**When can I get the new Galaxy S8 smartphones?**

The Galaxy S8 and Galaxy S8+ will go on sale starting April 21. Pre-orders are already live in the US. You can pre-order the devices through all four major carriers.Unfortunately, we aren’t still aware when Samsung plans to launch the Galaxy S8 and S8+ in India.

**How much do the new Galaxy S8 smartphones cost?**

The Galaxy S8 and S8+ prices may vary from across retailers. However, it should be noted that Samsung will be selling the devices without any carrier restriction. In the US, the unlocked Galaxy S8  will cost $724.99 (or approx Rs. 47,033)  and $824.99 (or approx Rs. 53,521) for the Galaxy S8+.

**What colours can I buy?**

The new Galaxy S8 series come in five colour options: midnight black, orchid gray, arctic silver, coral blue and maple gold.

**What sizes will the Galaxy S8 come in?**

Just like its two predecessors, the Galaxy S8 will come in two screen sizes. The smaller Galaxy S8 has a 5.8-inch while the Galaxy S8+ has a 6.2-inch display. Both smartphones have a screen resolution of 2960×1440 pixels but the Galaxy S8 has a higher ppi. Both come with curved-edge Super AMOLED screens, which Samsung likes to call “Infinity Display” due to the increased screen size. The reason for the Galaxy S8’s unusual shape is because of its ultra-wide display, which has an aspect ratio of 18:5:9 rather than the standard 16:9.

**How powerful is the Galaxy S8+ over the Galaxy S8?**

Well, actually no. The Galaxy S8 and S8+ will have different processors depending on which country you live in. If you’re based in the US, then you will be getting Qualcomm’s latest Snapdragon 835 chipset. The powerful processor comes with a couple of new technology such as 25 per cent battery energy efficiency over the Snapdragon 820, Bluetooth 5.0 support and better graphics.

If you’re in the UK, and parts of Asia however, the Galaxy S8 and S8+ come with Samsung’s Exynos 8895 processor. Both processors are built using the new 10nm process, so you are not going to find a major difference in performance. Both the devices come with 4GB RAM and run Android 7.0 Nougat with a redesigned TouchWiz skin. Both phones also come with 64GB storage and a microSD card slot with a support for 256GB.

**Do the new smartphones have better cameras?**

Each year, Samsung makes the camera better. This year, you’ll find a 12-megapixel camera on the back of both models. That’s the same megapixel count as last year, alongside an f/1.7 aperture and Optical Image Stabilisation (OIS). Nothing much has changed, unfortunately. On the front, both the Galaxy S8 and S8+ come with an 8-megapixel shooter with an f/1.7 aperture and autofocus.

**Do these phones have a home button?**

The physical home button has been removed, and replaced with a pressure sensitive button underneath the screen. This would be the big jump from the Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge.

**Is it true the fingerprint scanner is now located on the back?**

Yes, the fingerprint scanner is now located on the back of the phones, next to the camera module. Basically, it is designed to be used with the index finger rather than the thumb. Plus, the devices also support an Iris scanner for added security.

**What about the headphone jack? Is it still there?**

Well, yes, Samsung has no plans to ditch the traditional headphone jack anytime soon. The good news is that you can still listen to your favourite tracks through wired headphones.  Samsung has announced that the Galaxy S8 and S8+ come bundled with a pair of wired headphones from Harman’s AKG brand, which is known for churning high-end audio products. The wired Harmon AKG headphones cost $99 (or approx Rs. 6428).

**Has the battery improved?**

One major difference between the Galaxy S8 and Galaxy S8 is the battery size. The Galaxy S8 has a 3,000mAh battery, while the Galaxy S8+ gets a 3,500mAh battery. We think Samsung did not want to push larger batteries after the Galaxy Note 7 fiasco.

**Still water resistant?**

Yes, both the Galaxy S8 and Galaxy S8+ are water resistant in nature.  They are IP68 certified, meaning the devices can be submerged in up to five feet of water for up to 30 minutes.

