



## The Complete 2017 Smartwatch Buyer's Guide

The smartwatch ecosystem is more diverse than ever. Fashion designers and fitness trackers have joined the ranks of electronics brands and computer manufacturers, offering watches designed for every taste and lifestyle – from office executive to fitness nut to outdoor adventurer, and just about everyone in between.

Which is the right smartwatch for you? The answer depends on which features are most important to you. That's why we've broken this guide down into six categories, and reviewed the top two smartwatches in each of them, in detail. Let's dive

## Compatibility

Almost all smartwatches on the market are designed to pair with smartphones. Even most apps designed to run natively on watches still need to sync with their phone counterparts – and some smartwatches are completely dependent on phones to display the messages of their alerts and notifications. This means **your smartwatch will be all but useless if it's not compatible with your phone's OS** – so compatibility is the first feature you need to be absolutely sure about.

As you'd expect, most Apple Watches works seamlessly with most iPhones. The situation gets slightly more complex in the Android smartwatch world, where all watches are compatible with Android phones, but vary in their compatibility with iPhones. For example, Samsung's Gear S3 works with many Android devices, but not with an iPhone – while certain watches by LG and Huawei can display notifications on an iPhone, but can't connect to the phone's wi-fi or sync data with many iOS apps. To check whether your phone's OS is compatible with Android Wear, just visit [g.co/WearCheck](http://g.co/WearCheck) from your smartphone browser.

### ***Best watches for compatibility:***

- Asus ZenWatch 3 – [\\$229.00 on Amazon](#)
- Huawei Watch – [\\$260.09 on Amazon](#)



## Glass

Many of the latest smartwatches are protected by special glass, designed to withstand heat and cold, as well as some amount of water. Some watches' screens are made of tough Gorilla Glass – or the new Gorilla Glass SR+, which is just as light as regular glass, but offers improved scratch resistance. Other watches use sapphire crystal, which boasts a Mohs hardness rating of 9, offering superb protection against all types of scratches and chips.



Samsung Gear S3 Frontier



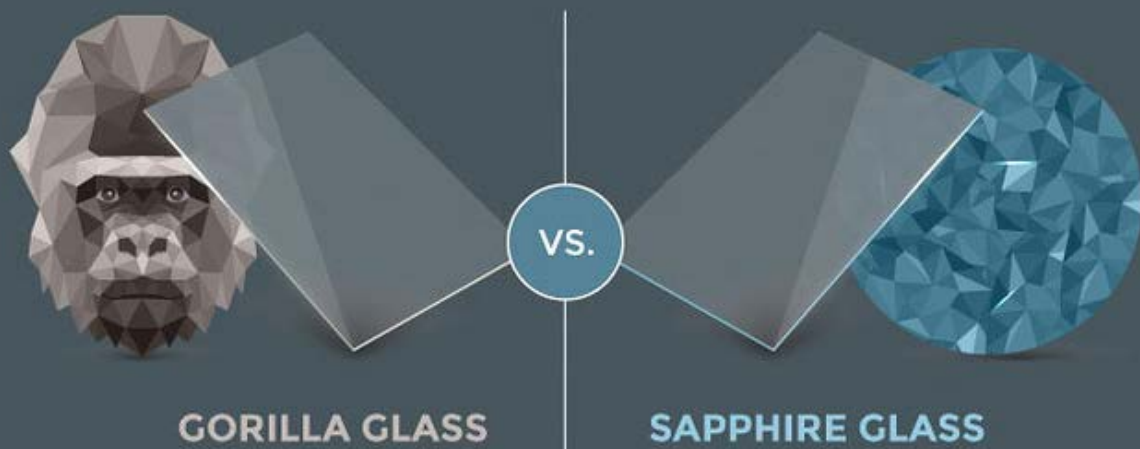
Garmin Fenix 3 Sapphire

The manufacturer of Gorilla Glass claims that SR+ glass has 70 percent better damage resistance against impacts, and 25 percent better surface reflection, than sapphire – but other manufacturers debate those claims, and many owners of traditional watches with sapphire crystal faces say those watches have held out scratch-free for decades. But as long as your watch is protected by Gorilla Glass or sapphire crystal – rather than just ordinary acrylic – it should be well protected against accidental scrapes.

