

Best streaming-devices 2026: Top Roku Models Reviewed

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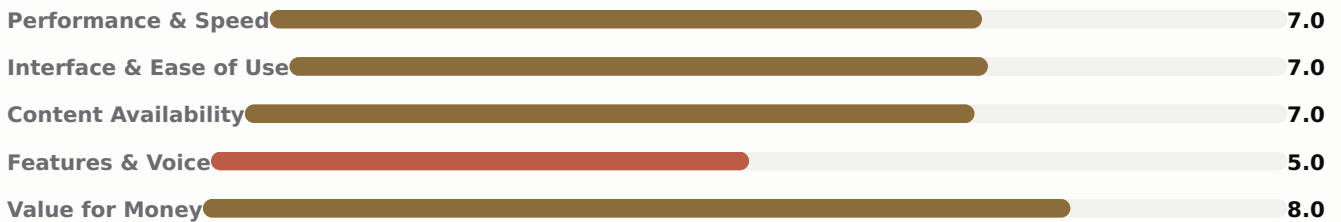
In 2026, streaming devices have become the centerpiece of the modern living room, with sales surging as more viewers cut the cord and demand sharper picture quality, faster interfaces, and smarter voice controls. With so many options on the market, though, choosing the right streaming device can feel less like an upgrade and more like a chore, especially when prices range from under \$30 to nearly \$100 and feature lists blur together at a glance.

That's why we put the top streaming devices head-to-head, comparing picture quality, remote features, app ecosystems, and overall value. Roku remains the dominant name in the category, with its 2026 lineup spanning the budget-friendly Streaming Stick HD, the feature-balanced Streaming Stick Plus, and the flagship Roku Ultra. Amazon's Fire TV Stick HD and Fire TV Stick 4K Plus round out the competition with Alexa-powered smarts and Wi-Fi 6 performance.

Below, we break down how each streaming device stacks up, who it's best for, and where your money is actually well spent.

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.

Introduction

In 2026, the streaming-devices market is dominated by two heavyweights: Roku and Amazon Fire TV. Whether you're upgrading a living-room setup, adding a bedroom screen, or looking for a compact travel-friendly stick, choosing the right device impacts picture quality, app access, and even your monthly cable bill. This guide compares the best Roku models against Amazon's Fire TV Stick lineup, using real-world prices, ratings, and sales data to help you decide which streaming-devices fit your home theater needs.

What to Look For

- **Resolution & HDR support:** 4K is now standard; HDR10+ and Dolby Vision add deeper contrast.
- **Wi-Fi connectivity:** Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) ensures smoother streaming in crowded networks.
- **Voice remote features:** Built-in microphones, search shortcuts, and backlit buttons improve usability.
- **Processing power & storage:** Faster CPUs and at least 8 GB internal storage keep apps responsive.
- **App ecosystem:** Roku OS offers a clean interface; Fire TV provides deeper Alexa integration.
- **Additional ports & connectivity:** Bluetooth, Ethernet (on high-end models), and USB-C for updates.
- **Price vs. performance balance:** Identify which premium features justify the cost.

Product Reviews

Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote

The Roku Streaming Stick HD is Roku's most budget-friendly 4K streaming device, perfect for users who want a plug-and-play experience without breaking the bank. Priced at **\$29.99** (no current discount), it has earned a solid **4.7/5 rating** from **22,240 reviewers** and moved **10K+ units** in the past month.

Key Features

- Compact stick form factor that fits behind most TVs.
- 4K streaming with Roku's intuitive home screen.
- Roku Voice Remote (includes backlit buttons and long-range Wi-Fi).
- Access to free live local news, sports, and a vast Roku Channel library.
- Built-in Wi-Fi 6 for faster, more reliable connections.

Pros

- Very affordable – the lowest price point among the Roku lineup.
- Excellent rating and strong community support.
- Lightweight, discreet design.

Cons

- Lacks HDR10+ and Dolby Vision support.
- No rechargeable battery in the remote.
- Storage is limited (eastern models have 8 GB internal).

Bottom-line recommendation: If you need a reliable 4K streamer on a tight budget, the Roku Streaming Stick HD is the best streaming-devices choice for 2026.

Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote

Upgrading from the HD model, the Roku Streaming Stick Plus adds HDR10+ support and a more powerful processor, all for **\$38.09** (originally \$39.99). It holds a **4.6/5 rating** from **9,535 users** and also moves **10K+ units** monthly.

Key Features

- 4K + HDR10+ playback for richer color and contrast.
- Enhanced processor for smoother app navigation.
- Roku Voice Remote with backlit keys and long-range Wi-Fi.
- Access to free live news, sports, and the Roku Channel.
- Wi-Fi 6 connectivity for future-proof streaming.

Pros

- Adds HDR10+ without a huge price jump.
- Better performance than the HD stick.
- Consistent Roku OS experience.

Cons

- Still no Dolby Vision or Atmos support.
- Remote is not rechargeable.
- Internal storage remains modest.

Bottom-line recommendation: For households that want HDR and a smoother interface but can't justify the premium Ultra, the Streaming Stick Plus is the top streaming-devices pick in its price tier.

