

# GAMER GUIDE

FINAL  
FANTASY XVI  
EDITION



the need to know you didn't know you needed



# WHAT IS IT?



Final Fantasy XVI, the sixteenth main instalment in the renowned Final Fantasy series, was globally released on June 22, 2023, as a timed exclusive for the PlayStation 5. Developed by Square Enix's Creative Business Unit III, this single-player action RPG (role-playing game) takes players on a journey through the enchanting world of Valisthea, where Mothercrystals and enigmatic creatures called Eikons hold great power.

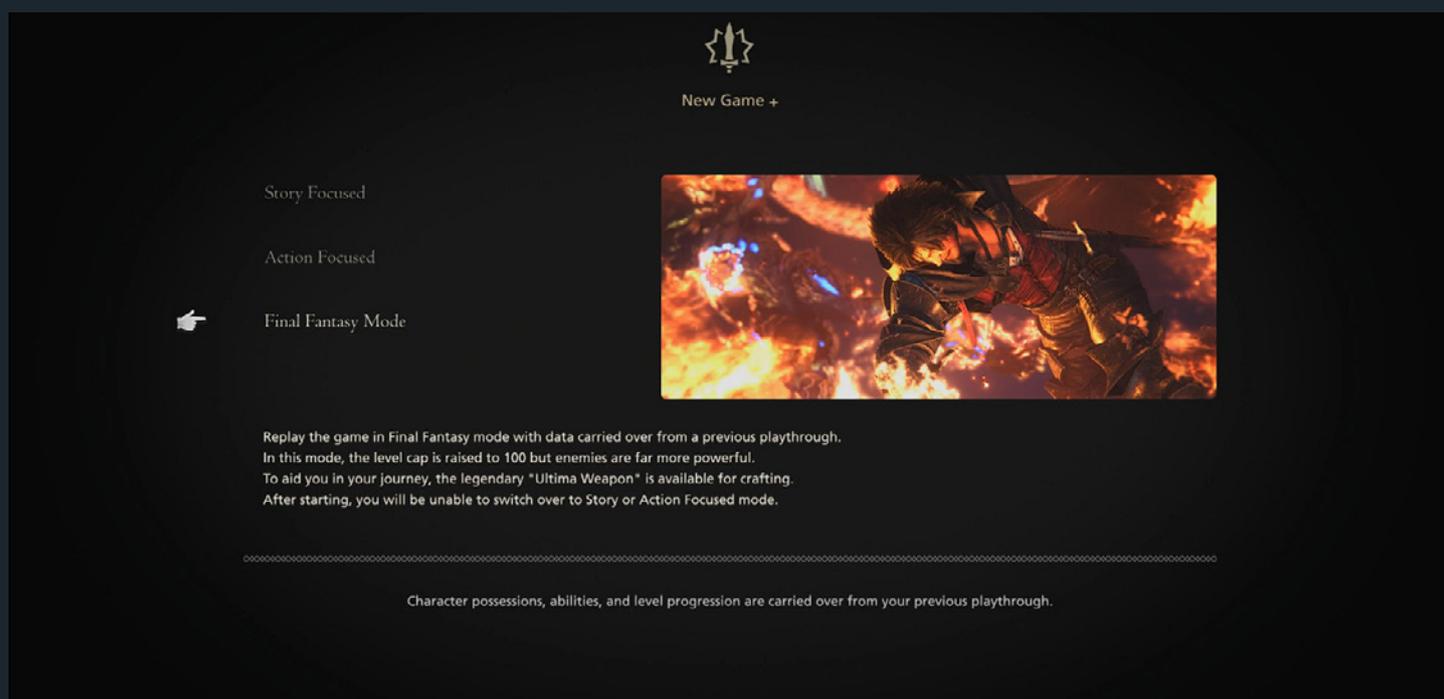


Since its inception in 1987, the Final Fantasy franchise, created by Hironobu Sakaguchi and owned by Square Enix, has captured the hearts of gamers worldwide with its captivating blend of fantasy and science fiction elements, resulting in a rich and varied series of beloved video games.