**What is Bixby? I’m confused.**

The most incremental change you will find on the Galaxy S8 is the arrival of Bixby, the built-in AI assistant. Samsung sees Bixby so important that it’s got a dedicated button on the left-hand side of the phone below the volume buttons. Unlike Siri or [Google](http://indianexpress.com/about/google/) Assistant, Samsung claims Bixby is more “intelligent” and designed for “completeness” allowing users to use your voice for everything you would otherwise do by tapping the screen. Additionally, it’s got image recognition feature that works with the camera. Essentially, it identify an object and provide additional info or suggest where you could purchase it. Well, this feature resembles the Firefly feature that was first debuted on the Amazon Fire Phone.

**Which colors of the Galaxy S8/S8+ will Best Buy carry?**

Best Buy will carry Midnight Black, Arctic Silver and Orchid Gray Samsung’s new **Galaxy S8/S8+ upon release.**

**On what carriers will the Galaxy S8/S8+ be available?**

Best Buy offers customers choice in plans, whether it’s a lease, or monthly installment billing options from AT&T, Sprint, or Verizon Wireless.

**When will I be able to purchase the Galaxy S8/S8+ from Best Buy?**

The phones will be available for pre-order starting on 03/30/2017 and will be available for purchase on 04/21/2017.

**Will all stores carry the new Galaxy S8/S8+?**

Yes.

**Are all stores receiving product for launch day?**

Specific product model availability and quantities may vary by store.

**Will the Galaxy S8/S8+ be available on BestBuy.com?**

Yes – but please keep in mind that availability of specific models can vary greatly on BestBuy.com.

**How will I receive the free Gear VR or upgrade to the Experience Box?**

The Free Gear VR with controller, $50 bonus Oculus credit or upgraded Experience Box are fulfilled directly by Samsung while supplies last. A pre-order is required to be eligible for this offer. Once you receive your Galaxy S8/8+, visit [Samsung's](https://samsungpromotions.com/infinitelyimmersive.html) website to further redemption instructions.

**What will the prices be for the Galaxy S8/S8+?**

Pricing for **Galaxy S8** at launch:

Verizon

$27.91/month for the **Galaxy S8** 64GB with activation on 24-month Verizon Device Payment plan

$819.99 for the **Galaxy S8**64GB as an unactivated device

Sprint

$31.25/month for the **Galaxy S8** 64GB with activation on 18-month lease plan

$29.17/month for the **Galaxy S8**64GB with activation on 24-month installment plan

$799.99 for the **Galaxy S8** 64GB as an unactivated device

AT&T

$29.16/month for the **Galaxy S8** 64GB with activation on 24-month AT&T Next plan (upgrade after 24)

$23.33/month for the **Galaxy S8** 64GB with activation on 30-month AT&T Next plan (upgrade after 24)

$749.99 for the **Galaxy S8** 64GB as an unactivated device

Pricing at launch for the **Galaxy S8+** 64GB:

Verizon

$29.83/month for the **Galaxy S8+** 64GB with activation on 24-month Verizon Device Payment plan

$915.99 for the **Galaxy S8+**64GB as an unactivated device

Sprint

$35.42/month for the **Galaxy S8+** 64GB with activation on 18-month lease plan

$31.25/month for the **Galaxy S8+**64GB with activation on 24-month installment plan

$899.99 for the **Galaxy S8+** 64GB as an unactivated device

AT&T

$31.24/month for the **Galaxy S8+** 64GB with activation on 24-month AT&T Next plan (upgrade after 24)

$24.99/month for the **Galaxy S8+** 64GB with activation on 30-month AT&T Next plan (upgrade after 24)

$849.99 for the **Galaxy S8+** 64GB as an unactivated device

**What time are Best Buy opening for Galaxy S8/S8+ launch?**

Most stores will open at their usual time. You should have the option to schedule an appointment to pick up your phone once you receive notification that it is available.

**Can I pre-order the Galaxy S8/S8+?**

Pre-orders will be available for activated only **Galaxy S8/S8+**devices in store and online starting on Thursday 03/30/2017. Unactivated purchases are currently online only.

**When can customers expect to receive a pre-ordered Galaxy S8/S8+?**

Pre-orders for the **Galaxy S8/S8+**will be fulfilled as inventory arrives beginning 04/21/2017.

