

1997 Nissan Maxima



Since its introduction in 1981, the Nissan Maxima has been the perennial sales leader in the upper middle import sedan segment -- a category it helped create. With the introduction of the refreshed 1997 Maxima, Nissan continues to set new benchmarks for its class in styling, performance and value

For 1997, the Maxima lineup includes the luxuriously equipped GLE model, performance-oriented SE and high-value GXE, providing a wide selection of equipment and features to match the individual needs of each customer.

“The 1997 Maxima continues Nissan’s tradition of high-value, well equipped, sporty and stylish sedans, sustaining the cars class leading characteristics,” said Thomas H. Eastwood, vice president, Nissan Division. “In addition to its updated exterior and interior styling, Maxima continues to deliver the comfort of luxury cars and the class-leading performance of elite European touring sedans at an affordable price.”

Design/Exterior Styling

Nissan’s flagship sedan has refreshed styling for 1997, enhancing the sleek, smooth, luxurious shape. Maxima’s sophisticated, yet sporty, new looks were achieved through a series of enhancements that include a new front grille design (chrome on GXE and GLE), jewel-like multi-parabola headlights, new front and rear bumper fascias, and new taillights.

Other major exterior refinements include new 16-inch aluminum alloy wheels and integrated fog light design on the sporty SE, new wheel covers for GXE models, and distinctive new aluminum-alloy wheels for the fully-equipped GLE.

Engine/Suspension/Body Structure

Maxima retains Nissan’s award-winning 3.0-liter DOHC V6 engine. This powerful yet refined powerplant was named “Best Engine” by Ward’s Auto World for two years running. It is one of the lightest, most compact engines for its displacement ever built for production use, producing a potent 190 hp at 5,600 rpm and 205 ft-lbs of torque at 4,000 rpm.

Among the many technical highlights of Maxima’s engine are microfinishing of the camshaft and crankshaft, a digital knock control system and a cross flow coolant pattern. These attributes help enhance engine performance, reduce exhaust emissions and lower overall engine friction -- resulting in improved performance and fuel economy.

The affordable GXE and sporty SE are equipped with a standard 5-speed manual transmission. An electronically controlled 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive is standard on the luxury-equipped GLE and available as an option on GXE and SE.

Maxima’s innovative engine is even more impressive when considering its exceptional fuel economy. The Maxima delivers an EPA-estimated fuel economy of 22/27 mpg City/Highway when fitted with the 5-speed manual transmission, and 21/28 mpg City/Highway when equipped with the 4-speed automatic transmission.

The 1997 Maxima is also equipped with Nissan's patented rear Multi-Link Beam suspension, which offers precision handling and stability by minimizing camber change during cornering. This design provides an enhanced ride -- due to the minimal camber change during cornering, softer bushings, springs and shocks are used and suspension friction is reduced.

The Multi-Link Beam's compact design combined with Maxima's long 106.3-inch wheelbase accommodates a large and luxurious interior. Other benefits of Maxima's thoughtful design include a spacious, easily accessible trunk and exceptional driver and passenger visibility.

Maxima's independent front suspension uses MacPherson struts with coil springs and a 21.0 mm stabilizer bar to provide optimum control in a variety driving conditions.

Safety Features

The 1997 Maxima features an extensive list of standard safety equipment, including dual air bags, 3-point front seat belts with height-adjustable front shoulder belts and 3-point ALR/ELR front-passenger side and rear outboard passenger seat belt system.

Front and rear crumple zones, an energy-absorbing steering column, child safety rear door locks and pipe-style steel side-door guard beams that help Maxima meet 1997 Federal Side-Impact Safety Standards, provide further occupant protection.

For added driver confidence and control, Maxima is equipped with standard power-assisted 4-wheel disc brakes. An optional anti-lock braking system (ABS) is available on all three trim levels.

Standard Equipment/Optional Features and Packages

All three 1997 Maxima models come equipped with an unexpected level of standard equipment including: a multi-adjustable reclining front bucket driver's seat; power windows with driver-side one-touch auto-down feature; power door locks with selective unlocking; dual power remote-controlled outside mirrors; digital clock; and CFC-free air conditioning.

Other standard equipment includes a tilt steering column, cruise control, updated, larger cup holders, AM/FM/cassette stereo and center console with armrest.

