

Vehicle Handbook

UAZ Buhanka



v20250318

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Operating the vehicle

Vehicle dimensions

- Height: 2.1m (without roof rack), 2.3m (with roof rack), 2.5m (with roof rack & tent)
- Width: 1,94 m excl. mirrors
- Length: 4,4 m
- Weight: 1890 kg
- Max. weight: 2830 kg
- Max. water fording depth: 0,5 m
- Tyre pressure: 2.2 - 2.4 bar (normal roads), 1.0 - 1.8 bar (off-road)



Gears and clutch



You'll probably need some time to get used to the Buhanka's gearbox. It has its own personality and particular quirks.

First gear can be tricky; sometimes you'll need to apply a little force (but don't overdo it). If it doesn't go in, try shifting to 2nd and back to 1st.

Try to not grind the gearbox, when you hear a grinding noise, directly press the clutch and try again.

When decelerating, try to not skip gears (don't go from 4th to 1st gear), but downshift in order.

Going back from 3rd to 2nd gear can be tricky as well, and causes grinding. You will have to slow down more than you think to get in 2nd gear, so either stay in 3rd or first brake.

General tip is to avoid shifting all too much, forget what you learned about 'green' driving.

Fuel System

The Buhanka has two fuel tanks:

- **Main tank (left):** 50L
- **Secondary tank (right):** 25L

The fuel used by the Buhanka is Benzin/Petrol. Common names at fuel stations are *Regular* or *Benzin*. So **not** Diesel.

Fuel from the right tank automatically pumps into the left tank, so you only need to monitor the main tank's level. Use the gauge switch on the dashboard to check each tank, leave it in the **lower** position to always see the status of the main (left) tank.

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

Pro Tips:


- **Avoid filling the right tank unless you go to very remote areas**—fuel may expand and spill out. Fill a maximum of 15-20 liters on the right.

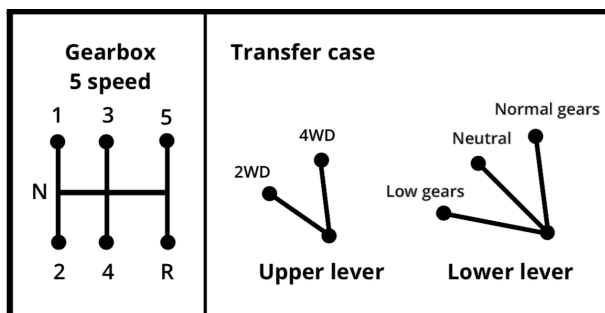


- The fuel warning light might flash on hills or bumps—don't panic, it's just the fuel moving.
- Don't fare blindly on the fuel indicator: it's the most unreliable in human history.

Doors

Forget everything you ever learnt about car doors. These bad boys need some slamming to close properly. Apply pressure around the door handle when closing the door.

 The keys and locks are a bit more fragile though, so handle them with love and care.



4-wheel drive

The Buhanka normally runs in 2WD (rear-wheel drive) but can switch to **4WD** for tougher terrain. You won't need it when you just see a sand road, you can get pretty far in 2WD.


To engage 4WD, follow these steps:

1. Put the normal gearbox in neutral
2. Move the **lower** (long) lever in neutral position (in the middle)

3. Move the **upper** (short) lever in into the right position (enabling 4WD)
4. Move the lower lever back into high or low gear as required
5. Turn the lockers on both front wheels to 4x4

If this doesn't work, it sometimes helps to do step 2 when rolling slightly forward or backward.

To switch back to 2WD, follow the same steps.

 **Never use 4WD on hard surfaces like asphalt. Don't forget to switch back to 2WD. Keeping 4WD enabled increases fuel usage and causes damage to the transmission.**

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.

Low gear mode can only be switched on when you are **also** in 4WD mode.





To engage low gear mode: come to a complete stop and move the **lower** lever to the left position.

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

Spare tyre and jack

The spare tyre is located under the vehicle on the rear. We provide a jack and some tools so you can change a flat tyre yourself. Be sure to visit a mechanic afterwards to firmly attach the tyre and to get the puncture repaired if possible. This usually costs 10-20 GEL.



Dashboard legend



1. Head lights - 2. Fuel indicator (down left tank, up right tank) - 3. Fog light - 4. Ventilation front cabin (hot/cold) - 5. Ventilation rear (only hot!) - 6. Hand brake - 7. Pull up for hot air - 8. Lower lever (low gears/neutral/normal gears) - 9. Upper lever (2WD/4WD) - 10. Hazard lights - 11. Head light adjustment - 12. Wiper fluid reservoir - 13. Fuel level - 14. Engine temperature


Accessories

Gas Stove

The van has a dual-burner gas stove. To use it:

1. Connect the hose using the quick-release connector.
2. Screw the other side onto the gas bottle (left thread)
3. Turn on the gas bottle valve (just a little bit)

When finished, always close the gas valve completely.

 **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.

Battery system


The van is equipped with a dual 12V battery system. This means that there is a starter battery to start the

car, and a secondary battery for all other equipment, LED lights, etc. The starter battery is protected from draining, so you can always start the engine. The secondary battery charges via solar power and while driving.

This means that with regular usage and sunny days, you will likely not run out of electricity.

Monitoring Battery Levels:

- The dashboard voltage meter shows battery status.
- If voltage drops below 12.2V, stop using electronics (including the fridge) to avoid battery damage.
- Turn off all electronics for an accurate battery reading.

 **Pro Tip:** Charge your devices and power banks while driving instead of when parked!

USB / 12V outlets

There are several USB outlets in the vehicle that you can use to charge your phones, tablets, cameras



and other devices. You may need to toggle a switch before the outlet starts working.

If you bring car chargers that work on a 12V 'cigarette' plug, you will find such an outlet on the dashboard as well.

230V outlets

The 230V outlets are for connecting equipment running on 230V such as laptop chargers, small appliances, etc.

Please make sure that you do not exceed the inverter power rating of 300 Watts.


You can check the power usage of a charger or device by looking at the labels. If you connect multiple devices, the sum of all wattages is your total maximum power usage.

The inverter will continue to drain the battery even if no devices are connected, so ensure that you turn it off whenever you finish using it.

Fridge

In the back of the van you will find a 30L compressor fridge drawer. The fridge is able to cool down your food and drinks to low temperatures. You can set the desired temperature on the front panel, but bear in mind that lower temperatures mean a higher drain on the battery.

We recommend a temperature of 6°C. In the hot summer months the fridge might not be able to keep up.

 **Tip:** switch the fridge off if there is nothing in it, or at night to save on your electricity usage





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 (1). 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 (П)

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

On the UAZ you check the coolant level in the



radiator. Open the cap (2) of the radiator itself, and look inside with your (phone) torch. You should be able to see some water above the cooling fins.

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?

For the UAZ, it is normal that it has some drips here and there, but it shouldn't get out of hand!

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 (4 bars at the UAZ)
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.



