

1998 Nissan Altima



To say that the new 1998 Nissan Altima takes up where the original leaves off could be described as understatement. With its long list of standard equipment and features, the new design supports the nameplate's established "affordable luxury" positioning in a way that is bound to get noticed – which in itself is not an easy task when competing in the largest and most competitive segment of the car market.

With a sales target (once production reaches full capacity) of 170,000 units per year – more annual sales than any year since introduction -- the 1998 Altima has been carefully and aggressively equipped to reach a broad range of consumers through the availability of four distinct models, XE, GXE, SE and GLE.

One key source of sales for the new Altima is the current owner base of more than 670,000 first-generation Altima drivers. The new car, with its enhanced roominess and performance, allows this strong foundation of satisfied customers to remain in the Altima family while enjoying the experience of driving a significantly refined vehicle

As with the original, the new Altima also anchors Nissan's "three sedan" strategy – providing an attainable move-up for Sentra buyers seeking more room and power, while offering an excellent alternative to the flagship Maxima for buyers who may not need all the room and power of the larger car.

"Nissan's strategy of offering two distinctive vehicles, each designed specifically for their respective four-cylinder and V6 powerplants, has been very successful for us," said Tom Eastwood, vice president, Nissan Motor Corporation U.S.A. "It not only works from a performance perspective, where you're neither underpowered or underbodied, it allows a much better choice of models. You can buy the top-of-the-line four-cylinder Altima and have the best combination of value and equipment. The top four-cylinder versions of some of our competitors still leave you in the middle of their model ranges."

Competitive vehicles will also continue to be a strong source of sales for the 1998 Altima, both at the high end of the class where Altima offers a better package of luxury amenities, and at the lower end where the original Altima has been traditionally broadly cross-shopped.

"All indications from early consumer clinics are that the new Altima will have a tremendous impact on the category – offering the quality, style and performance once again of more expensive luxury cars at a very affordable price," said Eastwood. "And with the choice of four terrific models, it looks like advantage Altima."

Standard Equipment

The new Altima, due to arrive in Nissan showrooms this July, includes -- as standard -- an array of features and equipment starting with a powerful 2.4-liter DOHC 16-valve four-cylinder engine producing 150 horsepower and a strong 154 ft-lbs of torque, front-wheel drive and rigid unibody construction with dent-resistant bake-hard steel panels. Front and rear subframe-mounted independent MacPherson struts and Rear Super Toe Control suspension, power rack-and-pinion steering and power-assisted brakes offer an

exceptional combination of responsive handling and control, and a quiet, comfortable ride.

Standard exterior features include flush-mounted “multi-parabola” halogen headlights, body-color energy-absorbing bumpers, body-color door handles and tinted glass. Inside, the Altima interior offers contoured reclining front bucket seats, adjustable front shoulder belt anchors, Generation II dual front air bags, full cut-pile carpeting, center console storage, dual cup holders, coin holder and front door map pockets.

Standard comfort and convenience features include many items often available only as optional or on upgraded trim levels – such as power windows, electric rear window defroster, two-speed fixed intermittent wipers and tachometer.

Altima XE

The value-oriented Altima XE model comes with a choice of standard 5-speed manual transmission or optional electronically controlled 4-speed automatic overdrive.

Other standard equipment includes black power exterior rearview mirrors, body-color front grille bar, 15-inch full wheel covers and P195/65R15 tires, velour seat cloth and an in-dash storage tray.

Optional equipment on the XE model includes CFC-free air conditioning, cruise control and AM/FM/stereo cassette (all part of the XE Option Package) and Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS).

Altima GXE

For 1998, Altima GXE builds on the XE’s standard equipment and adds items such as body-colored power exterior rearview mirrors, chrome front grille bar, upgraded velour seat cloth and door trim, wood grain trim, a 60/40 split fold-down rear seat CFC-free air conditioning, power door locks, cruise control, four-speaker AM/FM audio system with compact disc player and Smart Dome Lamp with illuminated entry and exit system.

Optional equipment offered on the GXE includes an automatic transmission, ABS and power sliding glass sunroof with rear tilt feature. Also available is the GXE security/convenience package with a remote keyless entry system and vehicle security system and a 100-watt AM/FM/Cassette/CD 6-speaker audio system.

