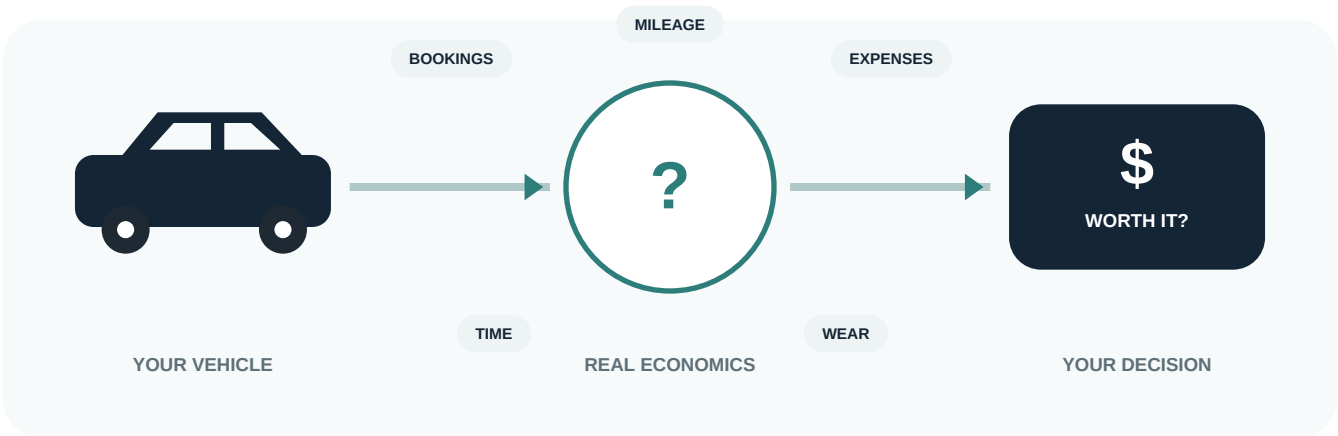


YOUR FIRST TRIP PLAYBOOK

From evaluating your vehicle to completing your first trip — and finding out whether hosting was actually worth it.



01 RUN THE NUMBERS	02 PREPARE	03 LIST	04 HOST	05 TURNOVER	06 REVIEW
KNOW YOUR NUMBERS		BUILD A REPEATABLE PROCESS		LEARN FROM REAL RESULTS	
Test the assumptions that matter before you commit.		Use the same preparation, inspection and documentation workflow every trip.		Compare expectations with actual mileage, expenses, time and cash.	

INSIDE: vehicle economics • preparation • listing workflow • pre/post-trip process • photo documentation • monthly review • printable First Trip Playbook

What this guide does

Hosting can generate useful income, but revenue alone does not tell you whether a vehicle is actually working for you. Mileage, maintenance, depreciation, operating expenses and your time all matter. This guide turns those ideas into a repeatable first-trip process.

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STAGE 1 — RUN THE NUMBERS

1. Decide what you are trying to accomplish

Already own the vehicle? Ask whether the added cash is worth the mileage, wear and time.

Buying specifically for hosting? Treat the vehicle as an investment and test whether realistic utilization supports the purchase.

Using hosting to offset a personal vehicle? Separate ownership costs you would pay anyway from costs created by hosting.

2. Revenue is not profit

\$55/day × 12 booked days = \$660 gross booking revenue.

That is not the same as host payout, and host payout is not the same as economic benefit. Consider platform payout/share, cleaning, parking/delivery, additional insurance, maintenance, mileage, depreciation, host time and unexpected costs.

3. Set your limits before spending

Maximum startup budget: \$ _____

Minimum monthly cash generation worth my effort: \$ _____

Maximum host time/month: _____ hrs

Maximum additional annual mileage I am comfortable with: _____ miles

GO DEEPER → LISTING ANALYZER

Use the free Listing Analyzer for mileage, maintenance, depreciation, host-time and break-even analysis.

BEFORE MOVING ON

■ Basic economics estimated ■ Startup budget set ■ Added mileage considered ■ Host time considered

STAGE 2 — PREPARE THE VEHICLE

1. Establish the mechanical baseline

Know the condition of tires, brakes, fluids, battery, lights, wipers, glass, warning lights and upcoming scheduled maintenance. Do not begin with unknown maintenance debt.

