

Summary

The article describes a comparison of different iPhone models, highlighting their features and suitability for different users. The article suggests that the iPhone 17 Pro Max is ideal for users prioritizing advanced photography and video capabilities, while the iPhone 16e is a budget-friendly option for those seeking a larger screen and longer battery life.

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Find out which iPhone model is best in our ranked test of all the iPhones Apple sells.

By [Karen Haslam](#) Managing Editor, Macworld SEP 30, 2025 8:14 am PDT Updated



Image: Foundry

Picking out an iPhone used to be easier—just get the newest one with all the storage you can afford. We still recommend buying as much storage as you can afford, but the choice of which iPhone isn't quite so simple.

The *best* iPhone depends on your own personal preferences, so it's not necessarily the case that the number one iPhone is the one you should buy. This group test compares all the iPhones Apple sells, so it will give you a good idea of which iPhone will suit you and your budget, and whether you can save money, or if it would be worth spending more.

For more help choosing the iPhone for you read our [iPhone Buying Guide](#) where we explain how each iPhone is different in terms of price, specs and features, cameras, screens, and durability.

Every iPhone compared

With Apple's introduction of a new set of iPhones at the end of 2025 we have updated our advice about which iPhone is best in our comparison of all the iPhone models sold by Apple.

While the iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max are the flagship iPhones, with the most power and the best features, they aren't necessarily the best iPhone for the majority. We believe that in 2025-2026 the iPhone 17 is a great choice because it offers more storage, better cameras, and many of the features previously available only on the Pro iPhones, such as Always On and Pro Motion.

1. Apple iPhone 17 – Best iPhone for everyone



Pros

- Twice the storage for the same price
- Larger 6.3-inch screen
- Both rear cameras are 48MP
- 30 hour battery life

Cons

- Only pale color choices

Price When Reviewed: From \$799

The iPhone 17 retains a similar design to the iPhone 16, but in closer comparison there is a significant difference: the screen is larger at 6.3 inches compared to the iPhone 16's 6.1-inch display. The iPhone 17's dimensions are also slightly larger than the older model. The new phone is available in Lavender, Mist Blue, Sage, Black and White with an aluminium frame. No bold 'look at me' colors here.

The ProMotion and Always-On screen are now present, as found on the Pro models. It has a peak brightness of 3,000 nits and a minimum brightness of 1 nit allowing for the always-on feature that was previously only available on the Pro models. The new Ceramic Shield 2 on the front is three times more scratch-resistant, claims Apple. It also features an anti-reflective coating.

The 18MP Centre Stage front camera features a new square sensor that enables photos in any orientation without requiring the user to rotate the phone. Both rear cameras are now 48MP. The main camera integrates an optical-quality 2x Telephoto and the new 48MP Fusion Ultra Wide camera (up from 12MP) captures up to four

times the resolution of the previous generation. It also features 0.5, 1x and 2x optical zoom and macro photography capabilities – this means that, unlike the Air, the iPhone 16 can ‘unzoom’ back to 0.5x.

The iPhone 17 features a A19 chip with a 6-core CPU and 5-core GPU alongside the N1, Apple’s Wi-Fi and Bluetooth chip which should improve Personal Hotspot and AirDrop, and the C1X, a cellular modem designed by Apple.

Battery life is 30 hours (video playback), an increase of eight hours compared to the iPhone 16. Should you run out of battery charging the iPhone 17 is quicker than ever: according to Apple, using Apple’s new 40W Dynamic Power Adapter (\$39) can add a 50 percent charge to the iPhone 17 in 20 minutes. Just 10 minutes of charge results in about 8 hours of video playback, perfect when you are in a rush to leave the house.

The entry-level model offers 256GB of storage, double that of the previous generation for the same price. Starting at \$799 for 256GB storage, 512GB storage is priced at \$999.

Who should buy the iPhone 17?

