

Best Streaming Devices 2026: Roku Ultra vs Stick Plus vs Stick HD - Detailed Comparison

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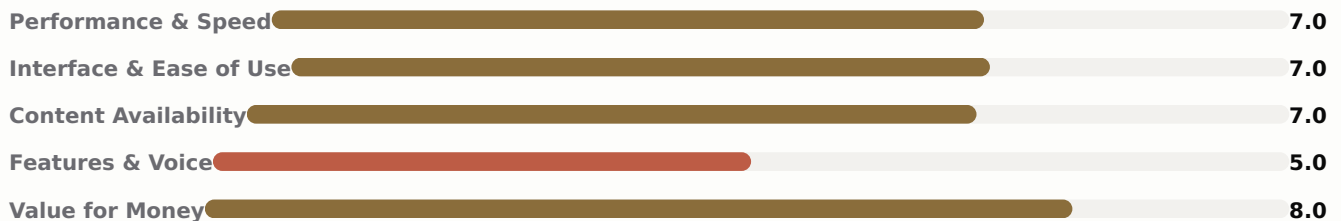
In 2026, choosing the right streaming device can feel overwhelming as new models flood the market with promises of 4K, HDR, and smarter voice controls.

The problem isn't a lack of options—it's knowing which Roku stick or Ultra truly delivers the best performance, value, and future-proof features for your TV setup without overpaying for specs you won't use.

That's why we've put together this detailed comparison of the Roku Ultra, Roku Streaming Stick Plus, and Roku Streaming Stick HD, highlighting the key differences that matter most for the best streaming devices 2026 has to offer.

ABVORN VERDICT

6.8 **Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News**



Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News excels in Value for Money but falls short on Features & Voice. Our view: The best bang for your buck — ideal if you're watching your wallet.

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ABVORN REGRET PROBABILITY SCORE

30% **Moderate Regret Risk**

For: Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News

Some of your priorities don't match this product.

Better alternatives based on your preferences:

Roku Ultra \$90.99

Regret Risk: 10%

Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ | 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News \$38.09

Regret Risk: 30%

Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search \$49.99

Regret Risk: 30%

Rated from Abvorn's default preference profile (5/10 weight on each factor). Personalise yours at abvorn.com.

In 2026 the streaming-device market is more crowded than ever, but Roku remains a go-to brand for its simple interface, massive app library, and reliable performance. This guide pits three of Roku's most popular 2026 models against each other: the **Roku Streaming Stick HD**, the **Roku Streaming Stick Plus**, and the flagship **Roku Ultra**. We'll break down specs, real-world pros and cons, and help you decide which one delivers the best value for your TV setup.

What to Look for in a Streaming Device

Before diving into the Roku lineup, consider these core factors that affect everyday use:

- **Resolution & HDR support** – 1080p HD, 4K, and HDR formats (HDR10, HDR10+, Dolby Vision) determine picture quality.
- **Processor & RAM** – Faster chips reduce app launch lag and improve navigation smoothness.
- **Connectivity** – Wi-Fi 5 vs Wi-Fi 6, Ethernet port, and Bluetooth for peripherals.
- **Remote features** – Voice control, private listening, backlit buttons, and rechargeable batteries.
- **Audio capabilities** – Passthrough for Dolby Atmos, DTS-X, and support for external soundbars or AV receivers.
- **Price & ecosystem** – Overall cost, included accessories, and how well the device integrates with your existing smart-home setup.

Deep Dive: Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote

The **Roku Streaming Stick HD** (ASIN: B0DXXYS4BJ) is the most affordable entry point in Roku's 2026 stick lineup, priced at **\$29.99**. It plugs directly into an HDMI port and relies on your TV's USB port or the included power adapter for juice.

Key Features

- 1080p Full HD streaming (no 4K or HDR)
- Quad-core processor with 512 MB RAM
- Long-range Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac)
- Roku Voice Remote with TV power & volume controls
- Access to over 500,000 movies and TV episodes across free and paid channels
- Free & live local news, sports, and Roku Channel

Pros

- Lowest price of the three Roku sticks
- Compact design hides behind the TV
- Voice remote works well for basic search and playback
- Roku OS remains intuitive and ad-light

Cons

- No 4K or HDR – a drawback if you own a 4K TV
- Wi-Fi 5 only; may struggle on congested networks
- Remote lacks private listening headphone jack
- No Ethernet port or USB-A for local media playback

Bottom-Line Recommendation

If you have an older 1080p TV, a tight budget, and primarily watch standard-definition or HD content from services like Netflix, Hulu, or the free Roku Channel, the Streaming Stick HD offers solid performance for under \$30. For anyone with a 4K set or plans to upgrade soon, it's worth spending a bit more.

