Google Pixel 7 Pro Long-Term Review: Is It Still Reliable

Description

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The **Google Pixel 7 Pro**, released in October 2022, was one of the most anticipated smartphones of its time. With its **Tensor G2 chipset, advanced camera system, and smooth Android experience**, it promised flagship performance and long-term usability. But now, over a year and a half later, how does it hold up? Is the Pixel 7 Pro still a reliable daily driver, or has it been outpaced by newer models?

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In this **long-term review**, weâ??ll assess the Pixel 7 Proâ??s **performance, battery life, software support, camera quality, and overall durability** to determine whether it remains a smart choice in 2024.

1. Performance: Still Smooth, But Not Future-Proof

Tensor G2 Chipset â?? Strengths and Weaknesses

The **Google Tensor G2** was a custom-designed chip aimed at improving AI and machine learning tasks. While it delivered **excellent photo processing, voice recognition, and real-time translation**, it lagged behind competitors like the **Snapdragon 8 Gen 2** in raw power.

- **Day-to-Day Performance:** The Pixel 7 Pro remains **smooth for everyday tasks**â??browsing, social media, and light gaming (e.g., *Call of Duty Mobile, Genshin Impact on medium settings*) are handled well.
- **Multitasking & App Load Times:** With **12GB of RAM**, app switching is fluid, and most apps launch quickly. However, **heavy multitasking** (e.g., gaming while streaming) can cause slight slowdowns.
- **Thermal Throttling:** Under prolonged stress (e.g., gaming or video recording), the phone **does get warm**, but it rarely throttles performance to the point of being unusable.

Verdict: The Tensor G2 is **not the fastest chip** in 2024, but for most users, itâ??s still **more than capable**. However, those who demand **high-end gaming or future-proofing** may find it lacking.

2. Battery Life: Still Strong, But Not Class-Leading

4926mAh Battery â?? A Full Dayâ??s Use

The Pixel 7 Proâ??s **battery life was a highlight at launch**, and it remains **solid in 2024**, though not exceptional compared to newer flagships.

- **Screen-on Time (SOT):**
- **5-6 hours** with **moderate use** (social media, messaging, light gaming).
- **6-7 hours** with **light use** (browsing, calls, occasional video).
- **4-5 hours** with **heavy use** (gaming, GPS, video recording).
- **Charging Speed:**
- **30W wired charging** (0-50% in ~30 mins, full charge in ~90 mins).
- **23W wireless charging** (slower but convenient).
- **Reverse wireless charging** (useful for earbuds or a friendâ??s phone).
- **Battery Degradation:**
- After **18+ months of use**, most users report **~85-90% battery health**, meaning **slight degradation** but not severe.
- **Adaptive Battery & Extreme Battery Saver** help extend longevity.

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Verdict: The Pixel 7 Proâ??s battery **still lasts a full day** for most users, but **heavy users may need a midday top-up**. Itâ??s **not the best in class** (e.g., iPhone 15 Pro Max or Galaxy S24 Ultra last longer), but itâ??s **reliable enough**.

3. Software & Updates: Googleâ??s Best Support Yet

7 Years of Updates (Android 14 â?? Android 21)

One of the **biggest advantages** of the Pixel 7 Pro is **Googleâ??s long-term software support**. Unlike many Android phones that get **2-3 years of updates**, the Pixel 7 Pro is **guaranteed updates until October 2029**.

- **Current Software (Mid-2024):**
- Running **Android 14** with **June 2024 security patch**.
- **Smooth performance** with no major bugs.
- **Pixel-exclusive features** (e.g., **Magic Editor, Call Screen, Hold for Me**) still work well.
- **Future Updates:**
- **Android 15** (expected late 2024) will bring **new AI features, improved privacy, and performance tweaks**.
- **Android 16 & 17** will follow, ensuring the phone stays **secure and up-to-date**.

Verdict: The Pixel 7 Pro **outlasts most Android phones** in software support, making it a **smart long-term investment**.

4. Camera Performance: Still One of the Best

50MP Main + 48MP Telephoto + 12MP Ultrawide

The **Pixel 7 Proâ??s camera system was a standout at launch**, and it **still competes with 2024 flagships** in many areas.