The iPhone 17 is a good allrounder and the best iPhone for most people. It’s got a bigger display, ProMotion and Always On, a more powerful chip, two 48MP cameras on the rear, the new improved selfie camera, and twice the storage for the same price as 2024’s iPhone 16. As long as you aren’t desperate for a telephoto camera, or a super thin phone, there is no reason to look elsewhere.

iPhone 17 further considerations:

Starting at \$799 for 256GB storage this is a good iPhone at a good price. If you already have an iPhone 16 you probably don’t need to upgrade, but if you are deciding whether to upgrade to the iPhone 17, iPhone 16 (128GB for \$699) or iPhone 16e (128GB for \$599) we recommend paying the extra money; not only will you get a better phone, you’ll get twice as much storage!

Read our full [Apple iPhone 17 review](#)

2. Apple iPhone 17 Pro – Best phone for photography



Pros

- Battery life improvements
- Camera improvements

Cons

- The screen is no longer a reason to pick the Pro
- Aluminium instead of Titanium

Price When Reviewed: \$1,099 (256GB) | \$1,299 (512GB) | \$1,499 (1TB) | \$1,999 (2TB)

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iPhone 17 Pro has a 6.3-inch display with 120Hz ProMotion and Always-On, like the iPhone 16 Pro, but it now offers 3,000 nits peak brightness, 1 nit minimum brightness, up from 2,000. All the late 025 iPhones offer 3,000 nits max, Pro Motion and Always On, though, so these aren't the differentiators they once were.

The phone comes in Cosmic Orange, Deep Blue, and Silver with an aluminium frame. The 16 Pro was titanium, as is the iPhone Air due to it being more durable. Apple's switched back to aluminium on the Pro iPhones for better thermal performance. Heat management is via a new internal vapor chamber that has deionised water sealed inside for cooling. Heat is thus drawn away from the A19 chip and distributed around the iPhone. The heat management should mean the iPhone can sustain high levels of performance for longer periods of time.

The iPhone 17 Pro should still be durable though: There is the new Ceramic Shield 2 on the front for 3x better scratch resistance and a Ceramic Shield on the back.

The A19 Pro processor features a 6-core CPU and a 6-core GPU (one more GPU than the Air). It includes Neural Accelerators built into each GPU core, a larger cache, and more memory than A18 Pro. You'll also find the N1, the Apple-designed wireless networking chip that enables Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, and Thread, and the C1X, Apple's new cellular modem.

On the front is the same 18MP Center Stage front camera with square sensor. The main difference is the three 48MP Fusion cameras on the rear and the fact that the optical zoom can extend to 0.5x, 1x, 2x, 4x, and 8x for the equivalent of eight lenses, according to Apple. Video is Dolby Vision 4K at 120fps, with support for ProRes RAW, Apple Log 2, and Genlock.

The plateau (as Apple is now calling it) doesn't just house the camera. Apple has placed other internal components inside the 'plateau' – Apple's name for the camera housing. By placing more components in there Apple has made room for a larger battery. Additionally, the antennas are incorporated around the edge of this plateau, a move that Apple claims makes it "the highest-performing antenna system ever in an iPhone". Hopefully, this will also mean Apple avoids another antennagate.

This better thermal design and larger battery mean that battery life is 31 hours of video playback. That's up from 27 hours on the predecessor. Like the iPhone 17, the iPhone 17 Pro fast-charges up to 50% in 20 minutes with the new 40W adapter.

Who should buy the iPhone 17 Pro?

The iPhone 17 Pro is designed for those looking for advanced photography and video capabilities. It is also the phone to choose if you consider yourself to be a power user, a professional creator, or if you are a gamer.

iPhone 17 Pro further considerations:

It's not only the high-end Pro models in the iPhone 17 line that get the A19 Pro; the iPhone Air does as well, although with only a 5-core GPU. However, the cooling improvements Apple has made are likely to mean that the Pro iPhones can make better use of the powerful chip.

