Samsung Galaxy Note 20 Ultra: Is It Still Worth Buying in 2026

Description

Samsung Galaxy Note 20 Ultra in 2026: Is It Still Worth Buying?

The Samsung Galaxy Note 20 Ultra was one of the most powerful and feature-rich smartphones of its time, released in August 2020. With its premium build, flagship-grade performance, and the iconic S Pen, it was a top choice for productivity-focused users. However, as technology advances rapidly, many potential buyers in 2026 may wonder whether this device still holds up.

default watermark

In this article, weâ??ll assess the Galaxy Note 20 Ultraâ??s performance, software support, hardware durability, and overall value in 2026 to determine if itâ??s still a worthwhile purchase.

1. Performance: How Does the Note 20 Ultra Hold Up in 2026?

Processor & RAM

The Galaxy Note 20 Ultra was powered by either the **Exynos 990 (global variant)** or the **Snapdragon 865+ (U.S. and select markets)**. Both chips were top-tier in 2020, but how do they compare to modern processors in 2026?

- **Snapdragon 865+:** Still capable of handling everyday tasks, social media, and even some gaming, but struggles with newer, more demanding apps and games.
- **Exynos 990:** Known for its higher power consumption and thermal throttling, making it less efficient than the Snapdragon variant in long-term use.

With **12GB of RAM**, multitasking remains smooth, but newer apps and games may push the device to its limits.

Gaming & Benchmark Performance

- **Gaming:** The Note 20 Ultra can still run older and mid-tier games (e.g., *Call of Duty Mobile, PUBG Mobile, Genshin Impact on lower settings*) without major issues. However, newer AAA titles may struggle with frame drops and overheating.
- **Benchmark Scores:** In 2020, the Snapdragon 865+ scored around **660,000+ on AnTuTu**. In 2026, this is comparable to mid-range devices, meaning it wonâ??t match flagship performance but remains usable for basic tasks.

Verdict: The Note 20 Ultra is still functional for everyday use but may feel sluggish with newer, more demanding applications.

---

2. Software & Updates: Will It Still Receive Support in 2026?

Samsung has been improving its software update policy, but the Note 20 Ultraâ??s age means it may no longer receive major OS upgrades.

Current Software Status (2026)

- **Original OS:** Android 10 (upgraded to Android 13 via One UI 5.1)
- **Final Major Update:** Likely **Android 14 (One UI 6.1)**, which may have been its last major OS upgrade.
- **Security Updates:** Samsung typically provides **4 years of security updates**, meaning the Note 20 Ultra may no longer receive them by 2026.

default watermark

One UI Experience

- **One UI 5.1/6.1** (if still supported) remains smooth, but some newer features (e.g., AI integrations, advanced camera modes) may be missing.
- **S Pen Features:** Still fully functional, but newer Note models (e.g., Note 23) offer improved latency and additional software optimizations.

Verdict: The Note 20 Ultra may still run Android 14, but itâ??s at the end of its software support lifecycle, making it less future-proof.

---

3. Display & Design: Still a Premium Experience?

Display Quality

- **6.9-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X** with **120Hz adaptive refresh rate** (up to QHD+ resolution).
- **HDR10+ support** and **508 PPI** ensure vibrant colors and deep blacks.
- **Peak brightness (1500 nits)** remains competitive, making it usable in sunlight.

Design & Build

- **Gorilla Glass Victus** (front and back) with an **aluminum frame** ensures durability.
- **IP68 water and dust resistance** still holds up well.
- **Curved edges** may feel outdated compared to modern flat-screen designs.

Verdict: The display remains one of the best aspects of the Note 20 Ultra, offering a premium viewing experience even in 2026.

---

4. Camera Performance: Can It Still Compete?

The Note 20 Ultra featured a **108MP main sensor**, **12MP ultra-wide**, and **48MP periscope telephoto (5x optical zoom, 50x digital zoom)**.

