

Vehicle Handbook

Lada Niva 4x4



v20250318

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Operating the vehicle

Vehicle dimensions

- Height: 1,65m, 2,0m (with roof top tent)
- Width: 1,69 m excl. mirrors
- Length: 3,64 m
- Weight: 1210 kg
- Max. weight: 1610 kg
- Max. water fording depth: 0,21 m
- Tyre pressure: 2.0 bar (normal roads), 1.0 - 1.8 bar (off-road)

Gears

The gearbox on the Lada Niva is pretty simple but old-school. One thing you should know is to **not drive in 5th gear when driving <80 km/h**

When slowing down, try to downshift gradually rather than skipping gears (e.g., don't go from 4th to 1st in one move).

To get in reverse, press the entire gearshift lever down, and then move to R position. It can be a bit tricky at first, so practice while stationary to get used to it.

Fuel System

The Lada Niva has a 42L fuel tank.

The fuel type is Petrol (**Premium 95**). Common names at fuel stations are *Premiumi* or *Benzin*. Do **not** fill up with Diesel! You can use 'regular' (92) fuel when nothing else is available.



The fuel gauge on the dashboard is **not very accurate**, especially if you are on a slope, but gives a general idea of your fuel level.

The fuel consumption is anywhere between 10-20L/100km - depending on the terrain.

If you smell petrol after filling up, it most likely means that the attendant filled completely to the brim. It's best to avoid that.

Doors

The front doors might need a good slam, and push around the handle area to close properly.

To open the **rear trunk**, pull the handle behind the driver's seat. When lifting the hatch, use the handle—do not pull the black bar above the license plate, as this is just a light cover.

 The keys are very **fragile**, so handle them with love and care.

4-wheel drive


The Lada Niva has permanent 4-wheel drive. So you don't have to enable or disable it - it's always on, ready to tackle any terrain

High-low range gears

To overcome steep inclines and declines or drive on sandy, snowy or muddy surfaces, you can switch to low range gears. This will give you a lot more power to get up that hill.

Come to a complete stop and move the **lower** lever to the forward position.

In low gear, you just use the normal gearbox but you will notice that all gears are now much


 Do **NOT operate this lever when in motion**. This may lead to serious damage to the transfer case.

Differential lock

The Niva has a centre differential lock, which forces the front and rear wheels to turn at the



same speed, helping you gain traction in slippery conditions.

 **Never engage the diff lock on asphalt or hard surface roads. Only on mud, sand and gravel. You can't make sharp turns with diff-lock on** Remember to turn off the diff lock when you get out of such terrain. Ignoring this will lead to serious damage.

To engage the diff lock, move the upper (small) lever backwards.

If the diff lock is jammed, reverse the car a bit and try again. You may need several tries. You can engage the diff lock while driving at a **slow** speed, but it is preferential to do it while at a standstill.

Spare tyre and jack

The spare tyre and jack are stored underneath the engine hood. Be sure to visit a mechanic after changing a tyre to firmly attach it and to get the puncture repaired if possible. This usually costs 10-20 GEL.

Air conditioning

The Lada Niva has air conditioning, but of course, being a Lada, it's not exactly straightforward to use. To enable it, switch on the air conditioning button next to the 12V outlet. Also, switch on the fan. To adjust how powerful the AC is, there is a dial next to the steering wheel.





Dashboard legend



1. Head lights - 2. Rear wiper - 3. Ventilation - 4. Rear window heating - 5. Fog light - 6. Seat heating
7. Airconditioning - 8. Window control and mirror adjustment - 9. Diff lock - 10. Low/normal gear
11. Cigarette plug 12V (USB charger)

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Accessories


Gas Stove

Our Nivas are equipped with a dual burner gas stove. It's pretty simple to use, but there are a few points worth mentioning. Screw the hose on the stove and make sure it's attached properly. The regulator should be positioned upwards. Only open the valve on the gas bottle a little bit.

After you're finished using the stove, please make sure you close the valve again.

Sometimes condensation builds up in the regulator, and gas does not flow correctly. In this case, unscrew the regulator and let the water drop out.



 **Refilling Gas:** When you run out, most **older gas stations** (marked LPG/Gas/გაზი) and roadside gas trucks can refill your bottle. Fill a maximum of 10GEL, don't ask for a 'full' tank.

Sometimes condensation builds up in the regulator, and gas does not flow correctly. In this case, unscrew the regulator and let the water drop out.

Fridge

In the back of the car you will find a small compressor fridge. The fridge is able to cool down your food and drinks to low temperatures.

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The fridge has its own battery, which is automatically charged when you're driving. This way, the fridge does not drain the battery of the car. Make sure the fridge is always on 'ECO' mode.

You can set the desired temperature on the front panel, but bear in mind that lower temperatures mean a higher drain on the battery.

USB outlets

There is a USB charger on the vehicle dashboard that you can use to charge your phones, tablets, cameras and other devices. Keep in mind that it will drain the car battery, so try to charge while driving. There is also a USB connector on the fridge.



The art of car maintenance

Before handing over the vehicle, we thoroughly inspect and service it. However, if you're renting long-term, you'll need to perform basic checks.

We advise you to do these checks at least **every week**, after **500** regular kilometres or after **200** kilometres of off-road driving. This is for your own safety and proper maintenance of the car!

Only do these checks when the engine is cold, a good moment is in the morning before you leave.

Check the engine oil level

Open the engine cover/hood and find the oil level stick. Take it out, clean it with a piece of toilet paper and stick it back all the way in. Now take it out again, and check if the oil level is between 0 and 1 (I). If the level is close to or below 0, you need to fill up the oil. Please contact us for details.



Check the coolant level

Locate the radiator reservoir for the coolant. The coolant has a red colour, and you can check the level on the side of the reservoir. The reservoir should be about **half full** or more.

If the level is too low, you need to fill up with antifreeze or *distilled* water. Don't use tap or mountain water! Contact us for details.



Visually check for leaks under the car.

Any liquid spilled on the road, drops hanging under the car?

Visually inspect the tyres

Check if you see nails in the tyre, new damages to the sidewall. Check if the pressure is similar on all tyres.

 While driving, always keep an eye on:

- **Engine temperature**

The temperature gauge should never go much above 90 degrees. On the Niva it typically shows a temperature just above 90.





If it does go higher, stop the car, let the engine cool down and check the coolant level.

- **Warning and 'check engine' lights**
Red lights mean: stop immediately
Orange/yellow lights: something needs to be checked
The 'check engine' light is usually nothing important and may even disappear on its own.
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