### Best smartwatches for glass:

- Samsung Gear S3 Frontier – [\\$299.99 on Amazon](#)
- Garmin Fenix 3 Sapphire – [\\$449.99 on Amazon](#)

## GORILLA GLASS VS. SAPPHIRE



### GORILLA GLASS

Toughened aluminosilicate glass

6.8 on Mohs hardness scale

49% market share of display glass market (2012)

### SAPPHIRE GLASS

Single synthetic aluminum oxide crystal

9 on Mohs hardness scale

Much more scratch resistant

3-4 times more expensive to produce

1.5 times heavier

## Hybrid Watches

Some “hybrid” smartwatches don’t have touchscreen displays at all, but have only traditional watch faces. Certain hybrid watches come with a small screen in the corner for showing notifications or GPS – but many hybrids only provide notifications through vibrations and physical dials. This means that, while hybrid watches offer significantly more battery life than fully digital ones, you won’t be able to read messages or make calls on a hybrid watch.

Still, there are significant differences between a hybrid smartwatch and a traditional analog watch. Hybrid watches can receive alerts from your phone, for one thing; and many are also equipped with pedometers and heart rate monitors, as well as vibrations for silent alarms. Many hybrid watches can also use their hands and dials to alert you who’s called your phone; though you’ll have to memorize which caller corresponds to which position. If you’re looking for a reasonably priced watch with ultra-long battery life, hybrid may be the way to go.

### Best hybrid watches

- Withings Steel – [\\$129.95 on Amazon](#)
- Skagen Connected – [\\$195.00 on Amazon](#)



*Withings Steel*



## Operating Systems (OS)

Like smartphones, smartwatches are broadly divided into Apple and Android categories – with Pebble and Garmin an outliers, running their own unique OSes. The OS you end up using will determine not only the type of interface your watch has, but also which apps you can run, which phones you can connect and sync data with, and which watchfaces you'll be able to use. Some OSes offer quite a large amount of flexibility, while others are more limited.

All Apple's smartwatches run some version of watchOS, which is fully compatible with the iOS that runs on iPhones, and provides access to more than 6,500 apps in the Apple Watch Store. Quite a few other watches – including most by Sony and LG – run the Android Wear OS, which syncs seamlessly with most Android phones, and allows you free choice of the more than 4,000 apps in the Android Wear store. Most of Samsung's watches run their own Tizen OS, which offers about 1,500 apps, and full Android phone compatibility. Pebble and Garmin, meanwhile, run their own unique OSes, with just a few hundred apps to choose from.

### ***Best Samsung Tizen watches:***

- Samsung Gear S3 Frontier – [\\$299.99 on Amazon](#)
- Samsung Gear S3 – [\\$334.93 on Amazon](#)

### ***Best Apple watchOS watches:***

- Apple Watch Series 1 – [\\$239.99 on Amazon](#)
- Apple Watch Series 2 – [\\$400.00 on Amazon](#)

### ***Best Android Wear watches:***

- LG Watch Urbane – [\\$174.24 on Amazon](#)
- Sony SmartWatch 3 – [\\$141.00 on Amazon](#)

### ***Best Pebble OS watches:***

- Pebble Smartwatch – [\\$44.99 on Amazon](#)
- Pebble 2 – [\\$89.99 on Amazon](#)

### ***Best Garmin touchOS watches:***

- Garmin Vivoactive HR – [\\$249.99 on Amazon](#)
- Garmin Fenix 3 Sapphire – [\\$449.99 on Amazon](#)



## Asus ZenWatch 3

\$229.00 on Amazon

The first thing you'll notice about the ZenWatch 3 is probably its display: large and clear, with an ambient light sensor that keeps the brightness exactly right in every environment, from bright sunlight to a dark theater. You'll also be impressed with the battery life, which consistently lasts 24 hours or more – longer than the battery of any Apple Watch – even when you're using battery-burning features like wi-fi.



*Asus ZenWatch 3*

Technical specs are decidedly more mixed. On the plus side, the ZenWatch 3 runs thousands of Android Wear apps, and even offers compatibility with a lot of iPhone functions, such as notifications and app data syncing. It's got a 1.2GHz Snapdragon Wear 2100 processor, 4GB of onboard storage, 512MB of RAM, and a sharp 1.39" AMOLED display – but, strangely, no GPS, no NFC for wearable payments, and no heart rate monitor. As long as you're okay with those limitations, the ZenWatch 3 offers no other causes for complaint.

