GTA 6 DAY-ONE CHECKLIST

Everything worth doing before and during your first session. Tick it off as you go.
Items come from published reports, linked on the last page.

BEFORE YOU PLAY

- [ ] **Know your unlock time**
  The game unlocks at midnight local time on November 19 (PS5 and Xbox Series X|S).
- [ ] **Check your edition**
  Standard is $79.99 and Ultimate is $99.99 (US). Buy before November 20 to get the Vintage Vice City Pack.
- [ ] **Physical copy? It is a code in a box**
  VGC reports there is no disc at launch.
- [ ] **Set your TV to Game Mode**
  Cuts input lag for aiming and driving.
- [ ] **Turn motion smoothing off**
  It adds lag and looks odd at 30 fps.
- [ ] **Calibrate HDR**
  PS5: Settings > Screen and Video > Video Output > HDR. Xbox: Settings > General > TV & display options.
- [ ] **Enable 3D audio or spatial sound on your headset**

Expect around 30 fps on base consoles. Digital Foundry's early analysis (via Kotaku) reports PS5 and Xbox Series X near 30 fps, PS5 Pro as the best version, and Series S at 720p internal resolution with frame rates in the mid-to-high 20s.

Cheat sites are a trap. No official GTA 6 cheat codes were confirmed in the coverage we checked. Never enter your PlayStation, Xbox or Rockstar login on a site promising codes, generators or early access.

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YOUR FIRST HOUR

- [ ] **Bank your cash**
  Carried money can reportedly be lost if you die, so deposit it.
- [ ] **Try an underwater shipwreck hunt**
  Reported to unlock very early and pay well for the effort.
- [ ] **Repair cars at a gas pump**
  A small fee, reported to be often cheaper than the Scooter Bros app.
- [ ] **Keep your own car separate from stolen ones**
  Police impound is reported to be expensive.
- [ ] **Skip cars with a red tracker icon early on**
  Police can find you if you drive them slowly for too long.
- [ ] **Learn focus mode (click both sticks)**
  Reveals noisy or moving enemies and highlights alarmed doors in red.
- [ ] **Hold Down on the D-pad**
  Slows time and shows points of interest you can mark for GPS (handy for gas stations).
- [ ] **Hold Left on the D-pad in a car**
  Opens vehicle features: headlights and trunk. The trunk closes when you drive off.
- [ ] **Clear a one-star wanted level by talking**
  Approach a cop with no gun out and use the defuse option. Some NPCs will still attack.
- [ ] **Change clothes to lose police attention**
- [ ] **Eat and drink before a fight**
  Buffs health, stamina and focus.
- [ ] **Pet a dog or cat**
  Hold left trigger to zoom in.
- [ ] **Assume any water has an alligator**

These tips are compiled from launch-eve reporting and may change after patches. Full versions with sources are on the site.

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MY TRACKER

Write down what you find. We only publish locations and methods we can confirm, so your notes are the best record.

Collectible or secret found	Area / landmark	Done

Money method I tried	Time spent	Cash earned	Risk

Cheat code I tested	Platform	Did it work?

Sources: Kotaku (launch live blog and "32 spoiler-free tips", Nov 18, 2026); Video Games Chronicle (Ultimate Edition and pre-order bonuses, Jun 24, 2026); Digital Foundry analysis as relayed by Kotaku; GTABase (money guide). Full guides with links: hesoyam-hub.pages.dev/guides/

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