The affordable GXE model offers standard luxury velour seat cloth, large center console area with storage for CDs and cassettes, available fold-down rear center armrest and 205/65R15 S-rated all-season tires.

For drivers seeking an extra level of style and performance, Maxima SE boasts a sport-tuned suspension with firmer shocks and struts, electronically controlled liquid-filled front engine mount (on automatic transmission models only), new 16-inch aluminum-alloy wheels and H-rated all-season tires, a body-color rear decklid spoiler, new integrated fog lights, body-color door handles, blackout window moldings, sport velour seat cloth, new leather-wrapped steering wheel and gear shift knob, and black-on-white analog gauges with red pointers for increased visibility and a sporty appearance.

The luxurious Maxima GLE comes equipped with standard leather seating surfaces,

wood-grain trim, new aluminum-alloy wheels, 8-way power driver- and 4-way power front-passenger seats, automatic climate control, a remote keyless entry and vehicle security system and a Bose® six speaker AM/FM stereo with CD player.

A number of options and packages are available on Maxima in 1997, including a power sliding glass sunroof with tilt feature and sunshade, vehicle security system, Cold Weather Package, Security and Convenience Package (GXE and SE), and Leather Trim Package (SE).

Maxima is available in four new exterior colors for 1997, Neptune Blue, Sage Mist Green, Concord Mist and Rosewood. Other Maxima colors include Pebble Beige Metallic, Deep Evergreen, Super Black and Arctic White Pearl. The exterior colors are available with complementary interior colors -- an updated Beige, Charcoal and Sereno cloth. New for 1997 is Sereno leather-appointed interior (available on GLE and SE models), in addition to Beige and Charcoal.

Specifications

1997 Nissan Maxima Specifications & Features

ENGINE	Type	VQ30DE DOHC 24-valve V6, aluminum-alloy block and heads	
	Displacement	3.0-liter/2,988 cc	
	Horsepower (SAE net)	190 hp @ 5,600 rpm	
	Torque (SAE net)	205 ft-lbs @ 4,000 rpm	
	Bore & Stroke (in.)	93.0 mm x 73.3 mm (3.66 in. x 2.89 in.)	
	Compression Ratio	10.0:1	
	Induction System	Electronic sequential multi-point fuel injection system	
	Valvetrain	DOHC 4-valve-per-cylinder, mechanical lifters	
	Recommended Fuel	Premium unleaded	
	Emissions System	Closed loop control, EGR, 3-way catalytic converter	
	Maximum Engine Speed	6,550 rpm	
DRIVETRAIN	Drive Configuration	Front engine/front-wheel drive	
	Transmission Type	Electronically controlled 4-speed automatic (GXE/GLE/SE) or 5-speed manual (GXE/SE)	
	Gear Ratios (:1)	4-spd. manual	5-spd. manual
	1st	2.785	3.285
	2nd	1.545	1.850
	3rd	1.000	1.272

	4th	0.694	0.954
	5th	--	0.795
	reverse	2.272	3.428
	Final Drive Ratio (:1)	3.619	3.823
	Differential	Conventional	
BODY/ CHASSIS/ SUSPENSION	Body	All-steel unibody with DURASTEEL®	
	Front Suspension	Independent MacPherson struts, coil springs and 21.0 mm stabilizer bar	
	Rear Suspension	Rear Multi-Link Beam™ suspension with 31.8 mm stabilizer bar	
STEERING & BRAKING	Steering Type	Vehicle-speed-sensitive power assisted rack-and-pinion steering	
	Steering Ratio	16.7:1	
	Turning Circle (curb-to-curb)	34.8 ft	
	Turns (lock-to-lock)	2.9	
	Braking System	Power-assisted 11.02-inch vented discs	
	Front:	Power-assisted 10.94-inch solid discs	
	Rear:	Optional 4-channel/4-sensor anti-lock braking system (ABS)	
ELECTRICAL	Ignition System	Nissan Direct Ignition System (NDIS)	
	Alternator	110 amp	
	Battery	Low-maintenance 12-volt, 55 Ah	
WHEELS & TIRES	Wheel Types		
	GLE/SE	Aluminum-alloy wheels	
	GXE	Steel w/ full wheel cover	
	Wheel Size/Offset		
	GXE	6.0JJ X 15/40 mm	
	SE	6.5JJ X 15/45 mm	
	GLE	6.5JJ X 15/45 mm	
	Tire Type		
	GXE/GLE	S-rated all-season radial	
	SE	H-rated all-season radial	
	Tire Size		
	GXE	P205/65R15	
	SE	P215/55R16	