**The bottom line:** If you're in the market for a fast, highly compatible smartwatch, and don't care about a lack of onboard GPS or NFC, the ZenWatch 3 delivers exactly what it promises.

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## Huawei Watch

\$260.09 on Amazon

Though Huawei might not have the brand recognition of Samsung or LG, their first entry into the smartwatch market can easily go toe-to-toe with any of the best-known watches. Its round metallic face keeps the design minimal (no "flat-tire" bezel), and a range of comfortable leather and stainless steel bands place the Huawei Watch firmly in the ranks of smartwatches that look like actual fashion accessories, rather than just wearable computers. Oddly, the watch only comes in one size; but the bands are adjustable.



*Huawei Watch*

The Huawei Watch also stacks up against many more expensive competitors in terms of performance. Its 1.4" full circle AMOLED display – in scratch-resistant sapphire crystal – keeps graphics crisp and clear; and its quad-core 1.2GHz processor, 4GB of onboard storage, and 512MB of RAM will keep up with the latest apps – including more than 4,000 apps in the Android Wear store, as well as many iOS apps, in case you plan to pair this watch with an iPhone. For fitness tracking, a pedometer and heart rate monitor have got you covered – although this watch lacks GPS, unfortunately. Beware of short battery life, which Huawei claims is two days, but usually taps out after a day or so of heavy use.

**The bottom line:** Despite its unpredictable battery life, the Huawei Watch scores major points for presentation, performance and compatibility.

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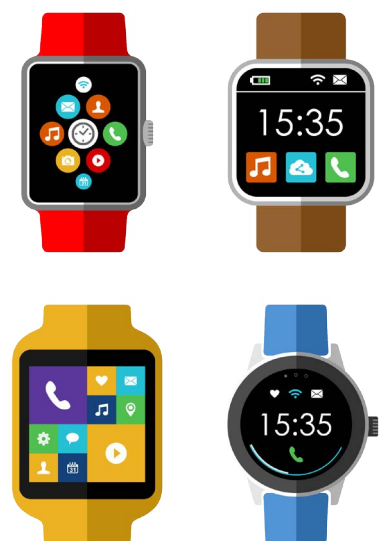
## Appearance and Comfort

Whether you're looking for a futuristic interface or a classic timepiece, there's probably a smartwatch that fits your style. In fact, quite a few watches offer a variety of customization options for face color, finish and size, as well as band size and style. While plenty of smartwatches follow the Apple Watch in their sleek, contemporary looks, a growing number of smartwatches now feature classic round faces and metallic bands – and as traditional watchmakers like Fossil and Tag Heuer launch their own lines of smartwatches, you can expect to see more in this category.

Style and comfort also go hand-in-hand. It's important to choose a band that fits your wrist properly – which may mean ordering a custom band – in a style that fits your personal look. You'd be wise to try on any watch you're thinking of purchasing, as an awkward clasp or uncomfortable band can quickly suck all the fun out of your expensive purchase. When it comes to this category, it's smartest to follow the same personal instincts you'd trust when purchasing a traditional watch.

### **Best watches for appearance and comfort:**

- LG Watch Urbane – [\\$174.24 on Amazon](#)
- Moto 360 (2nd Gen) – [\\$354.99 on Amazon](#)



## **Moto 360 (2nd Gen)**

\$354.99 on Amazon

When it comes to stylish appearance and comfortable fit, this latest generation of Moto 360s easily beats out a lot of the more expensive watches on the market right now. Its bezeled circular face combines simplicity with usability, and its straps come in black or cognac leather, both of which adjust to fit comfortably around a variety of wrist sizes.

Moto has also boosted the 360's performance this time around, with a quad-core 1.2GHz processor, 4GB of onboard storage, and 512MB of RAM. The only real concern here is battery life, which Moto claims lasts up to two full days, but can easily run down below 10 percent in a single day. Still, Moto throws in a variety of gorgeous watchfaces, a crisp 1.37" or 1.56" LCD display, compatibility with both Android and iOS apps, and wireless charging – all of which adds up to one of the all-around slickest smartwatches of 2016, which still holds up strongly against many of 2017's competitors.



