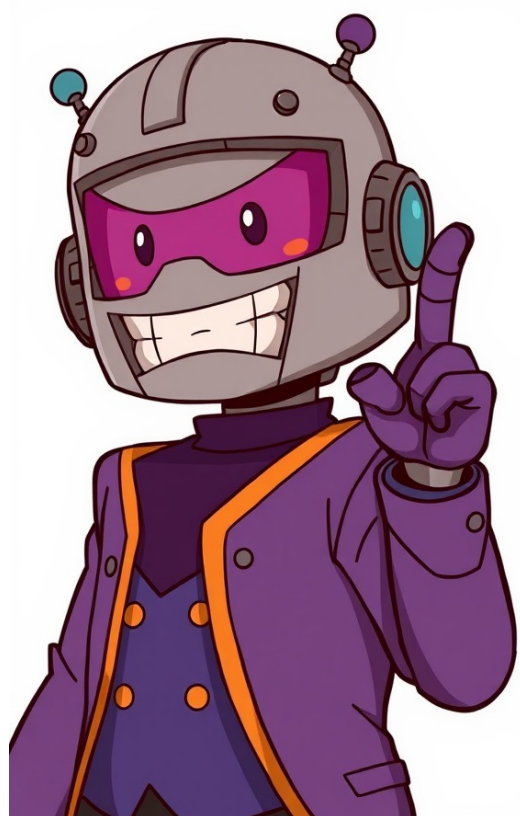


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through, no extra software to install, and no weird layouts to avoid, and you apps use the entire display to benefit, meaning they might get cut off by the camera cutouts, but you can quickly fix that with a press of the gesture button to compact the interface into a smaller square. On top of that, AI companions like Perplexity, Gemini, and Moto AI come optimized for the cover screen, making it easy to ask for help when needed.While I don't usually like to put too much stock into the way a phone looks — especially if I'm going to put it into a case — there's no way around it on the Razr Ultra. Every colorful finish that Motorola offers comes from its close partnership with Pantone, and the different back panels offer more personality than the usual mix of Gorilla Glass can match. I reviewed the Mountain Trail version, which comes with a wooden back and a bronzed aluminum frame, but Motorola's Scarab finish is an eye-catcher with its deep green color and slightly fuzzy Alcantara back panel. I might be concerned about how it'll age in the coming years, but I can't say I've seen anyone use materials quite like Motorola. Motorola Razr Ultra camera samples Ryan Haines / Android AuthorityGoogle Pixel 9 Pro Fold: The best tablet-style Android foldable Google Pixel 9 Pro FoldImproved design • 8-inch folding display • Seven years of software updatesMSRP: \$1,799.00The Fold goes Pro.The Pixel 9 Pro Fold is Google's most impressive foldable to date, offering a 6.3-inch exterior display, 16GB of RAM, and 256GB of internal storage. When you're ready for more, unfold to access the 8-inch interior display. Solid cameras, a decent battery, and top-notch software support round out this monster of a device. See price at AmazonSee price at Google StorePositivesImpressively thin design that opens completely flatExcellent displays with high brightnessThoughtful enhancements to Android for foldablesLots of Gemini-powered AI featuresSeven years of update supportConsCamera setup weaker than other Pixel 9sSluggish, frustrating chargingTensor G4 behind the competition for powerButtons too lowExtremely high price At long last, there's a new king of the tablet-style Android foldable phones. Yes, this was Samsung's spot to lose for a long time — partly because it was the only real option in the US for several years — and now it's happened. After an original Pixel Fold that felt like a bright idea with classic prototype flaws, the Pixel 9 Pro Fold feels ready to stand on its own two feet, or at least two sides of its hinge. Google took everything we liked about its original form factor, ironed out the quirks, and then completely reimagined its internal display for a more comfortable experience.What surprised me most about coming to the Pixel 9 Pro Fold a little late in the game is that it doesn't feel too different from the small Pixel 9 Pro, at least not when closed. As a result, I'm much more willing to pull it out of my pocket for casual tasks like streaming, social media, and updating my Strava activities without feeling like I'm trying to type on a knife's edge. Then, when I've found whatever show I'm desperately trying to keep up with, I'm perfectly comfortable opening the nearly bezelless internal display and only losing a bit of space to letterboxing. The Pixel 9 Pro Fold feels like a much larger upgrade than simply a second-year refresh. Although it's a massive leap forward for Google's foldables overall, the Pixel 9 Pro Fold isn't without its quirks. Its slim form factor means the Tensor G4 chipset has to work a little harder to vent heat, while the 4,650mAh battery is held back by just 21W wired charging — barely faster than what you get from the Pixel 9a for a third of the cost. Google's peripheral cameras feel like odd choices, too, with just a 10.8MP telephoto and 10.5MP ultrawide to hold down the newly square camera bump.And yet, I still feel like the Pixel 9 Pro Fold is the best tablet-style foldable you can get your hands on. Maybe it's because many of the Android Authority crew are Pixel fans by nature, but I feel like Google's approach to Android remains one of the cleanest and easiest to navigate, with the right mix of optimizations for the internal display. You'll also get the full suite of AI-powered features like Call Screen, Pixel Studio, and Gemini Live, just with far more real estate on which to explore them. Pixel 9 Pro Fold camera samples OnePlus 13: The best Android phone for battery life OnePlus 13Gorgeous design • Clever AI features • Flexible camerasMSRP: \$899.99The OG flagship killer's killer flagship.The OnePlus 13 is the company's most killer flagship to date, offering a massive battery, speedy charging, and powerful cameras that give Google and Samsung something to worry about.PositivesGorgeous designIncredible