Photo Quality (Daylight & Low Light)

- **Main Camera (50MP, f/1.9):**
- **Excellent dynamic range** and **accurate colors**.
- **Night Sight** still produces **bright, detailed low-light shots**.
- **Telephoto (48MP, 5x optical zoom):**
- **Sharp 5x zoom** (better than most digital zoom solutions).
- **10x-30x Super Res Zoom** holds up well in good lighting.
- **Ultrawide (12MP, f/2.2):**
- **Wide field of view** with minimal distortion.
- **Night Sight works well** for astrophotography.

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Video Recording (4K 60FPS, 10-bit HDR)

- **Stabilization is excellent** (better than many newer phones).
- **Audio recording is clear**, though not as good as iPhones.
- **Limited pro video features** (no 8K, no log profiles).

AI & Computational Photography

- **Magic Eraser** (removes unwanted objects) still works well.
- **Photo Unblur** (fixes motion blur) is hit-or-miss.
- **Real Tone** (accurate skin tones) remains a **standout feature**.

Verdict: The Pixel 7 Proâ??s camera **still rivals 2024 flagships** in most scenarios. While **iPhones and Galaxy S24 Ultra** may have slight advantages in video and zoom, the Pixel 7 Pro **remains one of the best smartphone cameras** for photography.

5. Build Quality & Durability: Premium but Not Perfect

Gorilla Glass Victus 2 & Aluminum Frame

The Pixel 7 Pro has a **premium build** with:
â?? **Gorilla Glass Victus 2** (front and back).
â?? **Aluminum frame** (solid but not as premium as titanium).
â?? **IP68 water and dust resistance**.

Real-World Durability

- **Screen & Back Glass:** Resistant to scratches but **not shatterproof** (a case is recommended).
- **Camera Bump:** The **raised camera module** is prone to scratches if placed face-down.
- **Buttons & Ports:** The **power button and volume rocker** feel tactile, and the **USB-C port** has held up well.

Verdict: The Pixel 7 Pro is **well-built but not indestructible**. A **good case and screen protector** are recommended for long-term use.

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6. Value in 2024: Is It Still Worth Buying?

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Pricing & Alternatives

- **Original Price:** $899 (128GB) / $999 (256GB).
- **Current Price (2024): $500-$650** (refurbished/new).
- **Alternatives:**
- **Pixel 8 Pro** ($999+) â?? Better performance, 7 years of updates, improved camera.
- **Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra** ($800-$1,000) â?? Better zoom, display, and battery.
- **iPhone 14 Pro** ($700-$800) â?? Better chipset, longer software support.

Who Should Buy the Pixel 7 Pro in 2024?

â? **Budget-conscious buyers** who want a **flagship experience** without spending $1,000+.
â? **Photography enthusiasts** who prioritize **Googleâ??s computational photography**.
â? **Long-term users** who want **7 years of updates** without upgrading.
â? **Android purists** who prefer **clean software and fast updates**.

Who Should Avoid It?

â•? **Gamers & power users** who need **better performance and cooling**.
â•? **Those who want the latest tech** (e.g., **titanium build, 200MP cameras, AI features**).
â•? **Users who prioritize battery life** over everything else.

Final Verdict: Still a Reliable Flagship

After **18+ months of real-world use**, the **Google Pixel 7 Pro remains a highly capable smartphone**. While itâ??s **not the absolute best in any single category** (battery, performance, or camera), it

excels in software support, photography, and overall reliability.

Pros:

â?? **7 years of software updates** (best in Android).
â?? **Still one of the best smartphone cameras**.
â?? **Smooth performance for daily use**.
â?? **Great value at $500-$650**.

Cons:

â?? **Tensor G2 is showing its age** (not ideal for heavy gaming).
â?? **Battery life is good but not class-leading**.
â?? **No major hardware upgrades** since launch.

Should You Buy It in 2024?

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- **Yes, if you want a premium Android phone with long-term support at a discount.**
- **No, if you need the latest performance, battery, or camera tech.**

The **Pixel 7 Pro is still a reliable daily driver**, especially for those who **prioritize software longevity and photography**. However, if you can stretch your budget, the **Pixel 8 Pro or Galaxy S24 Ultra** offer **better future-proofing**.

For now, the Pixel 7 Pro **proves that Googleâ??s flagships age gracefully**â??making it a **smart buy for the right user**.

Category

1. Uncategorized

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