional Equipment	
		-	Not Available	
		4/01		