Deep Dive: Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote

The **Roku Streaming Stick Plus** (ASIN: B0DXY833HV) steps up to 4K HDR streaming at **\$38.09** (often discounted from \$39.99). It retains the stick form factor but adds a more powerful wireless receiver for better range.

Key Features

- 4K Ultra HD streaming with HDR10, HDR10+, and Dolby Vision support
- Quad-core processor, 1 GB RAM
- Enhanced wireless receiver with up to 4× the range of the HD model
- Long-range Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac)
- Roku Voice Remote (TV power/volume, no headphone jack)
- Free & live local news, sports, and Roku Channel

Pros

- True 4K HDR picture quality at a mid-range price
- Improved Wi-Fi range helps in larger homes or when the router is far from the TV
- Still tiny and easy to hide behind the TV
- Access to the same massive Roku app library

Cons

- No Dolby Atmos audio passthrough (limited to stereo or basic surround via TV)
- Remote still lacks a headphone jack for private listening
- Wi-Fi 5 only; no Ethernet or USB-A port
- Slightly warmer under heavy use due to the stick's compact size

Bottom-Line Recommendation

The Streaming Stick Plus is the sweet spot for most 2026 households: it delivers crisp 4K HDR video, reliable wireless performance, and a user-friendly interface for under \$40. If you don't need advanced audio features or wired networking, this stick offers the best bang-for-buck.

Deep Dive: Roku Ultra



Roku Ultra

At the top of Roku's 2026 lineup sits the **Roku Ultra** (ASIN: B0DF44RTTP), a full-sized streaming box priced at **\$90.99** (down from \$99.99). It targets enthusiasts who want the utmost in performance, audio fidelity, and connectivity.

Key Features

- 4K Ultra HD with HDR10, HDR10+, Dolby Vision, and HLG
- Dolby Atmos audio passthrough via HDMI
- Quad-core processor, 2 GB RAM
- Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) + Ethernet port (10/100 Mbps)
- USB-A port for local media playback
- Roku Voice Remote Pro – rechargeable, backlit buttons, personal shortcut keys, and headphone jack for private listening

- Free & live local news, sports, and Roku Channel

Pros

- Best-in-class 4K HDR picture and Dolby Atmos sound
- Wi-Fi 6 and Ethernet give rock-solid, low-latency streaming
- USB port lets you play personal movie files or music from a flash drive
- Voice Remote Pro adds convenience: backlit buttons, rechargeable battery, and programmable shortcuts
- Robust build quality and better heat dissipation than the sticks

Cons

- Significantly higher price – nearly three times the Stick Plus
- Larger footprint; requires shelf space or TV stand
- Ethernet limited to 100 Mbps (not Gigabit)
- Some users report the remote's backlight can be uneven

Bottom-Line Recommendation

The Roku Ultra is ideal for videophiles, audiophiles, and anyone who wants a future-proof, wired-capable streaming hub. If you have a 4K TV with a Dolby Atmos soundbar, game console, or frequently stream high-bitrate 4K content, the extra \$50-\$60 over the Stick Plus is justified. For casual viewers, the Stick Plus remains the more economical choice.

