

Deployment Guide for BookIt

This guide covers deploying both the backend and frontend of the BookIt application to production.

Pre-Deployment Checklist

- Code is committed to GitHub
- All tests pass locally
- Environment variables are documented
- Database schema is finalized
- API endpoints are tested

Backend Deployment (Render/Railway)

Option 1: Render.com (Recommended)

Step 1: Create PostgreSQL Database

1. Go to [Render Dashboard](#)
2. Click "New +" → "PostgreSQL"
3. Configure:
 - **Name:** `bookit-db`
 - **Database:** `bookit`
 - **User:** `bookit`
 - **Region:** Choose closest to your users
 - **Plan:** Free tier is fine for testing
4. Click "Create Database"
5. **Copy the Internal Database URL** (starts with `(postgresql://)`)

Step 2: Deploy Backend Service

1. Click "New +" → "Web Service"
2. Connect your GitHub repository
3. Configure:
 - **Name:** `bookit-backend`
 - **Root Directory:** `backend`

- **Environment:** `Node`
- **Region:** Same as database
- **Branch:** `main`
- **Build Command:** `npm install && npm run build`
- **Start Command:** `npm start`
- **Plan:** Free tier

4. Add Environment Variables:

```
DATABASE_URL = [paste internal database URL from step 1]
NODE_ENV = production
```

5. Click "Create Web Service"

6. Wait for deployment (5-10 minutes)

7. Copy your backend URL: <https://bookit-backend.onrender.com>

Step 3: Test Backend

```
bash

# Test health endpoint
curl https://bookit-backend.onrender.com/health

# Test experiences endpoint
curl https://bookit-backend.onrender.com/api/experiences
```

Option 2: Railway.app

1. Go to [Railway](#)
2. Click "New Project" → "Deploy from GitHub repo"
3. Select your repository
4. Add PostgreSQL plugin
5. Set environment variables:

```
DATABASE_URL = ${Postgres.DATABASE_URL}
NODE_ENV = production
```

6. Configure build:

- **Root Directory:** `backend`
- **Build Command:** `npm install && npm run build`
- **Start Command:** `npm start`

🌐 Frontend Deployment (Vercel)

Step 1: Prepare Frontend

1. Update `frontend/.env.production`:

```
env  
VITE_API_URL=https://bookit-backend.onrender.com/api
```

2. Test production build locally:

```
bash  
cd frontend  
npm run build  
npm run preview
```

Step 2: Deploy to Vercel

Method 1: Vercel CLI

1. Install Vercel CLI:

```
bash  
npm install -g vercel
```

2. Login:

```
bash  
vercel login
```

3. Deploy from frontend directory:

```
bash
```

```
cd frontend  
vercel --prod
```

4. Set environment variable in Vercel dashboard:

- Go to Project Settings → Environment Variables
- Add: `VITE_API_URL` = `https://bookit-backend.onrender.com/api`

Method 2: Vercel Dashboard

1. Go to Vercel Dashboard

2. Click "Add New" → "Project"

3. Import your GitHub repository

4. Configure:

- **Framework Preset:** Vite
- **Root Directory:** `frontend`
- **Build Command:** `npm run build`
- **Output Directory:** `dist`

5. Add Environment Variable:

```
VITE_API_URL = https://bookit-backend.onrender.com/api
```

6. Click "Deploy"

Step 3: Test Frontend

Visit your Vercel URL (e.g., `https://bookit.vercel.app`) and test:

- Browse experiences
- Select dates and slots
- Complete a booking
- Apply promo codes



Alternative: Docker Deployment

Step 1: Build Docker Images

```
bash

# Build backend
docker build -f Dockerfile.backend -t bookit-backend .

# Build frontend
docker build -f Dockerfile.frontend -t bookit-frontend .
```

Step 2: Deploy with Docker Compose

```
bash

docker-compose up -d
```

This will start:

- PostgreSQL on port 5432
- Backend on port 5000
- Frontend on port 3000

Step 3: Deploy to AWS ECS / Google Cloud Run

Follow your cloud provider's Docker deployment guide.

