ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Host Tools

The Insider’s Guide

Guest messaging, calendar sync and direct booking for short-term hosts



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among vacation rental tools, read from Host Tools’s own pages.

Made by Host Tools · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.2
GPA



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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Host Tools's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Host Tools's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.2

GPA, above 26 of the 53 other vacation rental tools we grade

Host Tools is vacation rental software for hosts on Airbnb, Vrbo and Booking.com. It combines a unified inbox, automated guest and cleaner messages, calendar sync and a direct-booking website, and its price depends on how many listings an account automates.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Host Tools**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **You connect each channel and write your message templates.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for guest messaging and calendar sync for hosts**

Host Tools handles guest messages, calendar sync and a booking site for short-term hosts from $28 a month for 1 listing.

2 **Paid plans start at $28 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $28 per month for 1 listing, billed yearly ($30 billed monthly).

3 **You can try it first**

14-day free trial, no credit card required

4 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Web, iOS and Android.

5 **Unified inbox**

Messages from Airbnb, Vrbo, Booking.com and direct bookings sit in one inbox, with search, filters and one-tap translation.

6 **Automated messages and reviews**

Scheduled check-in messages, reminders and review requests, plus SMS or email alerts to cleaners when a booking changes.

7 **Calendar sync**

Pro keeps availability current across connected channels in real time, and Airbnb setup mode lets you configure listings before going live.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 26 of 53**

That is against the other vacation rental tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Host Tools you would be making two-way connections to Airbnb, Booking.com and Vrbo. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Host Tools at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $28 per month for 1 listing, billed yearly ($30 billed monthly)

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
14-day free trial, no credit card required

RUNS ON
Web, iOS, Android

MADE BY
Host Tools

CATEGORY
Vacation Rental Software

OUR GRADE
2.2 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for guest messaging and calendar sync for hosts

Host Tools handles guest messages, calendar sync and a booking site for short-term hosts from $28 a month for 1 listing. Calendar sync, pricing rules and the booking site need the $30 Pro plan, and the price rises with every listing.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

Host Tools

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	$28 a month for 1 listing on yearly billing, $30 for Pro. That's near the $30 dearer quarter of rental tools, and 10 listings on Pro monthly is $106.
Free plan and trial	C	A 14-day trial with no card. No free plan.
Features	C	Inbox, automated messages, calendar sync, pricing rules and a booking site. Calendar sync is Pro only.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You connect each channel and write your message templates.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, iOS and Android, with Airbnb, Vrbo, Booking.com, Stripe and Seam. No desktop app.

Grade point average — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Host Tools is for

- ✓ Fits if you host a few short-term rentals and answer a lot of messages
- ✓ Works for hosts who want a direct booking site beside Airbnb

Who it is not for

- ✗ Pricey if you add listings, since $106 a month buys 10 on Pro
- ✗ Tight if you want calendar sync, as Messaging doesn't include it
- ✗ Skip it if you have a lock, because door-lock codes add $3 a lock a month
- ✗ Watch out: accounts above 134 listings are quoted individually

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Hosts with a handful of listings who mainly need messaging automation
- ✓ Airbnb hosts switching PMS who want to set up while still connected to the old one
- ✓ Small managers who want a direct-booking site without a separate subscription

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Price depends on the listing count: 10 listings on Pro billed monthly costs $106 a month, according to the pricing page.
- ⓘ Calendar sync, pricing rules, smart locks, multi-user access and the booking site are Pro features; Messaging does not include them.
- ⓘ Smart locks cost an extra $3 a month per lock on top of the plan.
- ⓘ Accounts above 134 listings are quoted individually.

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

$28
A month to start

Host Tools is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $28 per month for 1 listing, billed yearly ($30 billed monthly).

MESSAGING

$28

per month for 1 listing, billed yearly ($30 billed monthly)

Unified inbox, automated messages and reviews, translation and cleaner alerts; $37 a month at 2 listings.

PRO

$30

per month for 1 listing, billed yearly ($32 billed monthly)

Adds real-time calendar sync, pricing rules, smart locks, multi-user access, direct booking site and AI replies; $40 a month at 2 listings.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

For accounts above 134 listings: everything in Pro plus onboarding session and priority support, quoted on request.

Trying it first

14-day free trial, no credit card required

Read from hosttools.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Save with yearly billing

The pricing page shows $28 against $30 a month for 1 listing on Messaging, and $30 against $32 on Pro, when billed yearly.

Stated on hosttools.com

PART 03 · FEATURES

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

3

Places it runs: Web, iOS and Android

Guest messaging, calendar sync and direct booking for short-term hosts. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, AI features, shared inbox, workflow automation, channel manager.

"

Inbox, automated messages, calendar sync, pricing rules and a booking site.

From our grade for features

Unified inbox

Messages from Airbnb, Vrbo, Booking.com and direct bookings sit in one inbox, with search, filters and one-tap translation.

Automated messages and reviews

Scheduled check-in messages, reminders and review requests, plus SMS or email alerts to cleaners when a booking changes.