# BREAKDOWN THE BASICS

In the game, you'll traverse segmented open-world environments where action-based combat takes centre stage. This departure from the series' turn-based system incorporates both melee and magic-based attacks. Familiar elements from the series, such as Chocobos and summoned monsters known as Eikons, make return appearances.

## Mechanics



## Modes

You can choose between Story-Focused and Action-Focused Modes. In a significant shift from the series' traditional turn-based battle system, now embracing action-based gameplay. The available modes aim to assist players unfamiliar with action games to adapt to this new combat style. There's no right or wrong way to play; you can choose the mode that suits you best.

**Story-Focused Mode:** Akin to "easy mode." It reduces enemy strength, making battles easier to win, and provides two "Timely Accessories" for smoother combat (which are also available in Action-Focused Mode but not automatically equipped).

Timely Accessories include:

- The Ring of Timely Strikes: simplifies complex combos by pressing Square.
- The Ring of Timely Evasion: automatically dodges incoming attacks, but disables counter attacks.
- The Ring of Timely Assistance: lets Torgal fight on your behalf.
- The Ring of Timely Focus: slows time when about to be hit, allowing evasive manoeuvres or counters.

**Action-Focused Mode:** comparable to “normal mode”, you’ll experience the regular difficulty of the game and have the freedom to choose whether to equip the Timely Accessories. It’s perfect for players who enjoy action games and love a challenge in combat. You can mix and match the Timely Accessories to find your perfect combination and customise the difficulty to your liking.

If you wish to change your mode selection, it’s effortless to do so in the game’s settings. Just press the menu button on your controller, go to System, select Game Settings, navigate to the Gameplay tab, and switch between the two modes as you like.



## Combat

For Final Fantasy fans new to action games, the action combat can present a learning curve compared to the traditional turn-based battle system. It may take some getting used to, but it offers an exciting challenge for those willing to embrace it.

**Precision Dodging:** this is crucial to master! It’s a game-changer in battles. To execute it, press R1 right before you get hit, allowing Clive to evade without taking damage. Following a Precision Dodge with an attack triggers a powerful Precision Counter, dealing more damage than a regular hit.

**Staggering:** prioritise Staggering larger foes quickly. When an enemy is Staggered, it becomes vulnerable, taking increased damage while unable to retaliate. Use this moment to deal significant blows to their HP without any resistance.

**The Half-Way Stagger Point:** cut your opponent’s Stagger Gauge in half to unbalance them. Then, use Garuda’s Deadly Embrace to bring them down, giving you precious extra time to strike before they recover. It works on strong enemies too, making Deadly Embrace a valuable battle asset.

**Magic Bursts:** don't overlook this simple move. Press triangle between sword slashes to release a spell that adds more damage to your combo. Magic Bursts turn a 4-hit combo into an 8-hit one and increase Stagger Damage, making them a potent addition to your arsenal.

**Limit Break:** activate Limit Break when the gauge is full for more damage and HP gain. Ideal during low health or when opponents are Staggered. Unleash its power in battles!



## Abilities

Navigating the Ability Tree is key. Access it through the menu and explore multiple Ability Circles, each with unique Abilities you can learn from various Eikons. Remember, in battle, you can equip two Eikonic Abilities and one Eikonic Feat at a time, so choose wisely from your learned moves!

Learning new Eikonic Abilities requires Ability Points, earned by defeating enemies in the field. Mastering abilities unlocks their most powerful versions, so strategize and use your Ability Points wisely to build your ideal combat repertoire.

Resetting the Ability Tree has no penalty. Using this function wipes all your Abilities and restores your Ability Points, allowing you to start fresh. For a more hands-off approach, use the left joystick to let the game select recommended moves for you automatically.





## Eikons

Eikons are powerful beings known as Summons from previous games. They awaken within Dominants and grant immense power at a price. Clive Rosfield's story revolves around these Eikons and their abilities. When you unlock an Eikon, conquer their Chronolith Trial to enhance their ultimate ability with a special Accessory.