Alternative Backend Hosting

Heroku

```
bash
```

```
# Login to Heroku
heroku login

# Create app
heroku create bookit-backend

# Add PostgreSQL
heroku addons:create heroku-postgresql:mini

# Deploy
cd backend
git push heroku main

# Set environment variables
heroku config:set NODE_ENV=production
```

DigitalOcean App Platform

1. Connect GitHub repository
2. Select "Node.js" as component type
3. Add PostgreSQL database
4. Configure build commands
5. Deploy

🔍 Post-Deployment Verification

Backend Health Check

```
bash

# Health endpoint
curl https://your-backend-url.com/health

# Get experiences
curl https://your-backend-url.com/api/experiences

# Get specific experience
curl https://your-backend-url.com/api/experiences/1

# Get slots
curl "https://your-backend-url.com/api/experiences/1/slots?date=2025-11-10"
```

Frontend Testing

1. Open browser DevTools → Network tab
2. Navigate through the app
3. Verify all API calls succeed (200 status)
4. Test booking flow end-to-end
5. Verify promo codes work

Database Verification

```
bash

# Connect to production database
psql $DATABASE_URL

# Check tables
\dt

# Count experiences
SELECT COUNT(*) FROM experiences;

# Check recent bookings
SELECT * FROM bookings ORDER BY booking_date DESC LIMIT 5;
```

Troubleshooting

Backend Issues

Issue: Database connection fails

```
bash

# Solution: Verify DATABASE_URL format
# Should be: postgresql://user:password@host:port/database
# Check SSL settings for production
```

Issue: CORS errors

```
javascript
```

```
// Solution: Update CORS settings in server.ts
app.use(cors({
  origin: ['https://your-frontend-url.com'],
  credentials: true
}));
```

Issue: Build fails on Render

```
bash

# Solution: Check Node version
# Add to package.json:
"engines": {
  "node": ">=18.0.0"
}
```

Frontend Issues

Issue: API calls fail with CORS

```
typescript

// Solution: Update API base URL in api.ts
const API_BASE_URL = import.meta.env.VITE_API_URL || 'http://localhost:5000/api';
```

Issue: Environment variables not loading

```
bash

# Solution: Rebuild and redeploy
vercel --prod --force
```

Issue: 404 on routes

```
json

// Add to vercel.json
{
  "rewrites": [
    { "source": "/(.*)", "destination": "/index.html" }
  ]
}
```



Monitoring

Render Monitoring

- View logs: Dashboard → Service → Logs
- Metrics: CPU, Memory, Request count
- Alerts: Set up email notifications

Vercel Analytics

```
bash
```

```
# Install Vercel Analytics
npm install @vercel/analytics
```

```
typescript
```

```
// Add to main.tsx
import { Analytics } from '@vercel/analytics/react';

<Analytics />
```

🔒 Security Hardening

Environment Variables

Never commit `.env` files. Use:

- Render: Dashboard → Environment Variables
- Vercel: Project Settings → Environment Variables

Database Security

```
sql
```

```
-- Create read-only user for analytics
CREATE USER analytics WITH PASSWORD 'secure_password';
GRANT SELECT ON ALL TABLES IN SCHEMA public TO analytics;
```

Rate Limiting

```
typescript
```

```
// Add to server.ts

import rateLimit from 'express-rate-limit';

const limiter = rateLimit({
  windowMs: 15 * 60 * 1000, // 15 minutes
  max: 100 // limit each IP to 100 requests per windowMs
});

app.use('/api', limiter);
```

Performance Optimization

Backend

typescript

```
// Add caching

import NodeCache from 'node-cache';
const cache = new NodeCache({ stdTTL: 600 });

app.get('/api/experiences', async (req, res) => {
  const cached = cache.get('experiences');
  if (cached) return res.json(cached);

  const experiences = await getExperiences();
  cache.set('experiences', experiences);
  res.json(experiences);
});
```

Frontend

typescript

```
// Code splitting
const CheckoutPage = lazy(() => import('./pages/CheckoutPage'));

// Use Suspense
<Suspense fallback={<Loading />}>
  <CheckoutPage />
</Suspense>
```

Continuous Deployment

GitHub Actions

Create `.github/workflows/deploy.yml`:

```
yaml

name: Deploy

on:
  push:
    branches: [main]

jobs:
  deploy-backend:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - uses: actions/checkout@v2
      - run: npm install
      - run: npm run build
    # Add deployment steps

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    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - uses: actions/checkout@v2
      - run: npm install
      - run: npm run build
    # Add deployment steps
```

Final Checklist

- Backend deployed and accessible
- Frontend deployed and accessible
- Database migrations run successfully
- Sample data populated
- All API endpoints working
- CORS configured correctly
- Environment variables set
- SSL certificates active (HTTPS)
- Error logging configured

- Monitoring set up
- Domain name configured (optional)
- Documentation updated with live URLs

You're Live!

Your application is now deployed! Share these URLs:

- **Frontend:** <https://bookit.vercel.app>
 - **Backend API:** <https://bookit-backend.onrender.com>
 - **GitHub Repo:** <https://github.com/username/bookit>
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Need Help? Check the main README.md or open an issue on GitHub.