Altima GLE

For buyers seeking the highest level of Altima luxury, the GLE model adds such features as leather seating surfaces with 8-way power driver’s seat, leather-wrapped steering wheel, a standard electronically controlled 4-speed automatic overdrive transmission (manual transmission is not available on the GLE), variable intermittent wipers, 100-watt AM/FM/Cassette/CD 6-speaker audio system, remote keyless entry and vehicle security system.

Optionally available equipment includes ABS, 15-inch aluminum-alloy wheels and the power sliding glass sunroof with rear tilt feature.

Altima SE

For affordable luxury with a sportier attitude, the Altima SE adds a sport-tuned suspension with firmer shocks and springs, power-assisted 4-wheel disc brakes, 15-inch

aluminum-alloy wheels with larger P205/60R15 tires, fog lights, body-color front grille bar and rear deck lid spoiler and chrome exhaust finisher.

Other special SE equipment includes sport velour seat cloth and door trim, leather-wrapped steering wheel and manual transmission shift knob, 100-watt AM/FM/cassette/CD 6-speaker audio system with compact disc and cassette tape players and special white-faced electroluminescent gauges which appear as black type on a white field by day and reverse to white-on-black at night.

Optional equipment offered on the Altima SE includes ABS, power sliding glass sunroof with rear tilt feature, leather seat trim with power driver's seat and automatic transmission.

Colors and Manufacturing

The 1998 Altima is offered in a choice of nine exterior colors: Cloud White, Champagne, Graphite Pearl, Brushed Pewter, Golden Olive, Nutmeg, Black Cherry, Blue Emerald and Super Black. Every Altima undergoes a special 43-step paint process – including a three-stage electrocoating/six rinse cleansing/sealing procedure to help contribute the car's lustrous, long-lasting finish.

The Altima interior is available in three colors: Dusk, Blonde and Olive cloth or optional leather-trimmed seating.

As with the first generation, all 1998 Altima models sold in North America are manufactured at Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corporation in Smyrna, Tenn. using the advanced Intelligent Body Assembly System (IBAS) – one of the most advanced manufacturing processes in the industry. IBAS, used in the manufacture of the Infiniti Q45 sedan, keeps the vehicle stationary while all the main panels are welded into place, helping maintain precise seam tolerances of 1.0 millimeter. The Altima also utilizes dent-resistant bake-hard steel panels in key body areas.

Specifications

1998 Altima Specifications & Features

ENGINE	Type	KA24DE DOHC 16-valve 4-cylinder engine, cast iron block, aluminum head
	Displacement	2.4-liter/2,389cc
	Horsepower (SAE net)	150 hp @ 5,600 rpm
	Torque (SAE net)	154 ft-lbs @ 4,400 rpm
	Bore & Stroke (in.)	3.50 x 3.78/89 X 96
	Compression Ratio	9.2:1
	Induction System	Sequential multi-point fuel injection system
	Valvetrain	DOHC 4-valves-per-cylinder, direct acting
	Recommended Fuel	Regular unleaded

	Emissions System	Feedback fuel system, catalytic converter		
	Maximum Engine Speed	6,100 rpm		
DRIVETRAIN	Drive Configuration	Front engine, transverse mounted/front-wheel drive		
	Transmission Type (overdrive)	Electronically controlled 4-speed automatic (GLE) or 5-speed manual transmission (XE, GXE and SE)		
	Gear Ratios (:1)	4-speed automatic	5-speed manual	
	1st	2.785	3.285	
	2nd	1.545	1.850	
	3rd	1.000	1.206	
	4th	0.694	0.954	
	5th	--	0.740	
	reverse	2.272	3.428	
	Final Drive Ratio (:1)	3.619	3.650	
	Differential	Conventional		
BODY/ CHASSIS/ SUSPENSION	Body Type	All-steel unibody with DURASTEEL®, high tensile steel and Bake-Hard steel		
	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 & BRAKING	Steering Type	Power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering		
	Steering Ratio	17.0:1		
	Turning Circle (curb-to-curb)	37.4 ft.		
	Turns (lock-to-lock)	2.7		
	Braking System			
	Front:	Power-assisted 11.02-inch vented discs with audible break-wear warning sensor		
	Rear:	Power-assisted 9.0-inch drums (XE/GXE/GLE), 10.16-inch disc SE		
		Optional 4-channel/4-sensor ABS anti-lock braking system (ABS)		