*Motorola Moto 360  
(2nd Gen.)*

**The bottom line:** Beautiful, fast, customizable and compatible, the Moto 360 beats out many luxury watches in just about every category except battery life.

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## **LG Watch Urbane**

\$174.24 on Amazon

If you've been waiting for a smartwatch that looks like a timepiece you'd actually wear, your search may be ended with this instant classic from LG. Its circular stainless steel face belongs on a designer timepiece, as do the variety of custom bands in patent leather and other finishes. If you're concerned about size, though, you may be right – the Urbane's 45.5mm diameter and 10.9mm thickness may feel too large on some wrists, though that size does make the 1.3" P-OLED display easier to read.



*LG Watch Urbane*

The Urbane's performance holds its own, with a Snapdragon 400 quad core 1.2GHz processor, 512MB of RAM, 4GB of storage, and a two-day battery life – plus, thanks to



the latest version of Android Wear, the ability to sync with any Android phone via wi-fi – but even so, this watch is a bit of a lightweight in terms of special features. It's got no GPS, no NFC for tap-to-pay, no pedometer, and no wireless charging; but it does offer a PPG heart rate monitor, an accelerometer, a gyrometer and a few other environmental sensors.

**The bottom line:** As long as this larger-than-average watch feels comfortable on your wrist, and you don't mind the lack of GPS and NFC, the Urbane is an absolute steal at this price.

## Display and Notifications

Smartwatch displays vary just as widely as phone and computer screens. Most smartwatches now use color LCD screens or AMOLED displays, which resemble smartphone screens, displaying photos, apps and other content in 8 or even 16 million colors (while a few lower-end models use black-and-white screens). These displays quickly drain batteries, so many smartwatches turn off their screens automatically after a few seconds of inactivity – sometimes hiding even the clock face showing the time – so make sure your smartwatch of choice continues showing the time even when it's inactive, if that's important to you.

Before you buy any smartwatch, check to make sure it displays notifications and alerts the way you want. Some watches show the text of a message on the screen, while others only show an icon, and require you to check your phone for the message. Other watches may require a lot of swipes to get to the content you want, instead of enabling you to access it through a single tap from the main menu. It's worth your while to play around with the interface for a few minutes, and make sure you'll be comfortable using it for your daily tasks.

### ***Best watches for display and notifications:***

- Sony SmartWatch 3 – [\\$141.00 on Amazon](#)
- Samsung Gear S3 – [\\$334.93 on Amazon](#)



## **Samsung Gear S3**

\$334.93 on Amazon

Samsung's S1 and S2 watches were no slouches – but the company has pulled out all the stops for this latest generation, collaborating with a Swiss timepiece designer to create a watch that's elegant yet rugged; stylish yet functional. Though the 46mm steel casing can feel a bit chunky on the wrist, it contains a crystal-clear always-on 1.3" Super AMOLED display, which offers 16 million colors, up from the S2's 8 million.



*Samsung Gear S3*

Although Samsung has chosen to go with the Tizen OS rather than Android Wear, the Gear S3 is still compatible with many apps and functions on both Android and iOS phones. Its dual-core 1.0GHz processor is a little slower than industry standard, but its 4GB of onboard storage, 768MB of RAM, wireless charging capability, and whopping three-day battery life more than make up for that. And, perhaps surprisingly for such a high-performance watch, the Gear S3 is IP68 certified, meaning it can survive extreme temperatures, physical shocks, and a 30-minute submersion in up to 5 feet of water.

**The bottom line:** The Apple Watch has finally met its match. If you can afford the price, the Gear S3 measures up to all competitors – and then some.

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## **Sony SmartWatch 3**

\$141.00 on Amazon

In terms of physical design, the SmartWatch 3 harkens back to the first generation of smartwatches, when these devices looked more like miniature computers than fashionable timepieces. That doesn't mean this watch is uncomfortable at all – it sits light and low on the wrist, and its band stays firmly in place, whether you choose the standard rubber or the stainless steel. Its glossy black bezel and square face do look pretty "phone-like," but that's a matter of personal taste more than anything.