Calendar sync

Pro keeps availability current across connected channels in real time, and Airbnb setup mode lets you configure listings before going live.

Direct booking website

Pro includes a booking site with Stripe payments, a custom domain, contract signing, ID verification and a Google Vacation Rentals listing.

Pricing and availability rules

Rules for orphan periods, seasons and specific dates, minimum and maximum nights and blocked check-in days, set per channel.

Smart lock codes

On Pro, a lock linked through Seam gets a door code generated for each reservation, billed at $3 a month per lock.

Where it runs

Web · iOS · Android

What it works with

Airbnb · Vrbo · Booking.com · Google Vacation Rentals · Stripe · Seam

Host Tools is made by Host Tools.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

26/53

Other vacation rental tools it is graded above

Host Tools's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 26 of the 53 other vacation rental tools we grade, and level with 9.

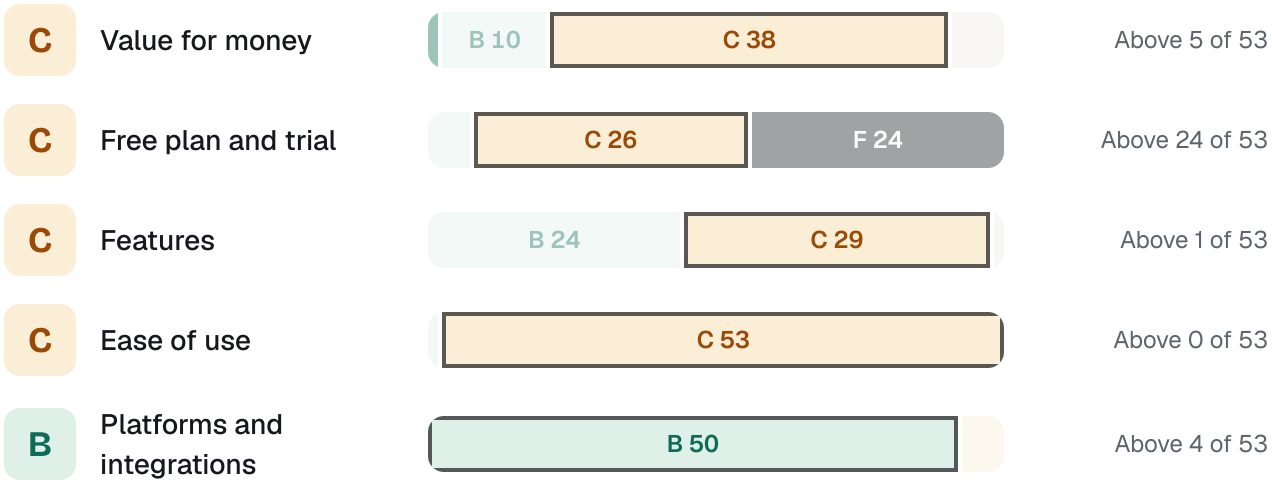
It stands best on platforms and integrations (B, above 4 of 53) and worst on ease of use (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $28 a month, against a middle price of $19.99 for the category: 24 of the 35 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 11 tools score higher and cost less.

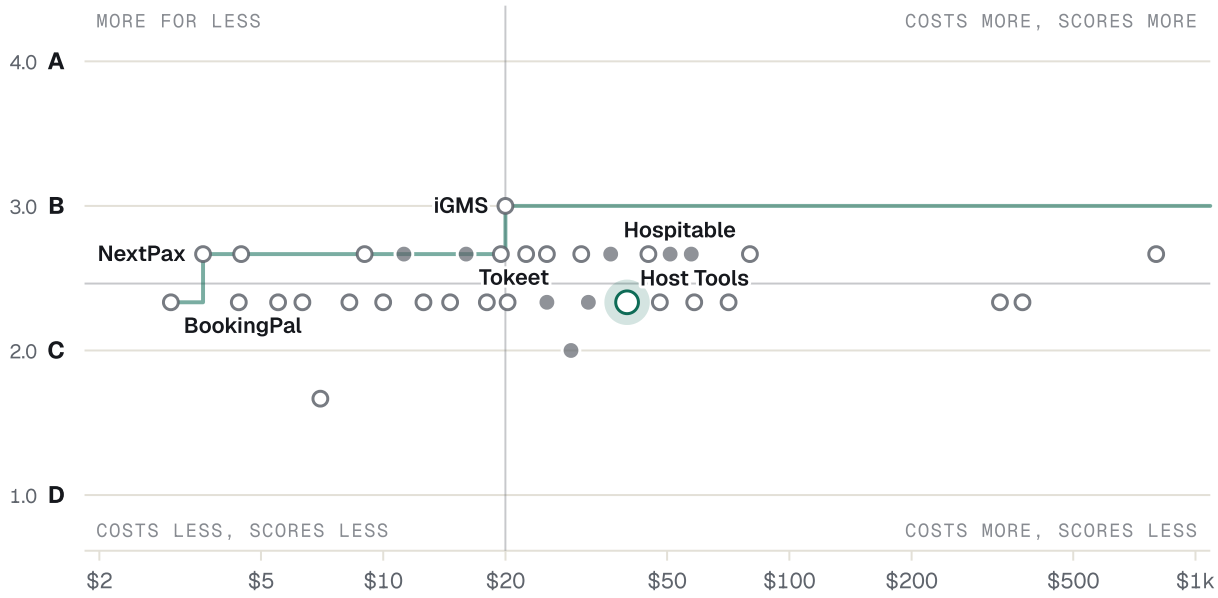
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 54 vacation rental tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Host Tools's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 36 vacation rental tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Host Tools is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double)