**What new Galaxy S8/S8+ accessories will Best Buy have for purchase?**

We will have over 100 new accessories for the **Galaxy S8/S8+**.

**Are there any other promotions that go along with the launch of the Galaxy S8/S8+?**

Pre-orders qualify for a free Gear VR with controller and $50 bonus Oculus content. Preorder customers also are eligible for a $50 savings on the GS8, and $100 savings on the GS8+, activation & installment billing agreement required.  Sprint Lease customers qualify for a $50 GC with GS8 & $100 GC with GS8+ when they preorder.

**When will Best Buy stores receive additional inventory?**

Specific product model availability and quantities will vary by store. Stores will continue to receive shipments of inventory on an ongoing basis. Customers can check with their local stores and BestBuy.com for updates on product availability.

**Can I have the Galaxy S8/S8+ I order on BestBuy.com shipped to my home?**

Yes, provided it is available on BestBuy.com

**Will my local store have live display units?**

Starting 03/30/2017 stores with Samsung Experience Shop locations will have live demos available.

**How will inventory, which is not being held for pre-orders, be handled on Friday, April 21st?**

Inventory that is not allocated for pre-orders will be available for purchase and stores will utilize a ticketing process on a first come first serve basis.

**I never received a notification that my Galaxy S8/S8+ is ready to be picked up, even though I pre-ordered it?**

If you haven't received notification that your **Galaxy S8/S8+**is ready to be picked up it means the store didn't receive enough of the model you pre-ordered to fulfill you pre-order at this time, or they haven't physically reserved your pre-order yet with the inventory they did receive.

1. Samsung has all but murdered the bezel and it looks great?

Aspect ratios seem to be the rage this year for smartphone companies. First LG announced the G6, with its bizarre 21:9 aspect ratio, and now Samsung has the S8 and S8 Plus with their 18.5:9 ratio. That’s just a little wider than the traditional 16:9, when you’re holding it in landscape orientation. The extra width all comes out of the bezel, which has basically disappeared. There’s a tiny black bar at the top and bottom of the phone. The bezel remaining at the top of the device hides the 8-megapixel front-facing camera. There’s also a tiny sliver of bezel on the bottom. In a briefing, a Samsung rep proudly boasted that 83 percent of the front of the device is screen.

The S8 comes in two sizes, the 5.8-inch Galaxy S8 and the 6.2-inch Galaxy S8 Plus. Both are 2960 x 1440. For those who care, the S8 has a pixel density of 570 per inch, while the S8 Plus has a pixel density of 529 per inch.

While we have no idea how that extra screen is going to affect battery life (more screen usually means less battery) the effect is striking. This looks like a very pretty phone from the front.

2) The Home button is gone?

In addition to hacking away at the bezel, Samsung also killed the Home button. If you want a dedicated little nubbin on the front of your phone you can finger blindly while it’s still in your purse or pocket, then you’ll need to invest in another phone.

The S8's Home button, as well as the Back and Menu buttons, are now entirely software based, as they are on the Google Pixel.

3) The color choices in America are so boring I bet you can’t even remember what the colors are?

Last year, Samsung had a very nice looking blue phone that suggested a little color was finally creeping into the phone market. Other phone makers followed suit—Apple even released a bright red phone earlier this month.

Unfortunately, the new S8 will only be available in three colors in the US, and they’re a profoundly boring gray, black, and silver.

4) Why is that the fingerprint scanner?

Killing the bezel and the home button means there’s no room for a fingerprint scanner on the front of the S8. Rather than do away with the fingerprint scanner entirely (the S8 can also be secured with your eye iris or your face), Samsung moved the button to the back of the phone.

It’s right next to the 12-megapixel rear camera, which means you’ll probably be getting greasy finger oil all over the camera lens as you blindly try to open your phone with a tap.

5) Samsung Dex is the computer in a phone we’ve been promised since the Moto Lapdock?

One of the biggest surprises today is Dex, a dock you hook up to your monitor and keyboard that lets you turn the S8 into a tiny, slick, desktop computer. This is something Android phone makers have been promising us for years. Back in 2011 Motorola even launched a phone with a dock that doubled as a laptop. But that thing was a failure. It was slow and the desktop version of Android was unappealing and cheap feeling.