3. Apple iPhone Air – Best looking phone



Pros

- A19 Pro chip like the iPhone 17 Pro models
- Looks nice

Cons

- One rear camera

Price When Reviewed: \$999 (256GB) | \$1,199 (512GB) | \$1,399 (1TB)

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The iPhone Air is the thinnest iPhone to date at 5.64mm (0.22in) thick. While some may question the need for such a thin iPhone, its popularity is evidenced by the MacBook Air. However, a thin device can be less durable. The iPhone 6, the previous thinnest iPhone at 7.1mm, was affected by [bendgate](#). Hopefully those issues won't plague the iPhone Air, which Apple describes as "the most durable iPhone ever."

This durability is achieved through various features. The iPhone Air is crafted from titanium and features the new Ceramic Shield 2 on both the front and back. The new Ceramic Shield offers three times better scratch resistance and four times better crack resistance. It is available in Sky Blue, Light Gold, Cloud White or Space Black.

The 6.5-inch display features 120Hz ProMotion and Always-On functionality. It has a peak brightness of 3,000 nits and a minimum brightness of 1 nit.

The iPhone Air features a A19 Pro processor with a 6-core CPU and a 5-core GPU. That's one less graphics core than the iPhone 17 Pro models, but a better processor than the A19 in the iPhone 17.

Like the other late 2025 iPhones, the iPhone Air features the 18MP front-facing Centre Stage camera with a square sensor capable of taking photos in any orientation without requiring the user to rotate the phone. All phones can record video from both the front and back cameras simultaneously.

The iPhone Air offers a single 48MP “Fusion” rear camera (26mm equivalent). However, a 2x telephoto effect can be achieved digitally, enabling 12MP optical-quality 2x Telephoto (52mm equivalent). This system is similar to the 16e model. The Air lacks the macro and spatial photography features available on other iPhones. The optical zoom options are limited to 1x and 2x.

The iPhone 17 Air’s battery capacity is slightly lower than the other iPhone 17-series phones. The case’s reduced thickness means that Apple has to use a smaller battery, but it still delivers 27 hours of video playback, which is sufficient. For additional battery life, Apple offers an iPhone Air-specific \$99 MagSafe Battery accessory. In addition, a 40W adapter can fast-charge the iPhone Air to 50 per cent in 20 minutes.

Who should buy the iPhone Air?

The iPhone Air is for users who prioritize a cutting-edge, ultra-thin design. Sure, there are some trade-offs: reduced battery life and a single rear camera, but this is a phone with wow factor and bragging rights.

iPhone Air further considerations:

The iPhone Air has a single camera on the rear, which will be one disadvantage too far for some shoppers. Aside for the various iterations of the iPhone SE and the iPhone 16e, every iPhone since the iPhone XS in 2018 has had at least two lenses on the back. However, this is unlikely to be a huge limitation unless you are an avid photographer, in which case we recommend the iPhone 16 Pro instead. Another thing to note is that the SIM card slot has been removed, making the iPhone eSIM only.

Read our full [Apple iPhone Air \(2025\) review](#)

4. Apple iPhone 17 Pro Max – Best phone for gaming



Pros

- Excellent battery life
- Camera improvements

Cons

- Too big and bulky for some

Price When Reviewed: \$1,199 (256GB) | \$1,399 (512GB) | \$1,599 (1TB) | \$1,999 (2TB)

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The Pro Max is essentially the same phone as the iPhone 17 Pro, but with a larger display and better battery life.

The iPhone 17 Pro Max has the same 6.9-inch display as the 2024 model, which is slightly larger than the 6.7-inch 15 Pro Max from 2023.

There's the same A19 Pro and Fusion 48MP trio of cameras on the back, as well as the 18MP front-facing camera with Centre Stage and Dual Capture, for merging video from the front and rear cameras to capture your reactions.

Battery life is the big beneficiary, though, with iPhone 17 Pro Max getting up to 37 hours of video playback, compared to 33 hours for the 16 Pro Max and 31 on the iPhone 17 Pro. That's the best battery life ever in an iPhone.