*Sony SmartWatch 3*

Display and features are the areas where this watch really shines. Its 1.6" transfective LCD provides a clear view from almost any angle, in just about any lighting conditions.

A 1.2GHz ARM A7 processor, 512MB of ram, and 4GB of onboard storage keep this phone's performance competitive – though it's iPhone compatibility is very limited, which means you'll need an Android phone to pair with it. All the same, a built-in GPS, NFC for tap-to-pay, two-day battery life, and super-sturdy IP68 certification make the SmartWatch 3 a strong contender for outdoor adventures.

**The bottom line:** As long as you don't mind its outward appearance, the SmartWatch 3 offers better display quality and more special features than most other watches at this price point.

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## Apps and Watchfaces

Some smartwatches can run many of the same apps you run on your phone – while others only run a restricted list of proprietary apps permitted by the developer. The Apple Watch, for example, can run more than 8,500 apps available in the Apple Watch Store, including Instagram and Uber. The Android Wear store lags a bit behind, with “only” about 4,000 apps available; but many Android smartwatches will support at least some of your favorite must-have apps, like WhatsApp and Google Keep. The Samsung Gear store, meanwhile, offers about 1,400 apps; while many other smartwatch OSes support far fewer.

Certain smartwatches also offer dozens of digital watchfaces to choose from, with support for even more faces developed by third parties – but many watches toward the lower end of the price range only provide a few face options, or offer no ability to customize the face at all. This might not seem like a crucial problem in itself, but keep in mind that a lack of customization options will most likely prove frustrating over the long term.

### ***Best watches for apps and watchfaces:***

- Apple Watch Series 1 – [\\$239.99 on Amazon](#)
- Samsung Gear S3 – [\\$334.93 on Amazon](#)



## Apple Watch Series 1

(prices vary widely depending on features and options; standard edition is \$239.99 on Amazon)

Designed to excel both in elegance and in functionality, Apple's first entry into the smartwatch space delivers in both categories. It's so light you'll barely feel it on your wrist; and a range of swappable bands – colorful rubber, leather, stainless steel, and many others – make the Apple Watch easy to customize to your liking.

The watch's 1.65" AMOLED capacitive touchscreen shines with 16 million colors in bright and dim light – and its dual-core processor, 8GB of onboard storage, and 512MB of RAM keep Apple's WatchOS operating system quick and responsive, while its lithium-ion battery delivers a solid 18 hours of life. Aside from this, though, the Apple Watch lacks a lot of features you might expect – it's got no GPS, no video recorder, and no cellular connectivity. But if your top priority is to make sure your smartwatch can run all your favorite apps, the Apple Watch Store provides access to a universe of more than 8,500 native applications, from Apple as well as from third-party developers.



*Apple Watch Series 1*

**The bottom line:** The Apple Watch Series 1 is light, fast and intuitive – but also light on features, compared to many second- and third-generation smartwatches.

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## Any watch running the Android Wear OS

If you're set on getting a non-Apple smartwatch – and, given the range of other options out there, who could blame you? – your best option in terms of app choices is to stick with Android watches that use the Android Wear operating system, which connects with the Android Wear store to give you access to more than 4,000 apps. Some Android Wear watches – like the Asus ZenWatch 3 and the Huawei Watch (both reviewed in the “OS compatibility” section of this guide) – also offer some degree of compatibility with iOS devices like iPhones.

That's not to say an Android Wear watch is absolutely essential for a positive smartwatch experience. For example, the Samsung Gear S3, which excels in almost every category,

uses the Tizen OS, which runs about 1,400 apps – and isn’t compatible with iPhones at all – but still gives you access to must-have apps like WhatsApp and Evernote. Other companies, like Garmin, package their smartwatches with predetermined lists of apps, and don’t even give you the option of installing apps from third-party developers at all.

**The bottom line:** Before you buy a smartwatch, make a list of apps you use on a regular basis, and double-check whether they’re supported by the OS of the watch you want.