camera zoom and overall photographyHelpful AI integrationExcellent charging optionsSimplified Oxygen OS experienceGreat performanceConsMagnetic charging requires accessoriesFewer updates than Samsung or Google These days, 5,000mAh batteries have almost become the standard on large Android flagships. Everyone is using them, from Google to Samsung to Motorola, and it's made life hard when hunting for the phone with the best battery life. However, whenever everyone seems to catch up, there's always one brand ready to jump ahead again. To nobody's surprise, it's once again the flagship killer, OnePlus. Its OnePlus 13 is a shoe-in for the best battery life, and it comes down to a no-limits combination of capacity and charging speed. Plus, it also helps that it's generally one of the best phones OnePlus has ever made.Up first, the coil that keeps the lights on. The OnePlus 13's 6,000mAh cell is large enough to make all but the most dedicated gaming phones feel inadequate. It's a full 1,000mAh larger than the battery Samsung tapped for its Galaxy S25 Ultra or Google chose for its Pixel 9 Pro XL, yet the OnePlus 13 is no thicker than either one. It can achieve such a remarkable capacity thanks to its switch from lithium-ion technology to silicon-carbon, a move that we'd love to see the likes of Samsung copy the next time it tries an ultra-thin Edge model. Better, our objective drain testing showed that the OnePlus 13 can go on and on thanks to its impressive cooling setup and efficient Snapdragon 8 Elite chipset. It does experience some pretty extreme throttling here and there, occasionally quitting out benchmarking tests in the name of thermal management, but I've always been able to go two days between charges, so I'm not complaining. OnePlus's 6,000mAh battery looms large over most other Android flagships. And, when you inevitably drain your OnePlus 13, SuperVOOC charging is some of the best in the business. You'll need to keep the included USB-A charger close at hand since SuperVOOC is a much different standard than USB PD PPS in terms of support, but when you watch the OnePlus 13 fly back to a 50% charge in just 13 minutes, you probably won't have an issue with it. OnePlus's latest flagship also supports 50W wireless charging through a brand-new magnetic charger with a built-in fan, though you'll need a magnetic charger and might have to use a special plastic panel to protect the Arctic Dawn finish should you choose that colorway — it's a bit of a confusing mess, and the only blot on an otherwise near-perfect package. OnePlus 13 camera samples ASUS ROG Phone 9 Pro: Best Android phone for gaming ASUS ROG Phone 9 ProOverall performance • Outstanding battery life • Fast, universal chargingMSRP: \$1,199.99Peak gaming power.The ROG Phone 9 Pro is ASUS' flagship gaming smartphone for 2024 and early-to-mid 2025. It boasts unrivaled performance, thanks to its powerhouse Snapdragon 8 Elite chip, and advanced gaming features to propel your gaming experience up another level. See price at AmazonSee price at AsusPositivesOverall performanceOutstanding battery lifeFast, universal chargingSuper-stable videoHandy AI toolsConsExpensive Pro modelPoor software commitmentInconsistent camerasNo 4K recording on all lenses The last of our main selections for this list of the best Android phones is one for the gamers, literally. ASUS's ROG Phone 9 Pro is about as close to a gaming laptop as you can get, at least if you can ignore that it doesn't fold in half. It has a frankly ridiculous spec sheet, offering up to 24GB of RAM with a Snapdragon 8 Elite chip under the hood and 65W wired charging that's much faster than the MacBook Air I'm using to assemble this list.Of course, those features aren't completely unheard of in the flagship Android segment — well, 24GB of RAM is a lot — but its clever gaming tweaks set the ROG Phone 9 Pro apart. It pulls the programmable matrix from the back of the ROG Zephyrus and pairs it with pressure-sensitive triggers dotted around the frame to help you draw some of the controls off the 6.78-inch AMOLED itself. Those features, combined with the improved efficiency of the Snapdragon 8 Elite chip, had my colleague Rob Triggs gaming with a smile, pushing the ROG Phone 9 Pro as hard as he wanted to find out where its throttling point lay. For what might be the first time, though, Rob also declared this to be a gaming phone he might not mind using every day. See, a lot of gaming-specific devices fall into the common trap of being too big, too edgy, and too expensive for casual usage, not to mention the fact that camera hardware almost always comes last. On the ROG Phone 9 Pro, however, you get an updated 50MP LYTIA 700 sensor for the bulk of your photography, and ASUS has reimagined its stabilization for better video shooting. The display is also brighter and smoother than before, topping out at a 185Hz