

The Tough Land Rover Explore Smartphone

Written by Marco Attard
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Land Rover lends its name to another ruggedised smartphone-- the Explore, a handset the company describes as the toughest yet, "built to work in places other phones can't reach."



The work of British smartphone maker Bullitt (who made devices branded by the likes of Caterpillar, Kodak and JCB), the Explore includes a factory-fitted screen protector and protective casing allowing it to survive dives of up to 1.8m in salt water and drops of up to 1.8m. The phone also has an IP86 rating for splash, water and dust resistance, and includes the ViewRanger mapping app for customers wanting to take their Land Rover (the car, not the phone) off the beaten track.

When it comes to actual specs, the Explore features a 5-inch touchscreen usable with gloves or wet fingers, a deca-core 2.6GHz 64-bit MTK Helio X27 processor, 4GB RAM, 64GB storage (expandable via microSD), 16MP rear-/8MP front-facing cameras, 4000mAh batter, dual-SIM capability and LTE Cat6 connectivity. The OS of choice is Android Nougat, with an upcoming Oreo upgrade.

Perhaps making the Explore more interesting is what the company calls "Packs"-- add-on modules customers attach to the smartphone via pogo pins on the back. The smartphone ships an Adventure Pack adding a 3600mAh battery and a 25mm ceramic patch GPS antenna, and Bullitt also offers a Bike Pack (adds a stem and handlebar mount) and a Battery Pack (adds a 4370mAh battery).

The Land Rover Explore smartphone ships from April 2018.

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