Photo Quality in 2026

- **Daylight Photos:** Still sharp and detailed, though newer phones offer better dynamic range and AI processing.
- **Low-Light Performance:** The **108MP sensor with pixel binning** performs decently, but newer flagships (e.g., Galaxy S24 Ultra) have superior night modes.
- **Zoom Capabilities:** The **5x optical zoom** was groundbreaking in 2020, but modern phones (e.g., Galaxy S24 Ultra with 10x optical zoom) surpass it.
- **Video Recording:** Supports **8K@24fps**, but newer phones offer better stabilization and higher frame rates.

Verdict: The camera is still capable, but it lags behind modern flagships in computational photography and zoom performance.

default watermark

5. Battery Life & Charging: How Does It Fare After Years of Use?

Battery Capacity & Longevity

- **4,500mAh battery** was impressive in 2020, but after **5+ years of use**, battery degradation is inevitable.
- **Expected Battery Health in 2026:** Likely **60-80% of original capacity**, meaning shorter runtime.
- **Charging Speed: 25W wired charging** and **15W wireless charging** are slow by todayâ??s standards.

Real-World Usage

- **Moderate Use:** 4-6 hours of screen-on time (depending on battery health).
- **Heavy Use:** May struggle to last a full day without a midday charge.

Verdict: Battery life is the biggest weakness in 2026, requiring frequent charging or a battery replacement.

6. Storage & Future-Proofing

- **Storage Options:** 128GB, 256GB, 512GB (no microSD expansion on the Ultra model).
- **UFS 3.0 Storage:** Fast for 2020, but newer phones use **UFS 4.0**, which is significantly faster.
- **App & Game Sizes:** Modern apps and games take up more space, so 128GB may feel limiting.

Verdict: Storage is still sufficient for basic use, but power users may find it restrictive.

7. Price & Value in 2026

Expected Market Price (Used/Refurbished)

- **2026 Price Range: $150â??$300** (depending on condition and storage).
- **New (if available):** Unlikely, as Samsung no longer produces the Note 20 Ultra.

Alternatives in 2026

- **Galaxy S22 Ultra (2022):** Better performance, longer software support, and improved cameras.
- **Galaxy S23 Ultra (2023):** Even more future-proof with Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 and better battery life.
- **Galaxy S24 Ultra (2024):** Latest flagship with AI features, superior zoom, and longer support.

default watermark

Verdict: The Note 20 Ultra is a budget-friendly option, but newer alternatives offer better value.

8. Who Should Still Buy the Galaxy Note 20 Ultra in 2026?

Despite its age, the Note 20 Ultra may still appeal to:

â? **Budget Buyers** â?? If found at a very low price, itâ??s a decent entry into the flagship market.
â? **S Pen Enthusiasts** â?? One of the last true Note devices with a built-in stylus.
â? **Secondary/Backup Phone Users** â?? For calls, messaging, and light media consumption.
â? **Tech Enthusiasts & Collectors** â?? Those who appreciate its historical significance.

â•? **Avoid If You Need:**
â?? **Long-term software support** (no more major updates).
â?? **Top-tier performance** (struggles with newer apps/games).
â?? **Modern camera features** (lacks AI enhancements and better zoom).
â?? **Good battery life** (degraded after years of use).

Final Verdict: Is the Galaxy Note 20 Ultra Still Worth Buying in 2026?

The **Samsung Galaxy Note 20 Ultra was a powerhouse in 2020**, but in **2026, it shows its age**. While it still offers a **premium display, S Pen functionality, and decent performance for basic tasks**, its **battery life, software support, and camera performance** lag behind modern alternatives.

If you find it at a very low price (under $200) and only need a secondary or budget-friendly phone, it can still serve a purpose. However, for most users, **newer mid-range or flagship devices**

(e.g., Galaxy S23 Ultra, S24 Ultra) will provide a much better experience.

Ultimately, the **Note 20 Ultra is a relic of its time**â??a great phone in 2020, but not a practical choice in 2026 unless you have specific needs.

Category

1. Uncategorized

Date Created
July 8, 2026
Author
vvfvw

default watermark