refresh rate and 2,500 nits of brightness, which is more than enough for a bright, sunny day. The ROG Phone 9 Pro is an elite gaming phone that's flexible enough for everyday usage. Also, if you're serious about pushing the ROG Phone 9 Pro to its gaming limits (and why wouldn't you be?), ASUS has several accessories worth checking out. Rob got plenty of mileage out of the detachable controller below, though he also mentioned the external cooling setup as a helpful option when trying to game and charge simultaneously. And, if you're not set on the customizable LED matrix on the back, you can also check out the ROG Phone 9 to save a couple of bucks. ROG Phone 9 Pro camera samples Honorable mentions Xiaomi 15 UltraXiaomi 15 UltraBrilliant cameras • Two-day battery life • Fast universal chargingThe best camera phone you can buy?The Xiaomi 15 Ultra is an elite camera phone with incredible photography hardware and processing. It also packs rapid charging, great battery life, and is supported by up to six years of security updates. If the Xiaomi 15 Ultra were just a little bit easier to access in the US, it might have earned a full spot on our list rather than simply an honorable mention, and I think it still has a legitimate claim to being the best Android camera phone. Like the last few Ultras, it's practically a mirrorless camera with a phone on the back, pairing a trio of 50MP sensors with a 200MP telephoto camera and sporting an overall design that's reminiscent of a Leica mirrorless camera to go along with Xiaomi's Leica-tuned color science. Nothing Phone 3a ProNothing Phone 3a ProTriple camera setup with dedicated zoom • Fast wired charging • Eye-catching designFlagship camera zoom, budget price.The Nothing Phone 3a Pro is a powerful budget phone with a triple camera setup that includes a periscope lens with 3x optical zoom. Making its first full appearance on this list (CMF Phone 2 Pro not withstanding), the Nothing Phone 3a Pro is one of the most fun mid-rangers I've reviewed in a while. Yes, it suffers from the same limited US band support as its siblings, but it's easy to fall in love with the dot-based Nothing OS skin, the light-up Glyph Interface, and the snappy 50W wired charging. I might like the more subtle camera bump on the Nothing Phone 3a a little better, but the extra zoom flexibility is a worthy tradeoff. OnePlus 13ROnePlus 13RSpeedy performance • Long-lasting battery • Superb value for moneyR-eally great.The OnePlus 13R is everything you'd expect from a OnePlus phone — blazing performance, amazing battery life, and rapid charging. Add to that a gorgeous display and a smooth, feature-packed Oxygen OS experience, and you have a phone that feels like it punches well above its \$600 price tag. OnePlus's proper 2025 flagship is more than deserving of its place as our battery king, but its mid-range option isn't far behind. Some might say that the OnePlus 13R is a bit of a 2024 flagship in disguise, and I think they'd be right — in the best of ways. It pairs a Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 chipset with a OnePlus 13-esque design, housing a trio of camera sensors in its circular bump. I'll never complain about a phone with a 6,000mAh battery capacity, though it's a bit of a bummer that the included SuperVOOC charger will only get you to 55W. Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 6Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 6Solid dual-camera setup • Excellent build quality • Class-leading update commitmentThe Flip gets refreshed.The Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 6 introduces several exciting updates over previous Flip phones. It is equipped with a larger battery, improved cooling, and a next-gen chipset. 12GB of RAM and up to 512GB of storage mean you do not need to compromise on performance. The 3.4-inch front display offers info at a glance, while the 6.7-inch 22:9 main AMOLED display offers a 120Hz refresh rate. Although I'm happy to call Motorola's latest Razr Ultra the best flip phone, it's also the most expensive. Samsung's Galaxy Z Flip 6, on the other hand, picks up right where the Galaxy Z Flip 5 left off, with two capable cameras, a folder-shaped Flex Window, and nabs a chipset upgrade to keep things interesting. You'll have to get used to having two app drawers if you want more than Maps, YouTube, and Google Messages at your disposal, but Samsung's full-screen widgets are simply excellent. Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 6Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 6Thinner and lighter • Sizeable cover display • Great performanceThinner, lighter, and more powerful than ever.With a focus on refinement over previous generation Fold phones, the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 6 rocks a 6.3-inch cover screen, a 7.6-inch, 20.9:18, 120Hz AMOLED folding display, the Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 Mobile Platform for Galaxy chipset, a 50MP camera, 12GB of RAM, and up to 1TB of internal storage. In that same vein, the Galaxy Z Fold 6 has gone from setting the standard for book-style foldables to playing second fiddle to the Pixel. It's still an excellent foldable, and its taller, thinner internal display sometimes makes a bit more sense than Google's wide aspect ratio, but it hasn't changed too much outside of a chipset upgrade in recent years, still sporting the same battery, charging setup, and cameras as the Folds that came before it. Google Pixel 9Google Pixel 9Powerful Gemini AI tools • Excellent build quality, refined design • Extensive update policyThe vanilla Pixel 9The Pixel 9 rocks a 6.3-inch display, Tensor G4 chipset, 12GB of RAM, and at least 128GB of internal storage. See price at Google Store If you've spent any time looking for a great Android phone, you'll know there aren't many small ones left. Somehow, 6.5-inch or larger displays have become the standard, leaving those of us with smaller hands relegated to a precious few picks. Thankfully, the Pixel 9 is one of those, offering quite a lot of the Pro-level experience in a slightly more comfortable form factor. Its 6.3-inch display is easy to reach across yet doesn't feel so tiny that you're missing out on real estate. If we hadn't already put every other Pixel 9 device on this list, this one might have earned more than an honorable mention. Samsung Galaxy S24 FESamsung Galaxy S24 FEFlexible cameras for the price • Class-leading update commitment • Great valueA phone that fans and Galaxy newcomers will love.The Galaxy S24 FE is a Samsung flagship in all but name. It delivers the right mix of performance, Galaxy AI smarts, camera flexibility, and overall durability while keeping the cost pegged right at \$650, and with an update promise that matches the Android elite. See price at Amazon Many of Samsung's best offerings lay it on pretty heavy with the focus on power users, and there's nothing wrong with that. However, it also has the unintended benefit of making Samsung's budget-conscious picks stand out slightly more. The Galaxy S24 FE is one such option, landing just below the flagship tier with a display that nearly matches the Galaxy S25 Plus, materials like aluminum and Gorilla Glass Victus Plus that I'd trust without a case, and just enough of a dip into Galaxy AI to give more users a taste of Chat Assist, Note Assist, and better photo editing tools. What to look for in a good Android phoneRobert Triggs / Android AuthorityWe could sit here and list the best Android phones all day — we're phone nerds, it's our job. We'll sit here and reminisce on some of the best phones from yesteryear, too, looking for any excuse to pull something fun out of the closet. However, just because we like one or two or ten things about a phone doesn't mean it's right for you. There's much more to consider before you splash the cash, especially if you plan to have this phone for several years. We have our favorite Android phones, but the best way for you to pick one is to break it down into the features you really want. For example, if you want a small, super-portable phone, something like the Galaxy S25 Ultra simply won't work, no matter how you try to wrangle it. That 6.9-inch display will always feel too big for your pocket. At the same time, it's a great phone that packs flexible cameras, a powerful chipset, and a convenient S Pen, so it's all about deciding what features you absolutely must have in a device. So, with that in mind, here are a few things I always tell people to look for when buying a new phone: Software updates: A phone is only as good as the number of software updates it will receive. You won't be able to change your battery, display, or camera flexibility: If you're after one of the best Android phones on the market, you probably have high camera expectations. It's perfectly understandable — you'll probably capture your life with this device for several years. And, as you might have noticed, single-camera Android phones aren't a thing anymore. So, if you prioritize a great camera phone, you'll want to keep an eye on things like sensor size, telephoto focal length, and how your phone processes images after the fact. Display size: As mentioned above, finding a small Android phone is easier said than done these days. There aren't many 6.1-inch or 6.2-inch options left, with premium picks like the Pixel 9 Pro XL and Galaxy S25 Ultra measuring close to 7 inches, and many budget to mid-range options measuring 6.5 inches or larger. Also, if display size is no issue (or you want a phone that can check two boxes at once), you might consider a foldable that can take over for a tablet, too. RAM and storage options: Depending on your needs, you might also want to monitor the RAM and storage that your