Who should buy the iPhone 17 Pro Max?

The iPhone 17 Pro Max shares its key features with the iPhone 17 Pro so if you are looking for advanced photography and video capabilities, consider yourself to be a power user, a professional creator, or a gamer, it will suit you. In fact, we think it's a good choice for gaming because of the screen size. The main difference is the size: there are people who want a big screen and this is the biggest iPhone you can get, especially now that Apple isn't selling a Plus model.

iPhone 17 Pro Max further considerations:

If you are choosing between the iPhone 17 Pro and Pro Max then the decision comes down to whether you want the big screen or not. If a big screen is important to you, but power and photography aren't then you might want to look at the older iPhone 16 Plus while Apple is still selling it.

5. Apple iPhone 16e – Best iPhone for kids



Pros

- \$200/£200 cheaper than the iPhone 17, \$200/£200 less than iPhone 16
- Good battery life

Cons

- Only one camera on the rear
- No MagSafe

Price When Reviewed: From \$599

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The iPhone 16e has the same processor as the iPhone 16 and offers better battery life than that phone for \$100/£100 less, but there are a number of tradeoffs you will have to accept if you want to save your money.

The iPhone 16e, which arrived in February 2025, is Apple's new 'budget' iPhone starting at \$599/£599. That's quite a bit more expensive than the old budget iPhone, the iPhone SE, which cost \$429/£429 until it was discontinued by Apple at the beginning of 2025.

If you were a lover of the Home button on the iPhone SE, this is gone. The iPhone 16e doesn't have a Dynamic Island either. The iPhone 16e has a notch, like that on the iPhone 14. So if you feel strongly about how much space at the top of your iPhone is given to the Face ID gubbins may affect your choice. The notch really isn't that bad that we'd spend more to get the Dynamic Island, which isn't really that much smaller.

One other thing that the iPhone SE was, that the iPhone 16e isn't, is a small phone. It is a similar size to the iPhone 15 and 16 with a slightly lower weight. So if you are happy with that size, but fancy a lighter handset it could be a good choice for you.

There is one other thing in favor of the iPhone 16e – it has longer battery life than the iPhone 16. You can expect 26 hours of video playback on the 16e, compared to 22 on the 16, according to Apple. Our own battery tests were less favourable. In the battery component of Geekbench 4, the 16e managed 13 hours and 38 minutes, lower than any other 16-series iPhone.

Who should buy the iPhone 16e?

The iPhone 16e is Apple's most affordable iPhone designed for the budget-conscious. It's a good price for those looking for a phone for a child. It supports Apple Intelligence features, which is a good reason to upgrade from older iPhones.

iPhone 16e further considerations:

You could consider the iPhone 16 or iPhone 17 as an alternative. Both of those iPhones offer a wider choice of color options rather than the boring black or white of the 16e, a dual camera set up that means you can get ultra wide-angled photos and can take macro photos, Cinematic mode and Action mode. If you were considering spending the extra \$100/£100 to get the iPhone 16 we wouldn't. If you were thinking of spending \$200/£200 more to get the iPhone 17 that would be more worthwhile.

6. Apple iPhone 16 Plus – Best phone for seniors



Pros

- Big screen for a fraction of the Max's price

Cons

- No Always-On Display Pro Motion
- Costs more than the iPhone 17 for the same amount of storage (!)

Price When Reviewed: \$899

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The iPhone 16 Plus is essentially a bigger version of the iPhone 16. It features the same camera and processor. Everything we mention about the iPhone 16 (below) applies here too. However, there are both benefits and disadvantages to the larger form factor.

The iPhone 16 Plus offers 27 hours battery life. That is better than the iPhone 16 (22 hours) and the 16e (26 hours) but behind the iPhone 17 (30 hours). It's still long way behind the other big phone Apple sells – the iPhone 17 Pro Max – which boasts 37 hours.