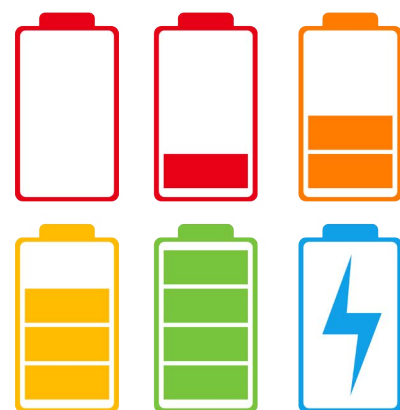
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## Durability and Battery Life

Smartwatches are designed for all kinds of lifestyles. Some are light, sleek accessories designed to be worn in the office, while others are thick, heavy beasts designed to survive extreme temperatures, submersion in water, and drops from heights. Plenty of other watches fall somewhere along this spectrum, offering various balances of durability, fashionability, sleekness and strength.

Battery life also runs the full gamut. Some smartwatches’ internal batteries only last half a day without charging; while others can last 1,000 days or more, under the right circumstances. Most watches, however, can go between one and three days of ordinary use without needing to be charged – depending on a lot of factors, such as the amount of time the display, wi-fi and GPS were active.

Warning: before you buy a smartwatch that boasts of super-long battery life, make sure you know exactly what you’re signing up for. Many of the longest-lived smartwatches are actually “hybrid” watches, which offer some smartwatch features (like Bluetooth notifications), but have only analog displays and buttons instead of touchscreens. In this guide, we’ll be skipping over the hybrids, and focusing only on full-color touchscreen smartwatches with long battery lives.



### ***Best watches for durability and battery life:***

- Garmin Vivoactive HR – [\\$249.99 on Amazon](#)
- Garmin Fenix 3 Sapphire – [\\$449.99 on Amazon](#)

## Garmin Vivoactive HR

\$249.99 on Amazon

While some smartwatches aim for near-infinite customizability, Garmin has done almost the exact opposite with the Vivoactive HR – focusing instead on creating an activity tracker that also offers some smartwatch functionality. The watch's design is flat, black and rectangular, like a Fitbit, which means it feels a bit bulky on the wrist; but when it comes to interface, Garmin did just about everything right with this watch.



*Garmin Vivoactive HR*

The screen stays on at all times, without requiring you to flick your wrist to see the time. Garmin's unique Connect IQ operating system offers only about 100 apps – far fewer than any other app store – but they all run quickly and responsively on the Vivoactive HR. This watch also comes pre-packaged with an onboard GPS, as well as apps for tracking heart rate, steps, calories, distance, and many other metrics for every sport from running to golfing to paddleboarding, and beyond. The Vivoactive HR is fully rated for swimming and other aquatic activities. And with a battery life of up to eight days – or 13 hours when you're using GPS – this watch is unlikely to quit on you in the middle of a journey.

**The bottom line:** If you're looking for a tracker to take along on your adventures, the Vivoactive HR will have no problem keeping up – as long as you're okay with the lack of familiar apps.

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## Garmin Fenix 3 Sapphire

\$449.99 on Amazon

Let's be honest: the Fenix 3 Sapphire is not a fashion watch. It's thick, heavy, large-faced – and built of titanium, making it all but impossible to destroy. Even its color LCD display is protected by sapphire crystal, which can survive falls onto solid rock. It's water rated up to 10 ATM / 100 meters, and is built to survive wind, rain, snow, and subzero temperatures – outlasting most phones and other electronics with a 15-hour battery life, which can be extended to 50 hours in battery saver mode.



*Garmin Fenix 3  
Sapphire*



Oh, but we're just getting started. The Fenix 3 comes with an onboard exo antenna for GPS and GLONASS (Russia's global positioning system), along with an altimeter, a barometer and a compass, wi-fi sensors, and specialized apps for tracking your progress in running, swimming, mountain-climbing, snowboarding, and a range of other outdoor activities. Like most of Garmin's watches, the Fenix 3 runs its own proprietary apps, and gives you access to the Connect IQ store, where you can download 100 or so others.

**The bottom line:** If you're an outdoor adventurer with money to spend, the Fenix 3 will survive just about anything you throw at it, all while keeping you connected.

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## Fitness and Outdoor Features

As the first generation of smartwatches made clear, many smartwatch buyers are interested in watches that can track their steps, map their routes, monitor their heart rate, and survive (at least some of) the rigors of outdoor life. Some smartwatch makers, like Garmin and Fitbit, have responded by focusing almost exclusively on health and fitness features, at the expense of most other apps. Still, many other smartwatches offer a variety of handy tools for managing your workouts and tracking your progress.