chosen Android phone comes with. At one point, 8GB of RAM was enough to tackle everything from web browsing to gaming to streaming a full season on Netflix, but no longer. With the explosion of AI-powered features, 12GB is closer to the bare minimum for flagships, while the Pixel 9 Pro series feels even more capable with 16GB across the board. To fold or not to fold: Foldable Android phones remain one of the most exciting categories in tech, at least to me. They've improved by leaps and bounds in recent years, picking up better cameras, thinner hinges, and better protection against water and dust. However, you'll still have to weigh out whether or not you have the budget to try something new and if you can live with a spec sheet that hasn't caught up just yet. Durability: These days, phones feature more premium materials than ever, sometimes pairing aluminum and titanium frames with advanced glasses like Panda Glass and Gorilla Glass or interesting textures like vegan leather and, in the case of the Razr Ultra, Alcantara. My advice would be to think about what materials you want and whether or not you plan to put your phone in a case. Also, keep in mind that IP68 ratings against water and dust have become the standard for many flagships, so think twice before settling for a lower rating, even if it saves money. Charging speed: It's no longer a surprise to see phones ship with 5,000mAh batteries — in fact, it's expected on phones of a certain size. However, with great power capacity comes great responsibility, so you'll want to keep an eye on the charging speeds that your new phone supports. Some, like OnePlus, offer up to 80W speeds with the correct charger, while others, like the Galaxy S25, won't go above 25W no matter how hard you try. Also, if you opt for something like the Pixel 9 Pro XL, you'll need Google's in-house USB-C charger to guarantee the best speeds, so you might need to budget for some extra charging accessories. AI features: One last thing worth watching — and probably the least essential of my picks — is the list of AI features your new phone will support. If you opt for a flagship Pixel or a Galaxy S25, you'll get a pretty solid set of Gemini and Galaxy AI picks, while the OnePlus 13 and Motorola Razr lineup might lag behind just a bit. Then again, you might find that the available features don't quite mesh with your usage or don't feel quite polished enough, so you may also be able to get by with Circle to Search and some of the other features that have made their way to lower price points. Why you should trust meRyan Haines / Android AuthorityI'm a phone guy — always have been. I can still rattle off every device I've ever purchased with my own money, and I continue to hold the LG G3 as one of my favorite phones of all time. I stayed almost perfectly true to Android ever since my parents got me my first smartphone after I made it to high school, at least as long as you're willing to forgive the few years I spent with an iPhone 7 when I let green bubble bullying get the best of me. Since then, I've made my love of phones into my day job, shifting my personal SIM more times than I can count and spending time with everything from the Motorola Moto G Play (2021) to the OnePlus Open to the Galaxy S25 Ultra in my pocket. I won't pretend to have loved every phone I've reviewed — you have to break a few eggs to make an omelet — but I've taken highlights away from each one and come to appreciate Android options both high and low. I review dozens of Android phones every single year, and my personal SIM moves around enough to qualify for frequent flyer status. Further, my opinions come from more than simply running around with a new phone in my pocket. Part of my role as a reviewer is to work closely with my colleague, and our resident testing expert, Rob Triggs, to come up with objective metrics by which we can compare devices. We've worked closely to cook up tests for battery life and charging, along with a nicely standardized set of ways to put CPUs and GPUs through their paces long before I ever sit down to write a review. Do I still count my hands-on experience? Of course I do, but I also like to ensure that data backs them up. If you want more information on our testing procedures, you can read our full methodology at the link. 224 votes Sometimes, my need to be thorough means that I'm not the first reviewer to press the publish button, and I'm rarely the shortest and sweetest among my peers, but I don't mind. I'll happily cause a little bit of a headache for my editor (shout out to you, Ollie) if it means I know I'm being as thorough as possible. Besides, with how far phones have come in just the last few years, I'm not sure how anyone could put together a review without stopping and taking a few stretch breaks. Thank you for being part of our community. Read our Comment Policy before posting.