	GLE P215/60R15		
EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS	Wheelbase (in.)	106.3	
	Overall Length (in.)	187.7	
	Overall Width (in.)	69.7	
	Overall Height (in.)	55.7	
	Tread Width (in.)		
	GXE (front/rear)	60.2/59.4	
	GLE/SE	59.8/59.1	
	Min. Ground Clearance (in.)	6.1	
	Coefficient of Drag (Cd)	0.32	
	Trunk Lifter Height (in.)	25.1 (GXE) 25.0 (GLE/SE)	
INTERIOR DIMENSIONS		Front Seat	Rear Seat
	Head Room (in.)	40.1	37.4
	Shoulder Room (in.)	56.8	56.2
	Hip Room (in.)	54.3	55.9
	Leg Room (in.)	43.9	34.3
WEIGHTS & CAPACITIES	Seating Capacity	5	
	Passenger Comp. Vol. (cu. ft.)	99.6	
	Cargo Volume (cu. ft.)	14.5	
	Fuel Tank Capacity (gal.)	18.5	
	Engine Coolant (qts.) w/ res.	8.125 w/ reservoir	
	Oil (qts.) w/ filter	8.625 w/ filter	
	Maximum Towing Capacity (lbs.)	1,000	
	Curb Weight (lbs.)		
	M/T	GXE 3,001	SE 3,010
	A/T	GXE 3,063	SE 3,072 GLE 3,097
	Weight Distribution (F/R %)		
	M/T	GXE 63/37	SE 62/38
	A/T	SE 62/38	SE 63/37 GLE 63/37
FUEL ECONOMY*	Highway/City - 5 sp. manual (mpg)	27/22	
	Highway/City - 4 sp.	28/21	

	automatic (mpg)	
	EPA Classification	Mid-size
PERFORMANCE	Acceleration 0-60 mph	7.5 seconds
	Maximum Speed	
	M/T	112 mph
	A/T	112 mph

* EPA estimate for comparison only; actual mileage may vary

Features and Options			
	GXE	SE	GLE
MECHANICAL			
DOHC 24-valve V6 engine	S	S	S
Sequential multi-point fuel injection system	S	S	S
Electronically controlled, liquid-filled front engine mount	S	S	S
Nissan Direct Ignition System (NDIS)	S	S	S
5-speed manual transmission	S	S	
Electronically controlled 4-speed automatic overdrive transmission	O	O	S
Power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering	S	S	S
Independent strut front suspension	S	S	S
Rear Multi-Link Beam [®] suspension	S	S	S
Front and rear stabilizer bars	S	S	S
Power-assisted 4-wheel disc brakes (front vented)	S	S	S
Sport-tuned suspension		S	
EXTERIOR			
15-inch aluminum-alloy wheels with bright finish	A	S	S
Steel wheels with full covers	S		
Flush-mounted multi-parabola halogen headlights	S	S	S
Halogen fog lights	A	S	A
5-mph front and rear bumper systems	S	S	S
Semi-concealed windshield wipers	S	S	S
Green-tinted glass with dark-tintupper windshield band	S	S	S
Dual power remote-controlled outside mirrors with passenger-side convex mirror	S	S	S
Body-color body side moldings	S	S	S
Body-color rear decklid spoiler	A	S	A
Single chrome-tipped exhaust finisher	PKG	S	S
Electric rear window defroster	S		