The Camera Control button may be a bit of a stretch to use comfortably on the iPhone 16 Plus if you have small hands. If you have small hands the Plus probably isn't going to be that comfortable to hold anyway. If you are lucky enough not to be disadvantaged by hand size, the big screen is a good reason to choose the Plus size over the smaller iPhone.

For some users the bigger screen means that the text can be bigger, and if your eyes aren't what they once were, and you struggle tapping on the tiny keyboard, then this phone might be the best choice for you.

Who should buy the iPhone 16 Plus?

The iPhone 16 Plus is best for users seeking a large-screen iPhone without having to pay the premium price of the Pro Max. It suits individuals who want a big display and a good battery life, but don't care about the camera features of the iPhone 17 Pro Max (or want to pay the high price for that phone).

iPhone 16 Plus further considerations:

The iPhone 16 Plus lacks many of the features of the iPhone 17, such as the brighter (3,000 nits) screen with Pro Motion and Always-On. Two 48MP cameras on the back and an 18MP camera on the front. The iPhone 17 comes with 256GB storage for \$799, while the iPhone 16 Plus is \$799 for 128GB or \$899 for 256GB. So frankly you would really need to want the big screen to pay more for the same capacity phone.

The iPhone 16 Plus screen is 6.7-inches. Now the iPhone 17 screen is now larger, at 6.3-inch rather than 6.1-inch the size difference isn't as big as it once was.

Read our full [iPhone 16 Plus review](#)

Read our full [Apple iPhone 16 Plus review](#)

7. Apple iPhone 16 – Only consider if discounted



Pros

- The comparison with the iPhone 16 Pro was more favourable than usual

Cons

- No Always-On Display or Pro Motion
- The price is far too high compared to the iPhone 17

Price When Reviewed: 128GB \$799, 256GB \$899, 512GB \$1,099

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The iPhone 16 was a big leap from the previous generation, at the time we felt that it was catching the Pro model up. In the iPhone 16 we had a new phone with a better processor, the Camera Capture and Action buttons, and improved battery life.

The colors on offer are Ultramarine, Teal, Pink, White, Black. Color choices are a matter of personal preference, but we would suggest that choosing a new iPhone based on the color would be a bad idea as you will be keeping it in a [case](#) if you are sensible.

The iPhone 16 gained a two-in-one 'Fusion' camera offers built in 2x telephoto functionality and a new 48-megapixel sensor for better resolution and light intensity. On the iPhone 17 both rear cameras boast this same 48-megapixel sensor.

The 12MP Ultra Wide camera on the front had a larger aperture and bigger pixels than the previous generation – able to capture 2.6x more light and can now shoot close-up macro photos or wider photos. The new iPhone 17, like the other late 2025 phones, offers a better 18MP camera on the front.

When it comes to video the iPhone 16 can shoot 4K/60fps, which is more than enough for most people. It features Audio Mix, that lets you adjust the way voices sound in videos. You can decrease background sound, or just focus on the voices that are in frame, for example.

The A18 was an impressive chip. In our Geekbench 6 multi-processor test the iPhone 16 shows a significant 25% increase in performance from 6,242 points in the previous generation to 7,828 points. Performance jumps in the graphics benchmarks were even more pronounced.

Who should buy the iPhone 16?

The iPhone 16 is only really suited to someone upgrading from a much older iPhone, but we recommend that you look elsewhere because the iPhone 16 does not represent good value for money now the iPhone 17 starts at 256GB storage.

iPhone 16 further considerations:

There is no good reason to buy the iPhone 16. You can save \$100/£100 and buy the iPhone 16e instead, or spend \$200/£200 more to get the iPhone 17 with twice as much storage, which is worth every penny. The only reason to pick the iPhone 16 is if you see a good deal on one. We also look at the [iPhone 16e vs iPhone 16](#).

Also read: [Best iPhone 16 deals \(US\)](#) and [Best iPhone 16 deals \(UK\)](#)

iPhone specs compared

In this at a glance table you can easily compare all the latest iPhones.

