

iPhone 13 vs iPhone 17 — Full Specs Comparison

Choosing between and ? Many people ask whether it's worth upgrading from iPhone 13 — and the differences are now significant. Below you'll find a clear, up-to-date comparison of both phones: design, performance, camera, battery, display and more. This will help you decide which fits your needs best.

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Release date and general overview

The iPhone 13 was released in September 2021, and it has served as one of the most popular standard iPhones for years.

iPhone 17 was introduced in September 2025.

Thus, they belong to two generations — and that shows clearly if you compare their specs side by side.

Design, build and physical specifications

iPhone 13: thickness about 7.7 mm, weight 174 g, with glass front and back and aluminum frame, IP68 water/dust resistance.

iPhone 17: slightly thicker at ~7.95 mm, weight 177 g. It also uses aluminum frame, modern “color-infused glass” back and a front with updated protective glass.

Both support splash, water and dust resistance under IP68.

Display: size, quality, refresh rate

iPhone 13: 6.1-inch Super Retina XDR OLED display, 1170×2532 px resolution, pixel density ~460 ppi. It offers HDR (HDR10 / Dolby Vision), up to ~1200 nits peak brightness. Refresh rate is 60 Hz.

iPhone 17: 6.3-inch all-screen OLED display (Super Retina XDR), resolution 2622×1206 px, ~460 ppi. It uses adaptive refresh rate “ProMotion” up to 120 Hz, supports Always-On display, HDR, and its peak brightness reaches ~3000 nits (outdoor) / ~1600 nits (HDR). It also offers improved contrast and modern coatings (anti-reflective, oleophobic).

Verdict on display: iPhone 17 delivers a noticeably larger, smoother and brighter screen, plus modern features like adaptive 120 Hz and Always-On — a strong upgrade over iPhone 13's static 60 Hz panel.

Performance: Chipset, RAM, speed

iPhone 13: Powered by Apple A15 Bionic (5 nm), with a 6-core CPU (2 high-performance + 4 efficiency cores), 4-core GPU, and 4 GB RAM (in standard configurations). Storage options: 128, 256, 512 GB.

iPhone 17: Uses newer Apple A19 chip, with a 6-core CPU, 5-core GPU and 8 GB RAM (base model). Storage begins at 256 GB, and 512 GB option is available.

According to benchmark-like comparisons, iPhone 17 shows significantly higher performance: faster CPU/GPU performance, smoother multitasking, better performance in demanding apps and games.

Verdict on performance: iPhone 17 is a big leap ahead. More RAM, more powerful chip and more storage by default make it much better for future-proof use, heavier workloads, gaming, editing, and multitasking.

Cameras: Rear, front, photos & video capabilities

iPhone 13: Rear – Dual camera: 12 MP wide (f/1.6, with sensor-shift OIS), and 12 MP ultra-wide. Front – 12 MP TrueDepth camera (f/2.2). Supports 4K video (24/30/60 fps), HDR video, Dolby Vision, and typical Apple features like OIS, good low-light photos for its generation.

iPhone 17: Rear – Dual-Fusion dual camera setup with 48 MP main “Fusion” lens and 48 MP ultra-wide “Fusion” lens. The main camera supports high-resolution photos, optical image stabilization with sensor shift, improved low-light performance, HDR, better dynamic range, and larger sensor for sharper, more detailed images. Ultra-wide also benefits from upgraded sensor. On top of that, there are improvements like computational photography (enhanced HDR, deeper colors, better detail).

Front camera is now 18 MP with updated sensor, better for selfies and video calls. The new front camera supports improved image processing and more detail, especially in bright or low light — a meaningful jump over 13’s 12 MP front camera.

Verdict on cameras: iPhone 17 offers a substantial improvement. If you care about photography, video, social media content or selfies — the upgraded cameras on iPhone 17 are worth the upgrade. iPhone 13 remains decent but shows its age.

Battery, charging and connectivity

iPhone 13: Battery around 3227 mAh. Supports fast charging and wireless charging (MagSafe, Qi). Connectivity: 5G, Wi-Fi 6, Bluetooth 5.0, GPS + others, IP68 water/dust resistance.

iPhone 17: Battery capacity increased (some sources list ~3692 mAh), which gives somewhat better endurance under similar use. Charging is faster, wireless charging support continues — with MagSafe + modern standards. Connectivity includes modern Wi-Fi, eSIM-only (no physical SIM slot), advanced sensors, and optimized energy usage under newer OS.

Verdict on battery & charging: iPhone 17 improves slightly on battery life and charging convenience. For heavy users, the larger battery and newer hardware are helpful.

Software, future support and long-term relevance

iPhone 13 launched with iOS 15 and remains supported in 2025.

iPhone 17 ships with the latest iOS version (as of 2025) and will continue receiving updates for many years, making it a safer bet for longevity.

Given its newer hardware (chip, RAM, cameras, display), iPhone 17 is better positioned to stay relevant over the next 4-5 years, especially as apps and iOS features grow more demanding.

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Summary: Who should buy which phone?

You might still choose iPhone 13 if:

- You want a capable iPhone at a lower cost (if you find it pre-owned or discounted).
- Your needs are basic: calls, messages, social media, occasional photos — the dual 12 MP camera and 60 Hz display are “good enough.”
- You don’t need the latest performance, maximum longevity, or pro-level photo/video quality.

You should strongly consider iPhone 17 if:

- You care about display quality — smooth 120 Hz, larger screen, better brightness, always-on.
- You shoot photos or record video regularly: the 48 MP cameras + improved sensors make a big difference.
- You use heavy apps, multitask, edit media, or want future-proof performance with 8 GB RAM + A19 chip.
- You plan to keep the phone for several years and want maximum OS support and hardware relevance.

In short, iPhone 17 feels like a generational leap forward compared to iPhone 13 — more power, a better screen, far improved cameras, and longer-term value. iPhone 13 remains a decent, budget-friendly iPhone, but for buyers in 2025 and later, iPhone 17 is clearly the better long-term pick.