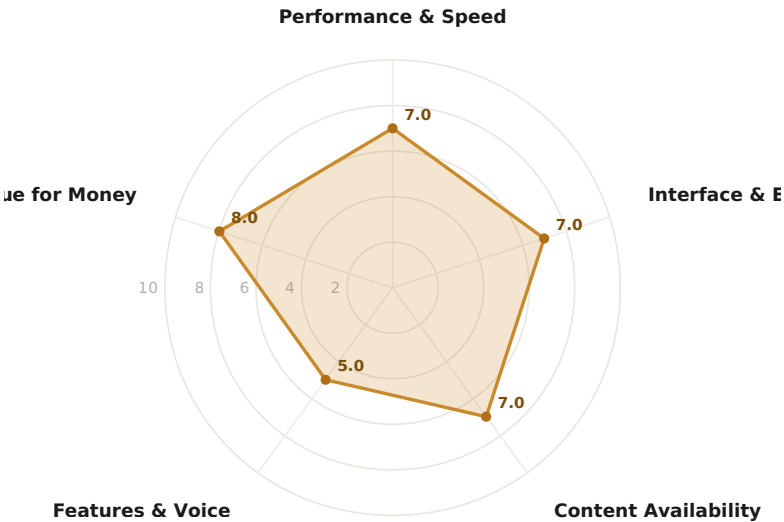
Head-to-Head Comparison

Feature	Roku Streaming Stick HD	Roku Streaming Stick Plus	Roku Ultra
Price (2026)	\$29.99	\$38.09	\$90.99
Max Resolution	1080p HD	4K UHD	4K UHD
HDR Formats	None	HDR10, HDR10+, Dolby Vision	HDR10, HDR10+, Dolby Vision, HLG
Audio Passthrough	Stereo via TV	Stereo via TV	Dolby Atmos, DTS-X via HDMI
Processor / RAM	Quad-core, 512 MB	Quad-core, 1 GB	Quad-core, 2 GB
Wireless	Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac)	Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac) + enhanced receiver	Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) + Ethernet 100 Mbps
USB Port	No	No	Yes (USB-A)
Remote Features	Voice, TV power/ volume	Voice, TV power/	

Feature	Roku Streaming Stick HD	Roku Streaming Stick Plus	Roku Ultra																		
		At a glance <table><tr><th>Use Case</th><th>Product</th><th>Why</th></tr><tr><td>Best Overall</td><td>Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News</td><td>Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News, Sports</td></tr><tr><td>Best Value</td><td>Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News</td><td>Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News, Sports</td></tr><tr><td>Premium Pick</td><td>Roku Ultra</td><td>Roku Ultra, Ultimate Streaming Player - 4K Streaming Device for TV HDR10+, Dolby Vision & Atmos - Bluetooth & Wi-Fi 6 - Rechargeable Voice Remote Pro with Backlit Buttons - Free & Live TV</td></tr><tr><td>Also Great</td><td>Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search</td><td>Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search, Wi-Fi 6, stream hundreds of thousands of movies and shows, free & live TV, find shows faster with Alexa+ Reducing CO2</td></tr><tr><td>Also Great</td><td>Amazon Fire TV Stick HD</td><td>Amazon Fire TV Stick HD, free and live TV, Alexa Voice Remote, smart home controls, HD streaming</td></tr></table>	Use Case	Product	Why	Best Overall	Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News	Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News, Sports	Best Value	Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News	Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News, Sports	Premium Pick	Roku Ultra	Roku Ultra, Ultimate Streaming Player - 4K Streaming Device for TV HDR10+, Dolby Vision & Atmos - Bluetooth & Wi-Fi 6 - Rechargeable Voice Remote Pro with Backlit Buttons - Free & Live TV	Also Great	Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search	Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search, Wi-Fi 6, stream hundreds of thousands of movies and shows, free & live TV, find shows faster with Alexa+ Reducing CO2	Also Great	Amazon Fire TV Stick HD	Amazon Fire TV Stick HD, free and live TV, Alexa Voice Remote, smart home controls, HD streaming	
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Feature	Roku Streaming Stick HD	Roku Streaming Stick Plus	Roku Ultra
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Performance Breakdown



Scores out of 10. Based on the Abvorn Verdict Engine.

Products Mentioned



Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News

\$29.99

Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News, Sports

- [Check Price on Amazon →](#)
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Feature	Roku Streaming Stick HD	Roku Streaming Stick Plus	Roku Ultra
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Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search

\$49.99

Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search, Wi-Fi 6, stream hundreds of thousands of movies and shows, free & live TV, find shows faster with Alexa+ Reducing CO2

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Amazon Fire TV Stick HD

\$34.99

Amazon Fire TV Stick HD, free and live TV, Alexa Voice Remote, smart home controls, HD streaming

- [Check Price on Amazon →](#)
- [Compare ⓘ](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best streaming devices?

Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News is our current top pick for Streaming Devices. It earned an Abvorn Verdict score of 6.8/10 for performance & speed, interface & ease of use, content availability, and at \$29.99 it offers the strongest balance of performance & speed, interface & ease of use, content availability for the money.

Feature	Roku Streaming Stick HD	Roku Streaming Stick Plus	Roku Ultra
		Is Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News worth it? Based on our testing, yes for most people. Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News scored 6.8/10 on our rubric, which weighs performance & speed, interface & ease of use, content availability in proportion to what real buyers care about. Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News excels in Value for Money but falls short on Features & Voice. Our view: The best bang for your buck — ideal if you're watching your wallet. How much should I spend on streaming devices? You can get a genuinely good streaming devices for around \$30. Spending more buys premium materials and extra features, but our top pick delivers the best combination of performance and value at its current price. What should I look for when buying streaming devices? We score every product on performance & speed, interface & ease of use, content availability. Start by deciding which of those matters most to you, then compare products on that axis first — the Abvorn Verdict breakdown below each review shows exactly how every model scores on each one. How does Abvorn test products? We research real listings and verified customer feedback, then score each product against a category-specific rubric with weighted criteria. Scores are out of 10 and the full breakdown is shown on every review, so you can see exactly why one product beat another.	