Chrome radiator grille	S		S
Body-color radiator grille		S	
INTERIOR/SEATING AND TRIM			
Front bucket seats	S	S	S
Multi-adjustable driver's seat cushion tilt, seatback recline, 2-way lumbar support and fore/aft adjustment	S	S	S
8-way power-adjustable front driver's seat	PKG	PKG	S
4-way power-adjustable front passenger's seat		PKG	S
Rear-seat fold-down center armrest w/ trunk pass-through (except GXE M/T)	S	S	S
Leather seating surface		PKG	S
Leather-wrapped steering wheel and gear shift knob		S	S
Large front-door map pockets	S	S	S
Simulated wood trim			S
Cut-pile carpeting	S	S	S
COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE			
CFC-free air conditioning	S	S	S
Power windows with driver-side one-touch auto-down feature	S	S	S
Power door locks	S	S	S
Illuminated power window and door lock switches	S	S	S
Cruise control with steering wheel-mounted controls	S	S	S
Tilt steering column	S	S	S
2-speed fixed intermittent windshield wipers	S	S	
2-speed variable intermittent windshield wipers	PKG	PKG	S
Automatic temperature control		PKG	S
Dual illuminated visor vanity mirrors	PKG	PKG	S
Electric rear window defroster with timer	S	S	S
Side window demisters	S	S	S
Cup holders (2 standard size and one for larger cups)	S	S	S
Remote keyless entry and vehicle security system	PKG	PKG	S
Remote trunk, fuel-filler door and hood release	S	S	S
Center console with large storage area and armrest	S	S	S
Locking glove compartment	S	S	S
Driver-side rear coat hook	S	S	S
Illuminated entry/exit fade-out system	S	S	S
Overhead map light	S	S	S
Integrated HOMELINK® Transmitter		PKG	S

INSTRUMENTATION			
Black-on-white analog gauges with reverse-to-electroluminescent lighting		S	
Tachometer, coolant temperature sensor, fuel level gauge, low fuel warning light, trip odometer, digital clock	S	S	S
AUDIO SYSTEMS			
Electronically tuned AM / FM / cassette stereo w/ auto-reverse, Dolby Noise Reduction with 4 speakers	S		
Premium electronically tuned audio system w/ AM / FM / cassette / CD player with 6-speakers (100 watts) (Requires GXE Security and Convenience Package)	O	S	
Bose audio system w/ AM / FM / cassette / CD player with 6-speakers (200 watts)		O	S
Automatic power diversity antenna system	S	S	S
SAFETY AND SECURITY			
Dual air bags (SRS)	S	S	S
3-point manual front seat belts with height-adjustable front shoulder belts (passenger side ALR/ELR)	S	S	S
3-point manual rear seatbelts in the outboard positions (ALR/ELR)	S	S	S
Child safety rear door locks	S	S	S
Energy-absorbing steering column	S	S	S
Steel side-door guard beams (meets 1997 Federal Side-Impact Standards)	S	S	S
Front and rear body structure crumple zones	S	S	S
Remote keyless entry and vehicle security system	O	O	S
FACTORY OPTIONS AND PACKAGES			
Power sliding glass sunroof with rear tilt feature and sliding sunshade	O	O	O
Automatic transmission	O	O	S
Anti-lock braking system (ABS)	O	O	O
SE Leather Trim Package - includes leather seating surfaces, 4-way power passenger seat, automatic temperature control and passenger-side seatback pocket		O	
Cold Weather Package - includes heated front seats, heated outside mirrors, heavy duty battery, low windshield washer fluid warning light	O	O	O

GXE Security and Convenience Package - includes 8-way power driver's seat, remote keyless entry and vehicle security system, electric remote trunk release, illuminated visor vanity mirrors, variable intermittent wipers, tailpipe finisher and H-rated tires	O		
SE Security and Convenience Package - includes 8-way power driver's seat, remote keyless entry and vehicle security system, electric remote trunk release, Integrated HOMELINK® Transmitter, illuminated visor vanity mirrors, variable intermittent wipers		O	

DEALER-INSTALLED ACCESSORIES

Rear spoiler kit, aluminum-alloy wheels, splash guards, CD player, nose mask, floor mats, convenience net, trunk mounted 6-disc CD autochanger, in-dash 3-disc CD autochanger, sunroof, wind deflector, battery warmer, car cover / cable lock, cassette deck cleaner, engine block heater, wheel locks, wood trim kit, ski bag, trunk mat, cigarette lighter, gold badging, in-dash cellular telephone, fog lights

NOTE: All GXE options require automatic transmission

S	Standard Equipment
O	Optional Equipment
A	Accessory