

Best Smartphones with Expandable Storage

Description

Best Smartphones with Expandable Storage in 2024

In an era where high-resolution photos, 4K videos, and large applications dominate storage space, having a smartphone with expandable storage is a significant advantage. While many flagship devices have moved away from microSD card slots in favor of built-in storage, several mid-range and budget-friendly smartphones still offer this feature.

Expandable storage allows users to increase their device's capacity without relying solely on cloud services or deleting files. Whether you're a photographer, gamer, or someone who simply wants extra space for media, these smartphones provide flexibility and convenience.

Below is a detailed list of the **best smartphones with expandable storage** in 2024, categorized by price range and key features.

Why Choose a Smartphone with Expandable Storage?

Before diving into the list, it's essential to understand the benefits of expandable storage:

- Cost-Effective Upgrades** - Instead of paying premium prices for higher internal storage, users can buy affordable microSD cards (up to 1TB in some cases).
- Flexibility** - Easily transfer files between devices by swapping microSD cards.
- Future-Proofing** - As file sizes grow (e.g., 8K videos, high-res games), expandable storage ensures your device remains usable for years.
- Backup & Portability** - Store large files (movies, documents, backups) without relying on cloud services.
- No Need for Cloud Dependence** - Avoid recurring subscription fees for cloud storage.

However, there are some trade-offs:

- **Slower Speeds** - microSD cards (especially budget ones) may not match the read/write speeds of internal storage.

- **App Limitations** - Some apps cannot be moved to external storage, limiting its usefulness for app-heavy users.

- **Durability Concerns** - Frequent card swapping may lead to wear and tear.

Despite these drawbacks, expandable storage remains a valuable feature for many users.

Best Smartphones with Expandable Storage in 2024

1. Premium Flagship (With Expandable Storage)

While most flagship phones have abandoned microSD slots, a few exceptions still exist.

Samsung Galaxy S23 FE

- **Storage:** 128GB/256GB (expandable up to 1TB via microSD)
- **Display:** 6.4-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X, 120Hz
- **Processor:** Exynos 2200 / Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 (region-dependent)
- **RAM:** 8GB
- **Camera:** 50MP (main) + 12MP (ultrawide) + 8MP (telephoto, 3x zoom)
- **Battery:** 4,500mAh, 25W fast charging
- **OS:** Android 14 with One UI 6.1
- **Price:** ~\$600

Why It's Great:

The Galaxy S23 FE is one of the few premium phones with expandable storage, offering flagship-level performance, a stunning AMOLED display, and a versatile camera system. The microSD slot makes it ideal for power users who need extra space without breaking the bank.

2. Best Mid-Range Smartphones (With Expandable Storage)

Samsung Galaxy A54 5G

- **Storage:** 128GB/256GB (expandable up to 1TB)
- **Display:** 6.4-inch Super AMOLED, 120Hz
- **Processor:** Exynos 1380
- **RAM:** 6GB/8GB
- **Camera:** 50MP (main) + 12MP (ultrawide) + 5MP (macro)
- **Battery:** 5,000mAh, 25W fast charging
- **OS:** Android 14 with One UI 6.1
- **Price:** ~\$450

Why It's Great:

The Galaxy A54 5G is a well-rounded mid-ranger with a vibrant AMOLED display, solid performance, and a long-lasting battery. The microSD slot is a major plus for users who need extra storage for photos, videos, and apps.

Motorola Moto G Power (2024)

- **Storage:** 128GB (expandable up to 1TB)
- **Display:** 6.6-inch IPS LCD, 120Hz
- **Processor:** Snapdragon 6 Gen 1

- **RAM:** 8GB
- **Camera:** 50MP (main) + 8MP (ultrawide) + 2MP (macro)
- **Battery:** 6,000mAh, 30W fast charging
- **OS:** Android 14
- **Price:** ~\$250

Why It's Great:

The Moto G Power is a budget-friendly workhorse with an enormous battery and expandable storage. It's perfect for users who prioritize battery life and storage flexibility over premium features.

Sony Xperia 10 V

- **Storage:** 128GB (expandable up to 1TB)
- **Display:** 6.1-inch OLED, 60Hz
- **Processor:** Snapdragon 695 5G
- **RAM:** 6GB/8GB
- **Camera:** 48MP (main) + 8MP (ultrawide)
- **Battery:** 5,000mAh, 30W fast charging
- **OS:** Android 13 (upgradable to 14)
- **Price:** ~\$400

Why It's Great:

Sony's Xperia 10 V offers a clean Android experience, a compact design, and expandable storage—rare in mid-range phones. It's a great choice for media consumption and photography enthusiasts.

3. Best Budget Smartphones (With Expandable Storage)

Samsung Galaxy A15 5G

- **Storage:** 128GB (expandable up to 1TB)
- **Display:** 6.5-inch Super AMOLED, 90Hz
- **Processor:** MediaTek Dimensity 6100+
- **RAM:** 4GB/6GB/8GB
- **Camera:** 50MP (main) + 5MP (ultrawide) + 2MP (macro)
- **Battery:** 5,000mAh, 25W fast charging
- **OS:** Android 14 with One UI 6.0
- **Price:** ~\$200

Why It's Great:

The Galaxy A15 5G is one of the best budget phones with expandable storage, offering a smooth AMOLED display, decent performance, and a reliable camera system.