ELECTRICAL	Ignition System	Electronic			
	Alternator	100 amp			
	Battery	Low-maintenance 12-volt			
WHEELS & TIRES	Wheel Type XE/GXE/GLE/SE	Styled steel with cover Cast aluminum-alloy wheels			
	Wheel Size/Offset	6.0JJ x 15 mm			
	Tire Type	All-season steel-belted radial			
	Tire Size XE/GXE/GLE/SE	195/65R15 H-rated P205/60R15			
EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS	Wheelbase (in.)	103.1			
	Overall Length (in.)	183.1			
	Overall Width (in.)	69.1			
	Overall Height (in.)	55.9			
	Tread Width (front/rear) (in.)	59.3 / 58.9			
	Trunk Lifter Height (in.)	29.2			
	Min. Ground Clearance (in.)	4.1			
	Coefficient of Drag (Cd)	0.32			
INTERIOR DIMENSIONS		Front Seat		Rear Seat	
	Head Room (in.)	39.4		37.7	
	Shoulder Room (in.)	55.7		54.8	
	Hip Room (in.)	52.5		52.6	
	Leg Room (in.)	42.0		33.9	
WEIGHTS & CAPACITIES	Seating Capacity	5			
	Passenger Comp.Vol. (cu. ft.)	94.0			
	Cargo Volume (cu. ft.)	13.8			
	Fuel Tank (gal.)	15.9			
	Engine Coolant (qts.) w/reservoir	7.0			
	Oil (qts.) w/filter	4.2			
	Maximum Towing Capacity (lbs.)	1,000			
	Curb Weight (lbs.)	XE	GXE	SE	GLE
	5-Speed manual	2,859	2,919	2,921	n/a
	4-Speed automatic	2,928	2,989	2,992	3,012

	Weight Dist. 5-sp. man. (F/R%)	61/39	62/38	62/38	n/a
	Weight Dist. 4-sp. auto.(F/R%)	62/38	62/38	62/38	62/38
FUEL ECONOMY*	Highway/City - 5 sp. man.(mpg)	31/24*			
	Highway/City - 4 sp. auto. (mpg)	30/22*			
	EPA Classification	Compact			
PERFORMANCE	Acceleration 0-60 mph	8.9** sec. (XE 5-speed) 9.9** sec. (GXE 4-speed auto.)			
	Maximum Speed				
	M/T	112 mph (speed limited by governor)			
	A/T	112 mph (speed limited by governor)			

* EPA estimate for comparison only; actual mileage may vary

** Internal Nissan figures

Features

	XE	GXE	SE	GLE
MECHANICAL				
2.4-liter DOHC 16-valve 4-cylinder engine	S	S	S	S
Sequential multi-point fuel injection system	S	S	S	S
5-speed manual overdrive transmission	S	S	S	
Electronically controlled 4-speed automatic overdrive transmission	O	O	O	S
Power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering	S	S	S	S
4-wheel independent multi-link suspension	S	S	S	S
Super Toe Control™ rear suspension	S	S	S	S
Power-assisted 4-wheel brakes, front disc, rear drum (rear disc on SE)	S	S	S	S
Front- and rear stabilizer bars	S	S	S	S
EXTERIOR				
Full aerodynamic wheel covers	S	S		S
Aluminum-alloy wheels	A	A	S	O
Flush-mounted multi-parabola halogen headlights	S	S	S	S
Halogen fog lights			S	

