

GitHub Copilot Features: VS Code vs IntelliJ IDEA

✅ = Strong support

⚠️ = Partial / limited / preview

❌ = Not available

GitHub Copilot Feature Matrix

| Feature | VS Code | IntelliJ IDEA |
|--|---------|---------------|
| Inline Code Suggestions (multi-line, blocks) | ✅ | ✅ |
| Copilot Chat (natural language interface) | ✅ | ✅ |
| Slash Commands (<code>/fix</code> , <code>/tests</code> , <code>/explain</code> , <code>/doc</code>) | ✅ | ✅ |
| Model Picker (GPT-4o, Claude 3.5, Gemini) | ✅ | ✅ |
| Workspace-wide / Multi-file Context | ✅ | ✅ |
| File Attachments in Chat | ✅ | ✅ |
| Inline Chat (editor) | ✅ | ✅ |
| Terminal Chat Integration | ✅ | ⚠️ |
| Copilot Edits (multi-file agent editing) | ✅ | ⚠️ |
| Code Review (pre-PR suggestions) | ✅ | ✅ |
| Commit Message Generation | ✅ | ✅ |
| Custom Instructions (<code>.github/copilot-instructions.md</code>) | ✅ | ✅ |
| Refactoring Awareness (deep project context) | ⚠️ | ✅ |
| Java / Kotlin / Scala Ecosystem Strength | ⚠️ | ✅ |
| Feature Rollout Speed (new features first) | ✅ | ⚠️ |
| AI-powered Documentation Generation | ✅ | ✅ |

GitHub Copilot Features: VS Code vs IntelliJ IDEA

| Feature | VS Code | IntelliJ IDEA |
|--|---------|---------------|
| Code Explanation with Context | ✓ | ✓ |
| Multi-language Support in Single Chat | ✓ | ✓ |
| Enterprise Admin Controls | ✓ | ✓ |
| Next Edit Suggestions (predictive edits) | ✓ | ⚠ |

Note: IntelliJ has achieved near feature parity with VS Code. Features marked ⚠ are either in preview or have slightly different implementations. Check your plugin version for the latest capabilities.

🔑 Takeaway

VS Code: Best for teams wanting bleeding-edge Copilot features, multi-file agent editing (Copilot Edits), terminal integration, and rapid feature updates.

IntelliJ IDEA: Best for JVM projects (Java, Kotlin, Scala) where deep refactoring awareness, type inference, and IDE-native intelligence enhance Copilot's suggestions. Feature gap has narrowed significantly.