If you're aiming to plan and track activities with your smartwatch, double-check that it has onboard GPS, a pedometer, and a heart rate monitor. Some watches can even play music from your phone's library and make calls on the go, as long as you have your phone nearby. At the very least, make sure your smartwatch is certified with an IP67 rating, which means it'll hold up under the strain of heat, cold, dust, and other elements, including submersion in about three feet (one meter) of water. A sturdier IP68 rating means a watch can survive up to 30 minutes under five feet of water, along with a range of extreme temperatures and physical shocks.

Best watches for fitness and outdoor features:

- Samsung Gear S3 Frontier – [\\$299.99 on Amazon](#)
- Apple Watch Series 2 – [\\$400.00 on Amazon](#)

### **Samsung Gear S3 Frontier**

\$299.99 on Amazon

Stylish but rugged, fast but full-featured, the Gear S3 Frontier is less of a watch and more of a mini-computer, with many of the features you'd expect to find on a high-end smartphone. Its stainless steel case includes a rotating bezel, which is handy for controlling apps on the go; and its standard black silicone strap is easily swapped out for a variety of leather and steel bands. Though the Frontier weighs a full 2.2 ounces – more than twice as much as the Apple Watch Series 2 – it's even more durable than you might expect: its face is protected by Gorilla Glass, and it's MIL-SPEC-810G rated to survive five-foot falls and 30-minute submersion in five feet (about 1.5 meters) of water.



*Samsung Gear S3  
Frontier*

Built-in cellular LTE, GPS, wi-fi, heart-rate monitoring and voice control – along with 4GB of onboard storage and 768MB of RAM – make it possible to leave your smartphone behind when you hit the trail. The watch's dual-core 1.0GHz processor packs a little less punch than some of its competitors, but that's scarcely noticeable when you're racing through apps on the 16-million-color Super AMOLED capacitive touchscreen.

There's no denying that this watch's Tizen OS doesn't boast nearly as many apps as the Android Wear or Apple Watch Store – but Tizen still provides all the essential functionality you need in a watch, along with more than 1,400 third-party apps, and seamless data syncing with any Android phone. And its 380mAh battery can hold out for three days or more, even when you're using wi-fi.

**The bottom line:** When it comes to self-contained, rugged outdoor smartwatches, the Gear S3 Frontier has no equal in the Android world – and it's cheaper than the Apple Watch Series 2.

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### **Apple Watch Series 2**

(prices vary widely depending on features and options; standard edition is \$400.00 on Amazon)

It'd be hard to say much of anything negative about the Apple Watch 2's appearance. This sleek, minimalistic device looks like it came straight out of a sci-fi movie – and

it's got many of the features to match. If the standard synthetic rubber band doesn't fit your taste, you can swap it out for polished stainless steel, or a variety of other fashionable colors.

The watch's 1.3" sapphire crystal glass display is perfectly sized for wrist viewing, boasting a 1.6 million-color AMOLED touchscreen. Its dual-core CPU and 8GB of onboard storage make sure its WatchOS operating system runs smoothly and responsively. Special features include discreet "Taptic" notifications, full iOS compatibility, NFC for wearable payments, and GPS. An 18-hour battery life makes this watch an ideal choice for outdoorsy sports – and it's MIL-SPEC-810G rated to survive five-foot falls onto hard surfaces, as well as underwater dives up to 164 feet (50 meters).



*Apple Watch Series 2*

One final note: although the Apple Watch 2 is (of course) fully compatible with most iPhones, its app support actually lags a bit behind that of the Series 1. You'll have all the apps you need for a seamless user experience, but you may find yourself limited in terms of support for many of the 8,500 third-party apps in the Apple Watch store.

**The bottom line:** Whether you're a runner, a swimmer, or any other kind of adventurer, the Apple Watch Series 2 has the features you need – if you can afford them.

If you're not still which smartwatch is right for you after reading this guide, the best solution may just be to choose one of the versatile mid-range watches, and customize it to suit your needs. Make sure it's compatible with your phone's OS, can run your favorite apps, and has a reasonable battery life and durability rating. Beyond that, the best watch for you may simply be the one that feels most natural on your wrist.