### **Ifrit Abilities:**

- Ignition
- Will-o'-the-Wykes
- Limit Break

### **Phoenix Abilities:**

- Rising Flame
- Scarlet Cyclone
- Heatwave
- Flames of Rebirth

Feat: Phoenix Shift closes the gap to a target.

### **Shiva Abilities:**

- Ice Age
- Mesmerize
- Rime
- Diamond Dust

Feat: Cold Snap allows you to slide effortlessly across the ground in any direction. Attacking while sliding can temporarily freeze enemies.

**Ramuh Abilities:**

- Pile Drive
- Thunderstorm
- Lightning Rod
- Judgement Bolt

Feat: Blind Justice shoots ball lightning at enemies, sticking to them for additional damage when attacked.

**Garuda Abilities:**

- Gouge
- Wicked Wheel
- Rook's Gambit
- Aerial Blast

Feat: Deadly Embrace allows Clive to grab and pull enemies from a distance, even launching him into the air with heavier foes.

**Titan Abilities:**

- Windup
- Upheaval
- Raging Fists
- Earthen Fury

Feat: Titan Block blocks enemy attacks. Perfect timing allows for counterattacks.

**Bahamut Abilities:**

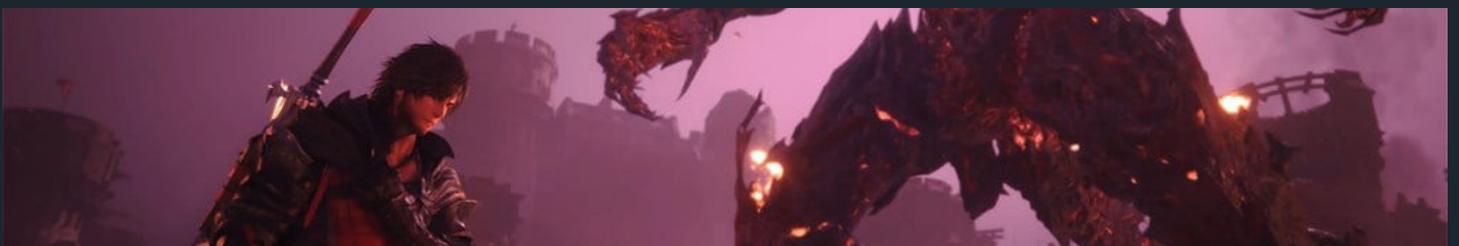
- Impulse
- Flare Breath
- Satellite
- Gigaflare

Feat: Wings of Light casts Megaflare for the duration the button is held.

**Odin Abilities:**

- Gungnir
- Heaven's Cloud
- Rift Slip
- Dancing Steel

Feat: Arm of Darkness allows Clive to wield Odin's blade, and successful attacks increase the Zantetsuken gauge.





## Gear

**Weapons:** Clive's weapon of choice is a blade. While that does mean a lack of choice, it certainly does not lack variety! You'll wield everything ranging from the standard longsword to Ragnarok. Crafting top-tier weapons necessitates acquiring exclusive materials as you advance through the main story.

**Belts & Vambraces:** Clive Rosfield boosts his HP and defence stats by wearing Belts and Vambraces, as there are no traditional armours to equip.

**Accessories:** These come in various forms such as bracelets, charms, badges, and earrings. They are distinct from Weapons, Belts, and Vambraces, allowing Clive to wear up to three accessories alongside his armour and belts, while limited to one Weapon, Belt, and Vambrace at the beginning of the adventure.

**Consumables:** Consumable Items are abundant, scattered throughout levels. You can also purchase most of these items at store markets or from merchants in the game. Additionally, completing missions, side quests, or defeating enemies can occasionally reward you with Consumables.

- **Potion:** Restores 20% of maximum HP.
- **High Potion:** Restores 40% of maximum HP.
- **Stoneskin Tonic:** Increases defence by 30% for 90 seconds.
- **Strength Tonic:** Increases attack power by 10% for 60 seconds.
- **Lionheart Tonic:** Gradually fills the Limit Break gauge for 30 seconds.
- **Elixir:** Instantly restores all HP.
- **Last Elixir:** Upon KO, automatically restores all HP, fills the Limit gauge, and increases attack power by 10% and defence by 30% for 60 seconds.



