

2026 Lexus NX450h+ offers plug in power and luxury

It is no secret that the Lexus brand is centered on comfort, and the compact luxury NX plays perfectly into that culture. The Lexus NX has been out since 2014 and is currently in its fourth year in its second generation, which came out in 2022. In typical Lexus fashion, the NX comes handsomely appointed with high-quality materials and tons of features. And there are three powertrain options available, including a hybrid and plug-in hybrid. This week we look at the range-topping NX450h+ plug-in hybrid.

The Lexus NX is a five-seat luxury compact SUV. Despite being several years since its last makeover, it still looks fresh with its double-angled grille and high-mounted running lights. Models range from the base NX350, to the hybrid versions NX350h and the NX450h+. Pricing starts at \$46,470, while the tester has an MSRP of \$67,289.

The cabin of the NX continues to impress with its typical Lexus look and feel. All interior touchpoints, starting with the leather-wrapped steering wheel, have a



quality feel. Along with the modern looks and classy materials, the NX offers one of the more spacious cabins in the luxury compact crossover segment, with slightly more passenger room in the rear seat and more cargo space with the rear seats folded than most of its rivals (Audi Q3, BMW X1, Mercedes-Benz GLA). A favorite feature of mine are the door handles which are electronic, popping open with a gentle press. Some of the optional features include a panoramic sunroof, heated rear seats, and an ambient interior lighting system with 64 different color choices. A large 14.0-inch touchscreen is standard on all but the base NX350 (which gets a 9.8-inch display) and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are both standard and work by way of a wireless connection.

The lineup for the 2026 Lexus NX consists of the NX350, NX350h and the NX450h+. The NX350 employs a turbocharged 2.4-liter four-cylinder that generates 275 horsepower. From there, it's all about the hybrid drivetrain and nobody knows them better than Toyota and Lexus. The NX350h uses a normally aspirated 2.4-liter engine along with a hybrid powertrain to make a total system output of 240 horsepower. The NX450h+ also uses a normally aspirated four-cylinder, but this one being slightly larger at 2.5-liters. In addition to the larger engine comes more powerful electric motors that assist the gasoline engine and are the sole motive source for the rear wheels, providing all-wheel-drive capability and 304 total horsepower.

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