Apple sells five current-generation model iPhones: the iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Pro, iPhone 17 Pro Max, iPhone Air, iPhone 16, iPhone 16 Plus, and iPhone 16e. The iPhone 16 Pro and 16 Pro Max have been discontinued, as have the iPhone 15, 15 Plus. This means that all the iPhones sold by Apple now support Apple Intelligence. We have a guide to [how to use Apple Intelligence and what it can do](#).

Here's how the most important specs compare, but remember, specs aren't everything! We've put these in price order, cheapest first, so scroll across to find the phone you are after.

	iPhone 16e	iPhone 16	iPhone 16 Plus	iPhone 17	iPhone Air	iPhone 17 Pro	iPhone 17 Pro Max
Starting price	\$599/£599	\$699/£699	\$799/£799	\$799/£799	\$999/£999	\$1,099/£1,099	\$1,199/£1,199
Screen size	6.1"	6.1"	6.7"	6.3"	6.5"	6.3"	6.9"
Storage	128/256/512GB	128GB	128/256GB	256/512GB	256/512GB	256/512GB	256/512GB/1TB/2TB
Size (H x W x D)	146.7 mm (5.78 inches) x 71.5 mm (2.82 inches) x	147.6 mm (5.81 inches) x 71.6 mm (2.82 inches) x	160.9 mm (6.33 inches) x 77.8 mm (3.06 inches) x	149.6 mm (5.89 inches) x 71.5 mm (2.81 inches) x	156.2 mm (6.15 inches) x 74.7 mm (2.94 inches) x	150 mm (5.91 inches) x 71.9 mm (2.83 inches) x	163.4 mm (6.43 inches) x 78 mm (3.07 inches) x 8.75 mm (0.34 inches)
Weight	167 grams (5.88 ounce)	170 grams	199 grams	177 grams	165 grams (5.82 ounce)	204 grams (7.20)	231 grams (8.15 ounces)
Colors	White, Black	Ultramarine, Teal, Pink, White,	Ultramarine, Teal, Pink, White,	Lavender, Sage, Mist Blue, White,	Sky Blue, Light Gold, Cloud White,	Cosmic Orange, Deep Blue, Silver	Cosmic Orange, Deep Blue, Silver
Display	OLED with HDR (2532x1170-pixel at 460 ppi)	OLED with HDR (2556x1179-pixels at 460 ppi) 2000 nits peak brightness (outdoor), 1 nit minimum brightness	OLED with HDR (2796x1290-pixels at 460 ppi) 2000 nits peak brightness (outdoor), 1 nit minimum brightness	OLED with HDR (2622x1206-pixel at 460 ppi), ProMotion 120Hz 3000 nits peak brightness (outdoor), 1 nit	OLED with HDR (2736x1206-pixel at 460 ppi), ProMotion 120Hz 3000 nits peak brightness (outdoor), 1 nit minimum brightness,	OLED with HDR (2622x1206-pixel at 460 ppi), ProMotion 120Hz 3000 nits peak brightness (outdoor), 1 nit minimum brightness,	OLED with HDR (2868x1320-pixels at 460 ppi), ProMotion, 120Hz 3000 nits peak brightness (outdoor), 1 nit minimum brightness, , Always On
Processor	A18 (4-core GPU)	A18 (5-core GPU)	A18 (5-core GPU)	A19 (5-core GPU)	A19 Pro (5-core GPU)	A19 Pro (6-core GPU)	A19 Pro (6-core GPU)
Authentication	Face ID	Face ID	Face ID	Face ID	Face ID	Face ID	Face ID
Rear Camera	48MP f/1.6 Wide camera, 1x, 2x zoom	Camera Control 'button', 48MP f/1.6 Fusion, 12MP f/2.6 Ultra Wide; 0.5X, 1X, and 2X	Camera Control 'button', 48MP f/1.6 Fusion, 12MP f/2.6 Ultra Wide; 0.5X, 1X, and 2X	Camera Control 'button', 48MP f/1.6 Fusion, 48MP f/2.2 Ultra Wide; 0.5X, 1X, and 2X	Camera Control 'button', 48MP f/1.6 Fusion; 1X and 2X zoom; Dual Capture	Camera Control 'button', 48MP f/1.78 Fusion, 48MP f/2.2 Ultra Wide, and f/2.8 48MP Telephoto; 0.5X, 1X, 2X, 4X and 8X zoom; Macro,	Camera Control 'button', 48MP f/1.78 Fusion, 48MP f/2.2 Ultra Wide, and f/2.8 48MP Telephoto; 0.5X, 1X, 2X, 4X and 8X zoom; Macro,