The S8 has a super-fast, 10nm-based processor (depending on what country you live in, it’s a Snapdragon 835 or a Samsung-built processor unit) so it is, in many ways, faster than many of the processors found in ultra budget Windows and Linux PCs.

Samsung’s S8 desktop computer experience seems very natural. You just drop the phone into the Dex dock, which uses NFC to to launch the desktop mode—no fiddling with plugging anything in. The desktop experience strongly resembles Windows—a nice change of pace from the desktop version of Android on the Galaxy Tab S3. And if you, like me, don’t really like Android for heavy-duty computing, then the Dex also has a virtual Windows 10 solution. That’s intended for businesses, which often force their employees to stream Windows 10 from a central server, but it should work for regular people too.

6) Bixby looks great on paper?

Samsung is now competing with the big boys when it comes to AI in a phone. Bixby is Samsung’s answer to Apple’s Siri and Google’s Assistant. Like those phone AIs, Bixby can be activated by voice or by touching an activation button (Samsung is very proud of its button).

We’re not sure how smart Bixby is compared to Siri or Assistant just yet, but we do know it can translate 52 spoken languages. Siri does around 30. Google does not have an official estimate for how many languages Assistant translates, but it’s approximately the same number as Siri.

Besides acting as a kind of universal translator, Bixby can also search for things via photo—something Siri is incapable of and Assistant struggles with. It also automatically delivers any requested information via a much more attractive card than the display that pop up when using Assistant or Siri.

We won’t be sure how smart Bixby is until we get some more time with it, but on paper, it appears to be a worthy adversary to the two titans of mobile AI.

7) Bixby recognizes photos of backpacks but doesn’t know what the Samsung Galaxy S8 is?

Bixby’s image recognition ability appears to be pretty incredible. With a quick button press Bixby opens the camera and asks to be pointed at whatever needs identifying.

We pointed the phone at a backpack and it instantly found bags a similar color. But Bixby is not infallible. We tried to get it to look at a Samsung Galaxy S8, at the time still a device made up of leaks and rumors, and it struggled to identify itself, and instead pulled up the ancient LG G2.

8) Samsung still cares about VR, even if you don’t?

Besides announcing a new phone and a new AI, Samsung also took the time to announce some VR news. Mobile VR is where most of the VR sales are happening, so it makes sense that Samsung would continue to embrace the medium—even if most consumers really haven’t.

The two big updates are a controller for the Oculus-powered Gear VR headset, and an updated 360 camera. The old Gear 360 camera resembled a golf ball, but the new one looks more like a golf ball on a tee, as the stand is now built in.

Meanwhile the Gear VR controller resembles another Android product—specifically, Google’s Daydream controller. It also seems to function like the Daydream controller: It’s got a touch pad for navigation and a trigger for blasting aliens or clicking on menus, as well as some spatial awareness.

The Gear VR controller runs on Bluetooth and Samsung claims you will get nearly 30 to 40 days of use out of the two AA batteries inside, provided you only play about two hours a day. The controller will ship with all new Gear VR headsets, but Samsung promises a version sold independently for current Gear VR owners who want to upgrade.

9) Samsung’s smart home features are starting to look actually smart?

My personal favorite announcement today isn’t the bezel-free phone, or the Siri clone. It’s the work Samsung is doing in the smart home space. Samsung announced a bevy of smart TVs and appliances at CES back in January, and today it announced a mesh router system.

There’s no word on pricing, but the Samsung Connect Home and Samsung Connect Home Pro are both 802.11 AC mesh routers with a Samsung SmartThings hub built in—the only difference being the Connect Home Pro has a larger 4x4 antenna versus the perfectly adequate 2x2 antenna in the regular connect. The built-in Samsung SmartThings hub connects all Samsung smart devices, as well as support for a ton of smart lights, shades, and thermostats.

And to control all those devices you can use a Google Home or Amazon Echo, or you can use Bixby on your S8, or you can use the smart home app, which is integrated directly into the S8's notification menus.

Smart homes rely on a unified ecosystem, and at the moment, Samsung appears to have the most robust one.