## Crafting

To improve your gear and craft new equipment and weapons, you'll need to speak to Blackthorne. Once you speak to Blackthorne, two menus will pop up for "Craft" and "Reinforce."

For both crafting a new item and reinforcing an existing one from your inventory, you'll be given a list of materials required. Crafting uses significantly more materials than reinforcing, so it may be worthwhile to buy an item and reinforce it. Gather these vital materials by embarking on quests, conquering powerful adversaries, unlocking strongboxes, and collecting items while navigating the perilous regions of Valisthea.

The rarity of the material will determine the quality of your crafted items:

- Common Materials (Gray)
- Uncommon Materials (Green)
- Rare Materials (Blue)
- Epic Materials (Purple)
- Legendary Materials (Yellow)
- Ultima Materials (Red)





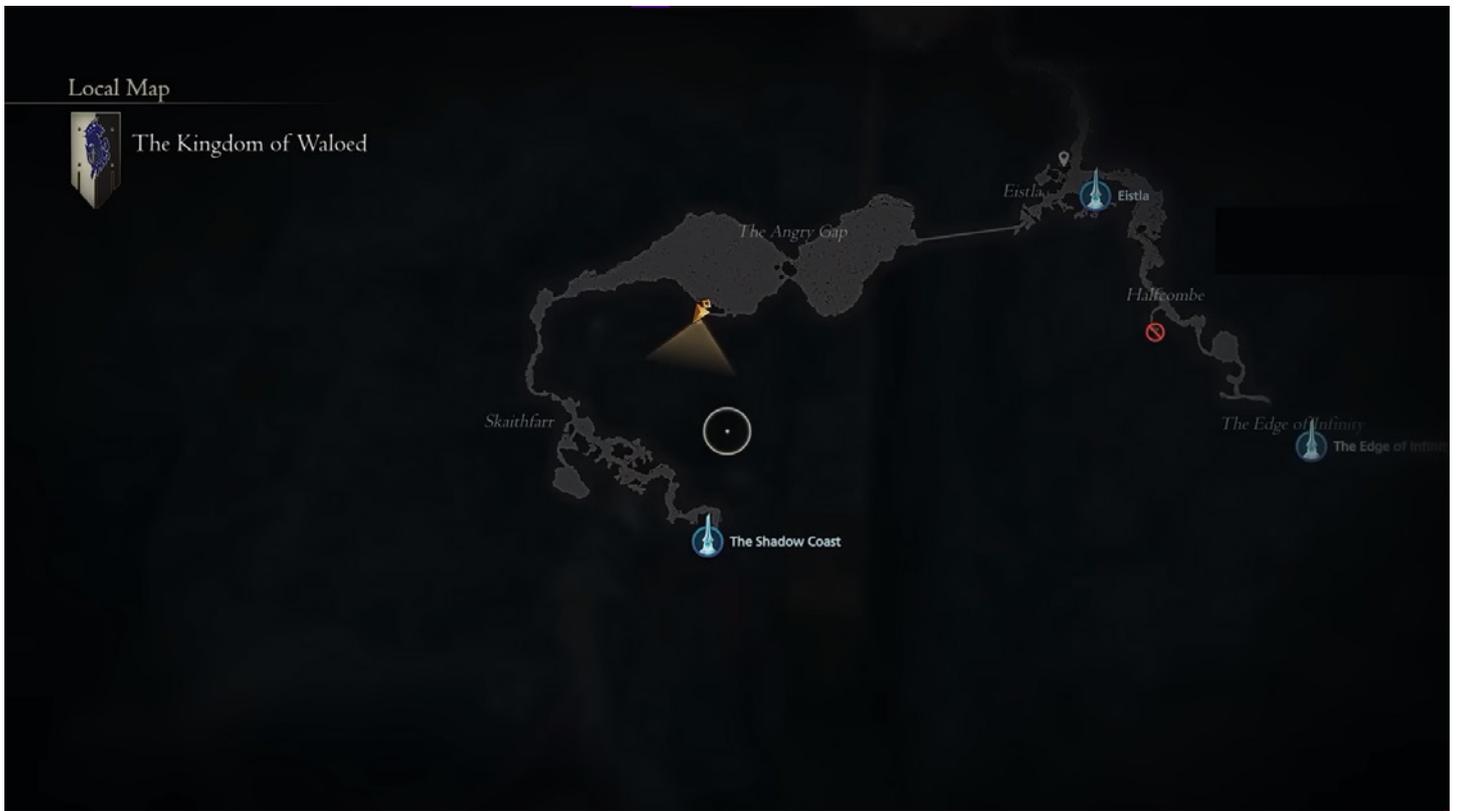
# Environment



## The Hideaway

Cid's Hideaway is a hub-like base where you can access upgrades, consumables, forge gear, train in the Virtual Training space, and unlock new sidequests. It's a valuable place to prepare for your adventures.

- The Hunt Board: Gather information about Elite Marks and earn Renown Rating and Gil by slaying foes all across Valisthea.
- The Black Hammer: Craft and reinforce weapons and armour using materials in exchange.
- Charon's Toll: Access the Shop to purchase weapons, armour, and consumables with Gil.
- Harpocrates' Library: Update the Thousand Tomes with discoveries, gain reading experience, and access a vast resource of information about Valisthea.
- The Arete Stone: Test your gear and combat skills against enemies in the Hall of Virtue Training Mode or battle for high scores in Arcade Mode.
- The Patron's Whisper: Earn enough Renown Rating to accept donation crates filled with crafting materials, Ability Points, and accessories like the Berserker Ring.
- Scholar and Strategist Vivian: Access The Grand Cast and the Situation Map to view relationships between Persons of Interest and learn about their past events.