Front Camera	12MP TrueDepth, f/1.9, 4K	12MP TrueDepth, f/1.9, 4K	12MP TrueDepth, f/1.9, 4K	18MP Centre Stage camera, f/	18MP Centre Stage camera, f/	18MP Centre Stage camera, f/	18MP Centre Stage camera, f/1.9, 4K
Battery capacity	26 hrs video	22 hrs video	27 hrs video	30 hrs video	27 hrs video	31 hrs video	37 hrs video
Wireless features	5G, Wi-Fi 6, Bluetooth 5.3, NFC	5G, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 5.3, NFC, 2nd-gen	5G, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 5.3, NFC, 2nd-gen	5G, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, NFC, 2nd-gen	5G, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, NFC, 2nd-gen Ultra Wideband,	5G, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, NFC, 2nd-gen Ultra Wideband,	5G, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, NFC, 2nd-gen Ultra Wideband, Thread
Port	USB-C	USB-C	USB-C	USB-C	USB-C	USB-C	USB-C
MagSafe	Qi wireless charging	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

All the iPhones currently sold by Apple

Apple’s battery life estimates won’t necessarily match ours, and your own usage may differ. See our [comparison of battery life, capacity, mah and watt hours for every iPhone](#).

Should I buy one of the older iPhones?

Apple stops selling certain iPhones as soon as new models are launched, but that doesn’t mean you won’t be able to buy them. Apple itself sells older iPhone models in its refurbished store, and you can often get a good deal with the added bonus that Apple will guarantee the iPhone. It’s not only Apple that will still sell older iPhones: many of the networks will give you a cut price deal on older iPhone models, and in some countries you can buy older iPhones for much less than Apple originally sold them for.

Read our [Best iPhone Deals](#) to get a good price on all iPhones at stockists near you.

The most recent iPhones to be discontinued include the iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max and we recommend these iPhones if you find one on sale at a good price.

The are features offered by the iPhone 16 Pro that may well entice you. For one, the 2024 iPhone 16 Pro color options included Desert Titanium, which was a nice shade that fluctuates between bronze and a subtle rose gold depending on the light. We definitely prefer this to Cosmic Orange.

While the cameras aren’t as impressive as those on the 17 Pro, if you want that third Telephoto lens this is a cheaper way to get one.

If it’s a huge iPhone you want then the iPhone 16 Pro Max could be a good choice with its 6.9-inch screen. Other than that the only thing to separate the iPhone 16 Pro and the iPhone 16 Pro Max is the battery life, which, according to Apple is up to 33 hours compared to 27 hours for the iPhone 16 Pro.

iPhone 15 generation

The iPhone 15 does not support Apple Intelligence which means they miss out on many of the best new features of iOS.

The iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max phones do support Apple Intelligence, so if you find one for a good price (or someone is passing one on to you) you will be happy enough. But we'd still recommend getting something newer if you can.



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Karen has worked on both sides of the Apple divide, clocking up a number of years at Apple's PR agency prior to joining Macworld more than two decades ago. Karen's career highlights include interviewing Apple's Steve Wozniak and discussing Steve Jobs' legacy on the BBC.

Having edited the U.K. print and online editions of Macworld for many years, more recently her focus has been on SEO and evergreen content as well as product recommendations and buying advice.