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

To replace Host Tools you would be making two-way connections to Airbnb, Booking.com and Vrbo. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

It costs $336 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ Two-way connections to Airbnb, Booking.com and Vrbo.
- ✕ One mailbox that several people work at once.

- ✕ Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.
- ✕ A real app for iOS and Android. Something home-made would be a web page.
- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. Host Tools's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Hospitable, Hostex, Smoobu, Hosthub and Hostaway

The 5 tools Host Tools is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.6 GPA

Hospitable

Free plan · from $25.52/mo

Guest messaging, channel sync and operations for short-term rentals.

- Hospitable has a free plan. Host Tools does not, though it has a free trial.
- Host Tools also covers workflow automation.
- Hospitable also covers tasks.

Host Tools and Hospitable compared in full

2.6 GPA

Hostex

Free trial · from $4.9/mo

Low-cost channel manager and PMS for short-term rentals.

- Only Host Tools lists iOS and Android apps.
- Host Tools also covers workflow automation.
- Hostex also covers tasks.

Host Tools and Hostex compared in full

2.2 GPA

Smoobu

Free trial · from €29/mo

Vacation rental channel manager and booking system, priced by unit.

- Host Tools also covers shared inbox and workflow automation.
- Smoobu also covers invoicing and reports.

Host Tools and Smoobu compared in full

2.4 GPA

Hosthub

Free trial · from $21.6/mo

Channel manager and PMS for vacation rentals, priced per rental.

- Only Host Tools lists iOS and Android apps.
- Host Tools also covers workflow automation.

Host Tools and Hosthub compared in full

2.0 GPA

Hostaway

Paid

Vacation rental PMS and channel manager for property managers.

- Host Tools also covers workflow automation.
- Hostaway also covers reports and whatsApp messaging.

Host Tools and Hostaway compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

14

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Host Tools free?

No, Host Tools is a paid product, but you can try it first. 14-day free trial, no credit card required.

How much does Host Tools cost?

Host Tools lists 3 plans. Messaging: $28 per month for 1 listing, billed yearly ($30 billed monthly).

What platforms does Host Tools work on?

Host Tools is available on Web, iOS and Android.

Does Host Tools offer any discounts?

Host Tools publicly lists the following: Save with yearly billing.

Does Host Tools have a Windows app?

No Windows app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Host Tools is listed for Web, iOS and Android.

Does Host Tools have a macOS app?

No macOS app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Host Tools is listed for Web, iOS and Android.

Is Host Tools open source?

Host Tools is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

Does Host Tools have an API?

Yes. Host Tools offers a public API, according to its own site.

What does Host Tools integrate with?

Host Tools's listing names Airbnb, Vrbo, Booking.com, Google Vacation Rentals, Stripe and Seam.

Who makes Host Tools?

Host Tools is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Host Tools?

The closest alternatives to Host Tools in our directory are Hospitable, Hostex, Smoobu, Hosthub and Hostaway.

How does Host Tools compare with other vacation rental tools?

Host Tools's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 26 of the 53 other vacation rental tools we grade, and level with 9.

Is Host Tools good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Host Tools C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $28 a month, against a middle price of $19.99 for the category: 24 of the 35 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Host Tools?

To replace Host Tools you would be making two-way connections to Airbnb, Booking.com and Vrbo.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Host Tools's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Host Tools's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Host Tools. Prices change, so check hosttools.com before you buy.

hosttools.com/

hosttools.com/pricing

hosttools.com/integrations

PART 07 · ABOUT

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

7,721

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at **toolgpa.com**.

7,721	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Host Tools, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/host-tools

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Host Tools: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/host-tools
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Know someone choosing between vacation rental tools?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/host-tools/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded vacation rental tools after Host Tools, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Vacation Rental Software Insider's Guide

Every one of the 54 vacation rental tools we grade, compared

CiiRUS Insider's Guide

Vacation rental PMS with trust accounting for professional managers

2.8 GPA

Hospitable Insider's Guide

Guest messaging, channel sync and operations for short-term rentals

2.6 GPA

Hostex Insider's Guide

Low-cost channel manager and PMS for short-term rentals

2.6 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Host Tools's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Host Tools is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Host Tools. Prices and plans change: check hosttools.com before you buy.