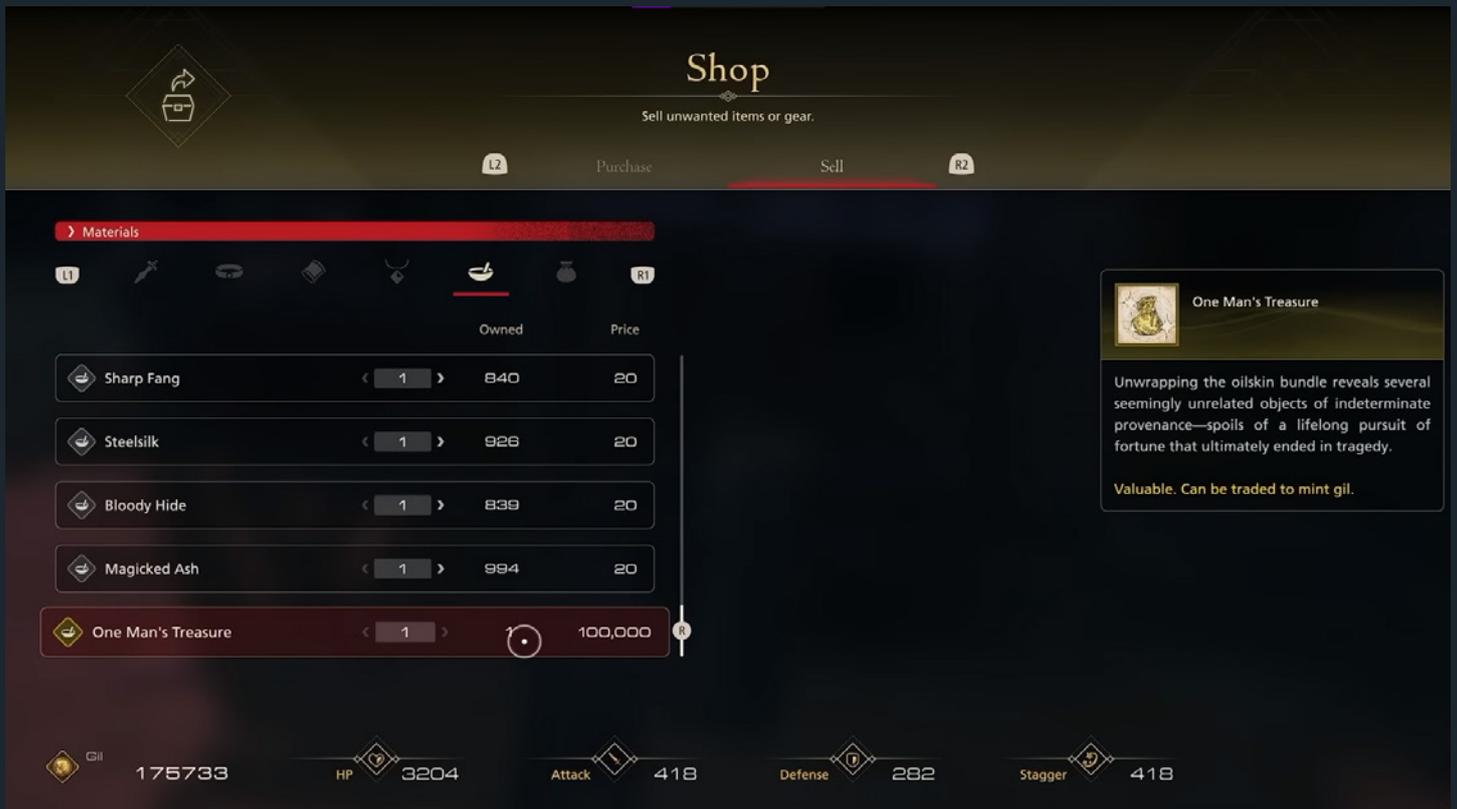


## Kingdoms

There are six main kingdoms in the world of Valisthea, five of which have their own Dominant and Eikon.

- Grand Duchy of Rosaria: Rosaria sources its aether from Drake's Breath, a powerful Mothercrystal located on a volcanic island off the coast.
- Holy Empire of Sanbreque: The Empire's holy capital, Oriflamme, revolves around Drake's Head, a sacred Mothercrystal that bestows abundant aether upon the surrounding provinces.
- Kingdom of Waloed: Waloed asserts dominion over Ash, the eastern half of Valisthea.
- Dhalmekian Republic: Its Mothercrystal, Drake's Fang, is partially concealed within a mountain range.
- Iron Kingdom: The Iron Kingdom controls Drake's Breath, the central Mothercrystal on one of their islands.
- Crystalline Dominion: The Crystalline Dominion, located at the heart of Valisthea, centres around the tallest of all Mothercrystals, Drake's Tail.
- The Free Cities of Kanver: A federation of independent city-states that seceded from the Dhalmekian Republic. It remains neutral in the midst of turmoil, with no Dominant or Mothercrystal.

# TIPS & TRICKS



## Don't sideline side quests

While side quests in the game are limited and scattered, it's essential to complete each one. These quests are straightforward, with explicit objective directions, usually taking just a few minutes to finish. Despite their simplicity, they offer valuable rewards for minimal effort. Players can earn experience points, Gil, and AP, making them an excellent way to quickly level up Clive and expand his skill set.

## Man's best friend

Whenever Clive takes damage, his health bar shows grey portions representing the received damage. But fear not, as you can easily recover this grey health by using Torgal's healing ability for free and as often as needed. If you choose to heal with a potion and reach full health, the grey portions will vanish. To save your precious potions, make sure to utilise Torgal's healing whenever you see grey in your health bar.

## Speed over beauty

This is a vast and intricate game, with plenty of action on the screen, particularly during combat. While slower moments allow you to appreciate the scenery, Clive's fast-paced battles demand a smooth frame rate. The intense beauty of boss and Eikon battles may captivate you, but prioritising a stable frame rate is crucial to avoid compromising your performance in fights.



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# CONCLUSION

Final Fantasy XVI offers an immensely gratifying action experience with engaging combat and captivating story moments. Square Enix has crafted a fantastic PlayStation 5 release, perfect for Final Fantasy enthusiasts and action game lovers seeking a unique and thrilling adventure.