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nissan altima consumer reports

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Introduction

When you're in the market for a midsize sedan, the Nissan Altima often tops the list of contenders. Its blend of comfort, technology, and competitive pricing has earned it a loyal following over the past decade. However, before you set foot on a dealership lot, you'll want to know how the Altima performs in the real world—beyond glossy brochures and sales pitches. **Nissan Altima consumer reports**provide a data driven snapshot of everything from reliability and safety to ownership costs and customer satisfaction.

In this comprehensive guide, we dive deep into the most recent consumer reports on the Altima, breaking down the key findings, comparing it to its rivals, and offering practical tips for turning those insights into a winning buying strategy. Whether you're a first time buyer, a seasoned driver, or simply curious about the Altima's reputation, this article will give you the facts you need to make an informed decision.

What Are Nissan Altima Consumer Reports?

Sources and Credibility

Consumer reports on the Nissan Altima come from a mix of reputable organizations: **Consumer Reports** magazine, the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)**, the **Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)**, and independent industry analysts. These sources gather data through:

- Vehicle inspections and crash tests
- Owner surveys and maintenance records
- Warranty claim statistics
- Fuel economy measurements

Because they use standardized testing protocols and large sample sizes, these reports are widely regarded as unbiased benchmarks for comparing cars.

Key Metrics Covered

When you read a Nissan Altima consumer report, you'll typically encounter the following categories:

1. Reliability – How often owners report problems and how costly those repairs are.
2. Safety – Crash test scores and advanced driver assist features.
3. Ownership Costs – Fuel, maintenance, insurance, and depreciation.
4. Performance – Acceleration, handling, and ride comfort.
5. Interior & Technology – Cabin quality, infotainment, and connectivity.
6. Value – Price versus features, resale potential.

2023 Nissan Altima: A Quick Snapshot

Trim Levels & Features

The 2023 Altima is available in three primary trims: **S, SR, and SL**. Each trim builds on the previous one with added amenities:

- S – 2.5 liter engine, 17 inch alloy wheels, 8 inch touchscreen.
- SR – Adds 18 inch wheels, blind spot monitoring, and a 360° camera.
- SL – Premium leather seats, heated seats, dual zone climate control, and a larger 10.25 inch display.

All trims share a 2.5 liter, four cylinder engine that produces 188 horsepower, paired with either a 6 speed manual or a continuously variable transmission (CVT). For those seeking more power, a 2.0 liter turbocharged engine is optional on select models.

Performance & Fuel Economy

According to the **EPA**, the 2.5 liter engine delivers:

- City: 28 mpg
- Highway: 38 mpg
- Combined: 32 mpg

The turbocharged variant improves horsepower to 250 and offers a sportier feel, though fuel economy drops to 26 city / 35 highway. In real world tests, the Altima's handling is described as "balanced," with a smooth ride that absorbs most road imperfections.

Reliability Insights from Consumer Reports

Overall Reliability Rating

Recent **Nissan Altima consumer reports**place the 2023 model in the "average" reliability bracket. This rating reflects a moderate frequency of reported issues, slightly above the industry average but below the top performers like the Honda Civic or Toyota Corolla.

Common Issues & Repair Frequency

Owners most frequently report problems in the following areas:

- Electrical glitches in the infotainment system.
- Transmission fluid leaks, especially on the CVT models.
- Brake pad wear occurring earlier than expected.
- Suspension components (struts and shocks) showing premature wear.

These issues tend to surface within the first 40,000 miles, with most owners reporting them after 1–2 years of ownership.

Warranty & Maintenance

Nissan offers a generous warranty package:

- 3 year/36,000 mile basic coverage.
- 5 year/60,000 mile powertrain coverage.
- 3 year/36,000 mile corrosion coverage.

Routine maintenance—oil changes, tire rotations, and brake inspections—typically costs around $400 per year. The Altima's overall maintenance budget is modest compared to many competitors, thanks to its reliable engine and straightforward design.

Safety and Crash Test Scores

NHTSA Ratings

The 2023 Altima received a 5 star overall safety rating from the **NHTSA**:

- Frontal crash: 5 stars
- Side crash: 5 stars
- Roof strength: 5 stars

These high scores reflect robust structural integrity and effective restraint systems.

IIHS Ratings

In IIHS testing, the Altima earned:

- Good in moderate overlap front, moderate overlap side, roof strength, head on, and side air impact tests.
- Excellent in small overlap front test.

While the vehicle excels in most categories, the side air impact rating was “Acceptable,” suggesting that the side curtain airbags may not fully mitigate injury risk in severe side collisions.

Technology & Interior Comfort

Infotainment & Connectivity

The Altima’s standard 8 inch touchscreen is intuitive and supports Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and Bluetooth streaming. The 10.25 inch display in the SL trim offers a richer visual experience, with higher resolution and faster response times.

Drivers can also take advantage of a built in voice assistant, navigation, and a 12 speaker Bose audio system on higher trims. However, some reviewers note that the interface can be slow to respond, especially during heavy traffic or when switching between apps.

Comfort & Ride Quality

Seat upholstery is described as “soft but supportive,” with the SL trim’s leather seats adding a touch of luxury. The cabin is well insulated, keeping road noise and wind at bay even at highway speeds. The suspension setup provides a comfortable ride, though aggressive cornering can reveal a slight bumpiness.

For long trips, the rear seats offer ample legroom, and the cargo area expands to 15.4 cubic feet with the rear seats folded—adequate for a family or a weekend getaway.

Ownership Experience

Cost of Ownership

Using data from the **Consumer Reports** cost of ownership calculator, the 2023 Altima’s projected 5 year cost is approximately $12,500. This figure includes:

- Depreciation: 35%
- Fuel: $3,200
- Maintenance & Repairs: $2,500
- Insurance: $1,200

Compared to the Honda Accord ($13,200) and Toyota Camry ($12,800), the Altima’s cost curve is competitive, especially when factoring in its lower base price.

Resale Value

Resale projections show the Altima retains roughly 50% of its purchase price after five years. This figure is on par with the industry average for midsize sedans, indicating that the vehicle's depreciation curve is predictable and manageable.

Competitor Comparison

Honda Accord

The Accord offers a more powerful engine lineup, including a 2.0 liter turbo and a 3.5 liter V6. While it scores slightly higher in **performance** and **luxury features**, its price point is higher—starting at $25,000 versus $23,000 for the Altima.

Toyota Camry

The Camry's hybrid option is a strong draw for eco conscious buyers. However, the Altima's standard engine delivers similar fuel economy, and the Altima's interior technology is more modern.

Hyundai Sonata

The Sonata offers an impressive warranty and a sleek design. Yet, the Altima's safety ratings are marginally better, and its infotainment system is more user friendly.

How to Use Nissan Altima Consumer Reports for Your Decision

Test Drive Tips

1. Check the engine sound: Listen for any ticking or knocking, especially after a warm up.
2. Test the infotainment: Try all features—Apple CarPlay, navigation, voice commands—to gauge responsiveness.
3. Evaluate the suspension: Drive over a variety of road surfaces to feel how the car absorbs bumps.
4. Inspect the interior: Verify that all controls are within easy reach and that seat adjustments are smooth.

Negotiating Price

Use the consumer report data as leverage. Highlight the average reliability rating and the typical maintenance costs to justify a lower price. Mention the vehicle's safety scores to emphasize its value proposition.

Financing & Leasing Options

When considering financing, compare the

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