

Google Goes Mid-Tier With Pixel 3a

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Google takes a step back in smartphones as it announces the Pixel 3a and 3a XL-- a pair of handsets aimed squarely at the mid-tier market featuring lower-end specs and an appropriately cheaper pricetag.



The two Pixel smartphones still appear to be fairly nice, with OLED displays (5.6-inch for the 3a, 6-inch for the 3a XL) for crisp blacks and bright colours and the same rear-facing camera setup as the higher-end Pixel 3. The camera offers features such as Night Sight, Photobooth mode, AR stickers and a Geo AR functionality using Street View images to show walking directions in major cities. However the front-facing camera is an 8MP wide-angle number, and lacks the group selfie mode the dual-camera Pixel 3.

As for internals, the Pixel 3a carries a Qualcomm Snapdragon 670 chipset, 4GB RAM, 64GB storage and a 3000mAh battery (3700mAh in the 3a XL) with an 18W charger promising to add up to 7 hours of battery life after just 15 minutes of charging. Further features include stereo speakers, a 3.5mm headphone jack, NFC capability and a fingerprint sensor on the back. The OS of choice is, of course, the latest version of Android, 9.0 Pie.

The Pixel 3a and 3a XL should be available now in a choice of three colours, white, black and "purple-ish".

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