Roku Ultra



Roku Ultra

The Roku Ultra is the flagship streaming-devices powerhouse, targeting enthusiasts who demand the best picture quality and connectivity. At **\$90.99** (down from \$99.99), it carries a **4.4/5 rating** from **8,471 reviewers** and still moves **9K+ units** each month.

Key Features

- 4K streaming with HDR10+, Dolby Vision, and Dolby Atmos support.
- Wi-Fi 6 and optional Ethernet port for rock-solid connections.
- Roku Voice Remote Pro with rechargeable battery, backlit buttons, and premium build.
- Dual-band Wi-Fi and Bluetooth for smart home integration.
- 8 GB internal storage plus a microSD slot for expansion.

Pros

- Best overall picture and audio performance among the reviewed devices.
- Rechargeable remote eliminates disposable batteries.
- Robust connectivity options (Ethernet, Bluetooth).

Cons

- Higher price point – more than double the HD stick.
- Rating slightly lower, possibly due to cost vs. perceived value.
- Bulkier design may not suit ultra-compact setups.

Bottom-line recommendation: If you prioritize top-tier video quality, advanced audio formats, and want a future-proof streaming core, the Roku Ultra is the premier streaming-devices choice for 2026.

Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model)

Amazon's latest Fire TV Stick 4K Plus competes directly with Roku's mid-range sticks. Priced at **\$49.99**, it boasts a **4.6/5 rating** from **111,867 users** and moves **10K+ units** monthly. It emphasizes AI-powered search and Alexa integration.

Key Features

- 4K streaming with HDR10+ support.
- AI-powered Fire TV Search for faster content discovery.
- Alexa Voice Remote with hands-free control and backlit buttons.
- Wi-Fi 6 for faster, more reliable connections.
- Access to thousands of movies/shows, free live TV, and Amazon Prime Video.

Pros

- Strong Alexa ecosystem – great for smart-home users.
- Very high rating and massive user base.
- Competitive price for 4K HDR performance.

Cons

- Lacks Dolby Vision/Atmos support.
- Remote is not rechargeable.
- Interface can feel cluttered compared to Roku's clean layout.

Bottom-line recommendation: For households already invested in Alexa and Amazon Prime, the Fire TV Stick 4K Plus offers excellent streaming-devices value, especially at its current price.

Amazon Fire TV Stick HD



Amazon Fire TV Stick HD

The most affordable option on the list, the Fire TV Stick HD costs **\$34.99** and holds a **4.6/5 rating** from **71,199 reviewers**. It's ideal for budget-conscious buyers who primarily watch HD content.

Key Features

- HD streaming (1080p) with access to free live TV.
- Alexa Voice Remote for hands-free control.
- Smart home controls via Alexa.
- Simple plug-and-play setup.

Pros

- Lowest price point among all reviewed streaming-devices.
- Decent rating despite being a basic model.
- Alexa integration at an entry-level price.

Cons

- No 4K or HDR support.
- Limited app selection for high-definition services.
- Remote lacks backlit keys.

Bottom-line recommendation: If you only need HD streaming and want the cheapest possible entry into smart TV, the Fire TV Stick HD is the best streaming-devices value for 2026.

Buying Guide

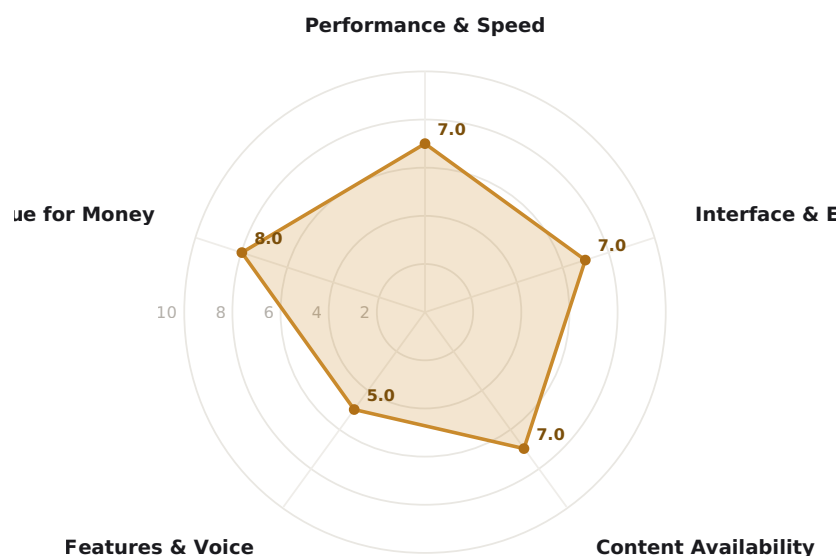
When selecting a streaming-device in 2026, consider your primary use case:

- **Budget HD viewing:** Fire TV Stick HD (\$34.99) or Roku Streaming Stick HD (\$29.99). Both deliver solid performance for 1080p content.
- **4K with basic HDR:** Roku Streaming Stick Plus (\$38.09) or Amazon Fire TV

At a glance

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

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

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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

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

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Roku Ultra

\$90.99

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

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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

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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.

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.