Energy absorbing body-color front- and rear bumpers	S	S	S	S
Semi-concealed windshield wipers	S	S	S	S
Green-tinted glass with dark-tint upper windshield band	S	S	S	S
Dual power remote-controlled outside mirrors with passenger-side convex mirror (body-color on GXE, SE,GLE)	S	S	S	S
Body color rear spoiler	A	A	S	A
INTERIOR/SEATING AND TRIM				
Contoured 4-way adjustable front bucket seats with adjustable head restraints	S	S	S	
8-way power adjustable front seats (on SE with leather seat option only) with driver's lumbar support adjustment			O	S
Adjustable lumbar support (on SE with leather seat option only)			O	S
60/40 split fold-down seat		S	S	S
Rear seat center armrest with trunk pass-through			S	O
Cloth seat trim	S	S	S	
Leather seating surfaces			O	S
Leather-wrapped steering wheel and gear shift knob (manual trans. only)			S	S
Dual front door map pockets	S	S	S	S
Full cut-pile carpeting	S	S	S	S
Wood-grain trim		S	S	S
COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE				
CFC-free air conditioning	PKG	S	S	S
Power windows with driver-side one-touch auto-down feature	S	S	S	S
Power door locks		S	S	S
Illuminated entry/exit system		S	S	S
Cruise control with steering wheel-mounted controls	PKG	S	S	S
Tilt steering column	S	S	S	S
2-speed fixed intermittent windshield wipers	S	S	S	
Variable intermittent windshield wipers				S
Electric rear window defroster with timer	S	S	S	S
Side-window demister	S	S	S	S
Dual cup holders	S	S	S	S
Remote keyless entry and vehicle security system		PKG	S	S
Remote trunk, fuel filler door and hood releases	S	S	S	S
Large center console box with tissue storage, CD (9),				

cassette (12) storage and credit card case with armrest style console lid	S	S	S	S
Locking glove compartment		S	S	
Dual visor vanity mirrors (passenger's-side only on XE)		S	S	
Dual illuminated visor vanity mirrors				S
Interior courtesy lights- overhead, trunk and glove compartment	S	S	S	S
Power windows with auto driver's side down feature and illuminated driver's switch	S	S	S	S
INSTRUMENTATION				
Tachometer	S	S	S	S
Trip odometer	S	S	S	S
Speedometer	S	S	S	S
Coolant temperature gauge	S	S	S	S
Fuel level gauge, low fuel warning light and door ajar warning light	S	S	S	S
Digital clock (in audio display)	S	S	S	S
White faced analog-style gauges with black numeration, reverse to white on black with reverse to-electroluminiscent lightng			S	
AUDIO SYSTEMS				
Electronically tuned 60-watt AM/FM cassette/CD 4-speaker audio system w/auto-reverse cassette, Dolby® Noise Reduction, automatic metal tape capability, automatic, clock display	PKG	O		
Electronically tuned 60-watt AM/FM/ cassette/CD 4-speaker audio system w/compact disc, Dolby® noise reduction, automatic metal tape capability, automatic program, clock display		S		
Electronically tuned 100-watt AM/FM/ cassette/CD 6-speaker audio system w/compact disc, Dolby® noise reduction, automatic metal tape capability, automatic program, clock display		PKG	S	S
Automatic power antenna with diversity antenna system		PKG	S	S
SAFETY AND SECURITY				
Dual air bags (SRS)	S	S	S	S
Remote keyless entry and vehicle security system		PKG	S	S
Steel side-door guard beams	S	S	S	S
Front and rear crumple zones	S	S	S	S
3-point ALR/ELRfront and rear outboard seat bealt system with height-adjustable outboard lap and shoulder belts and rear center lap belt	S	S	S	S

Child seat anchors (3 in rear seat)	S	S	S	S
Child safety rear door locks	S	S	S	S
Energy-absorbing steering column	S	S	S	S
FACTORY OPTIONS AND PACKAGES				
Anti-lock braking system (ABS) (requires XE option package on XE)	O	O	O	O
Power sliding glass sunroof with rear tilt feature and sunshade, overhead console with map lights and garage door opener box (requires security 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	S
XE Option Package - includes 60-watt AM/FM/ cassette audio system, CFC-free air conditioning and cruise control	O			
GXE Security and Convenience Package-includes remote keyless entry and vehicle security system, 100-watt Am/FM Cassette/CD 6-speaker audio system		O		
Electronically controlled 4-speed automatic overdrive transmission	O	O	O	S
Aluminum alloy wheels	A	A	S	O
DEALER-INSTALLED ACCESSORIES				
Rear spoiler kit, 15-inch aluminum-alloy wheels, splash guards, nose mask, floor mats, convenience net, 10-disc CD auto changer (trunk-mounted), sunroof wind deflector, battery warmer, car cover/cable lock, engine heater, wheel locks, trunk mat, cigarette lighter, gold badging fog lights				

NOTE: All GXE options require automatic transmission

S Standard Equipment

O Optional Equipment

A Accessory

PKG Optional Package