Nokia G42 5G

- **Storage:** 128GB (expandable up to 1TB)
- **Display:** 6.56-inch IPS LCD, 90Hz
- **Processor:** Snapdragon 480+ 5G
- **RAM:** 4GB/6GB
- **Camera:** 50MP (main) + 2MP (macro) + 2MP (depth)
- **Battery:** 5,000mAh, 20W fast charging
- **OS:** Android 13 (upgradable to 14)
- **Price:** ~\$250

Why It's Great:

Nokia's G42 5G is a durable, no-frills smartphone with expandable storage, 5G connectivity, and a clean Android experience. It's ideal for users who want a simple, long-lasting device.

TCL 40 XE NxtPaper

- **Storage:** 64GB (expandable up to 1TB)
- **Display:** 6.56-inch NxtPaper LCD, 90Hz
- **Processor:** MediaTek Helio G37
- **RAM:** 4GB
- **Camera:** 13MP (main) + 2MP (macro) + 2MP (depth)
- **Battery:** 5,000mAh, 18W fast charging
- **OS:** Android 13
- **Price:** ~\$150

Why It's Great:

The TCL 40 XE NxtPaper stands out with its unique **NxtPaper display**, which reduces eye strain. It's one of the cheapest phones with expandable storage, making it perfect for budget-conscious users.

4. Best Rugged Smartphones (With Expandable Storage)

For users who need durability in harsh conditions, rugged phones with expandable storage are a great choice.

Samsung Galaxy XCover 6 Pro

- **Storage:** 128GB (expandable up to 1TB)
- **Display:** 6.6-inch TFT LCD, 120Hz
- **Processor:** Snapdragon 778G
- **RAM:** 6GB
- **Camera:** 50MP (main) + 8MP (ultrawide)
- **Battery:** 4,050mAh, 15W fast charging
- **OS:** Android 13 (upgradable to 14)
- **Durability:** IP68, MIL-STD-810G
- **Price:** ~\$500

Why It's Great:

The Galaxy XCover 6 Pro is a ruggedized phone with expandable storage, making it ideal for outdoor workers, travelers, and adventurers. It offers solid performance and military-grade durability.

CAT S75

- **Storage:** 128GB (expandable up to 1TB)
- **Display:** 6.6-inch FHD+ LCD, 120Hz
- **Processor:** MediaTek Dimensity 930
- **RAM:** 6GB
- **Camera:** 50MP (main) + 8MP (ultrawide)
- **Battery:** 5,000mAh, 15W fast charging
- **OS:** Android 13
- **Durability:** IP68, IP69, MIL-STD-810H
- **Price:** ~\$600

Why It's Great:

The CAT S75 is built for extreme conditions, with **thermal imaging** and **drop resistance**. The expandable storage is a bonus for users who need extra space in demanding environments.

How to Choose the Right Smartphone with Expandable Storage

When selecting a smartphone with expandable storage, consider the following factors:

1. **Storage Needs** – If you store a lot of media, opt for a phone that supports **high-capacity microSD cards (512GB/1TB)**.
2. **Performance** – Mid-range and budget phones with expandable storage may have slower processors. Check benchmarks if performance is a priority.
3. **Camera Quality** – If photography is important, choose a phone with a **good main sensor (50MP or higher)**.
4. **Battery Life** – Phones with **5,000mAh+ batteries** are ideal for heavy users.
5. **Durability** – If you need a rugged phone, look for **IP68/MIL-STD-810G certification**.
6. **Software Updates** – Samsung, Google, and Motorola offer **longer software support**, ensuring future-proofing.
7. **Price** – Budget phones (\$150-\$300) offer expandable storage but may lack premium features.

Final Verdict: Best Smartphones with Expandable Storage in 2024

Category	Best Pick	Best Budget Pick	Best Rugged Pick
Premium	Samsung Galaxy S23 FE		
Mid-Range	Samsung Galaxy A54 5G	Motorola Moto G Power	

Category	Best Pick	Best Budget Pick	Best Rugged Pick
Budget	Samsung Galaxy A15 5G	TCL 40 XE NxtPaper	??
Rugged	Samsung Galaxy XCover 6 Pro ??		CAT S75

Best Overall: Samsung Galaxy A54 5G

The **Galaxy A54 5G** strikes the best balance between **performance, display quality, camera, and expandable storage** at a mid-range price. Itâ??s the ideal choice for most users who want a reliable phone with extra storage flexibility.

Best Budget: Samsung Galaxy A15 5G

For those on a tight budget, the **Galaxy A15 5G** offers **5G connectivity, a great AMOLED display, and expandable storage** at an affordable price.

Best for Durability: CAT S75

If you need a **rugged phone with expandable storage**, the **CAT S75** is the best option, with **thermal imaging and extreme durability**.

Conclusion

Expandable storage remains a valuable feature for users who need **extra space without relying on cloud services**. While flagship phones have largely abandoned microSD slots, **mid-range and budget smartphones** continue to offer this flexibility.

Whether youâ??re looking for a **premium device (Galaxy S23 FE)**, a **mid-range workhorse (Galaxy A54 5G)**, a **budget-friendly option (Galaxy A15 5G)**, or a **rugged phone (CAT S75)**, there are plenty of great choices in 2024.

By considering **storage needs, performance, camera quality, and durability**, you can find the perfect smartphone with expandable storage to suit your lifestyle.

Category

1. Uncategorized

Date Created

July 8, 2026

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