2. Establish the condition baseline

Thoroughly clean the vehicle, then document existing scratches, dents, wheel damage, glass chips, interior stains, upholstery/trim damage and missing or broken components.

3. Build the operating kit

Cleaning: microfiber towels, interior cleaner, glass cleaner, vacuum and basic stain supplies.

Vehicle: tire-pressure gauge, optional inflator/jump pack and appropriate emergency supplies.

Operations: key-management solution, storage tote, supplied charging cables and basic photo support equipment if useful.

USE THIS TOOL → STARTUP COST PLANNER

Record estimated and actual startup spending instead of relying on memory.

FIND CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS → HOST RESOURCES

Keep product recommendations on the website so they can stay current instead of becoming stale inside this PDF.

STAGE 3 — BUILD THE LISTING & TRIP PROCESS

1. Make the listing accurate

Use clear photos of the actual vehicle, an accurate description, accurate features and clear pickup/return expectations. Avoid overpromising.

2. Design pickup before the first booking

Pickup location: _____

Delivery offered? Yes / No

Key handoff method: _____

Parking process: _____

Guest instructions sent when/how: _____

3. Design the return

Return location: _____

Key return method: _____

Parking responsibility: _____

Inspection timing: _____

Cleaning location/process: _____

STAGE 4 — PREPARE FOR THE FIRST GUEST

The repeatable pre-trip sequence

- 1 **CLEAN** - Reset interior, glass, floors, seats, cargo area and exterior as needed.
- 2 **INSPECT** - Use the Pre/Post-Trip Inspection Checklist.
- 3 **PHOTOGRAPH** - Follow the standardized Photo Documentation Guide.
- 4 **RECORD** - Odometer, fuel/charge, condition and existing damage.
- 5 **STAGE** - Keys, parking, accessories, location and instructions.
- 6 **FINAL CHECK** - Vehicle ready, documentation complete, instructions sent and handoff ready.

STAGE 5 — RETURN & TURNOVER

1. Document before cleaning

Record mileage and fuel/charge, then document exterior, interior, wheels, glass and potential condition changes before vacuuming or wiping anything down.

2. Repeat the same photo sequence

Use the same general positions, distance and framing when practical. Consistency makes before/after review easier.

3. Review; do not jump to conclusions

A visual difference is a **potential condition change**, not an automatic finding of fault. Compare pre-trip originals, post-trip originals, existing-condition records and relevant trip information before taking further action.

4. Preserve evidence

Keep original files. If you crop, annotate or enhance an image for review, work from a copy.

5. Turn over

After documentation: clean, restock, address maintenance and prepare for the next trip.

STAGE 6 — FIND OUT WHETHER IT WAS WORTH IT

After every trip, record

Booked days, host payout, rental mileage, parking/delivery, cleaning/supplies, unexpected expenses, maintenance events and host time.

At month end, review

Booked days: _____ | Gross revenue: \$_____ | Host payout: \$_____
Cash expenses: \$_____ | Cash generated: \$_____
Rental miles: _____ | Host hours: _____ | Cash generated/hour: \$_____

Ask the useful questions

Did the vehicle book as often as expected? Was the achieved daily rate realistic? Did mileage exceed expectations? Were turnovers manageable? What costs did I underestimate? How much time did hosting consume? What maintenance is coming? Would I still choose to host this vehicle knowing what I know now?

TRACK IT → MONTHLY PROFIT TRACKER

Turn trip-level activity into monthly actuals.

RE-RUN THE NUMBERS → TRUE PROFIT CALCULATOR / LISTING ANALYZER

The operating loop is: Assumption → Operation → Actual Data → Better Assumption.

FIRST TRIP PLAYBOOK

Print or save this page as your quick-reference sequence.

BEFORE LISTING

- Run economics
- Establish startup budget
- Verify current marketplace requirements
- Establish maintenance baseline
- Document existing condition
- Build operating kit

BEFORE THE TRIP

- Clean
- Inspect
- Photograph
- Record mileage
- Record fuel/charge
- Stage vehicle
- Send instructions

AFTER THE TRIP

- Photograph before cleaning
- Record mileage
- Record fuel/charge
- Inspect
- Compare condition
- Preserve relevant originals
- Clean/turn over
- Record revenue, expenses, mileage and time

MONTH END

- Review actual results
- Compare with assumptions
- Check upcoming maintenance
- Adjust operating process
- Re-run financial analysis if assumptions changed