

# Rik Wanders

Senior Full-Stack Developer

Building scalable web applications for remote teams

Email: [rik@rikwanders.tech](mailto:rik@rikwanders.tech)

Phone: +31649118511

Location: Málaga, Spain (CET/GMT+1)

Website: [rikwanders.tech](http://rikwanders.tech)

LinkedIn: [rik-wanders-software](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rik-wanders-software)

GitHub: [gitaarik](https://github.com/gitaarik)

## SUMMARY

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Dutch Senior Full-Stack Developer residing in Spain. 10+ years Python & Node.js experience, scaling complex, high-traffic & data heavy applications with Django & React, and leading development teams. Additional skills in DevOps, CI/CD & UXD. Current with industry trends, AI & security. Thrives in agile teams / startup environments. 5+ years remote work experience.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Chipta | Amsterdam, NL | Lead Developer | 09/2015 - 03/2025

- Led distributed development team (3-5 devs) with agile methods and strict code review processes, optimizing output 25%
- Enabled processing thousands of orders per minute, by optimizing SQL & Python/Django process up to 60% & caching
- Decreased regression with 90%, by establishing TDD with quality testing suite using Django & Selenium (+80% coverage)
- Reduced deploy time -80% & enabled regular releases, by orchestrating CI/CD systems on Linode using Ansible & Python
- Streamlined onboarding, by coordinating development environment setup of 4 Docker microservices in Docker Compose
- Maintained backward compatibility with legacy PHP system & database, by customizing Django codebase
- Enabled clients to organize automatically managed online events with Zoom, by integrating Zoom with OAuth in Django
- Allowed users to validate authenticity of 2nd hand tickets, by implementing TicketSwap REST APIs using DRF
- Processed tens of millions in payment transactions, by building payment service integrations (Mollie, Pay.nl, Paypal)

### Tender-it | Amsterdam, NL | Lead Developer | 06/2014 - 06/2015

- Delivered complete platform with Python, Django & React in consultation with non-technical founders
- Transformed thousands of tenders daily into structured data, by making web crawlers & importers with Django & Celery
- Developed industry-first Elasticsearch-powered search engine for filtering & scoring hundreds of thousands of tenders
- Enabled market entry via subscription system with monthly/yearly recurring payments, using Django, Celery & Adyen
- Supported user retention by developing automatic notification mailing system for user preferences & saved searches

### TravelBird | Amsterdam, NL | Senior Full-Stack Developer | 03/2013 - 08/2014

- Shipped iPhone & Android booking apps in scrum team (4) within 5 months, handling 15%+ of bookings in 3 months
- Designed REST API with JWT auth using DRF, deployed on AWS, accommodating iOS & Android apps and mobile website
- Supported acquisition by sending thousands of emails with marketing system using Python, Django, Celery & SendGrid

### SWIS | Leiden, NL | Mid-level Web Developer | 08/2011 - 02/2013

- Delivered web projects for major clients (Bol.com) as part of company's best of 5 Scrum teams using custom PHP CMS
- Cultivated advanced frontend & UX skills with jQuery & CSS3, increasing user product engagement & client satisfaction

### Gamepoint | The Hague, NL | Junior / Mid-level Web Developer | 08/2007 - 06/2011

- Implemented payment integrations, internationalization, and optimized MySQL database structures & queries
- Promoted to mid-level developer in 10+ developer team, maintaining large-scale PHP codebase & Linux servers setup

### Budget Advies Groep | Cruquius, NL | Junior Web developer | 09/2006 - 06/2007

### Festivalinfo | Amsterdam, NL | Internship Web Developer | 03/2006 - 08/2006

## SKILLS

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• **Backend:** Python | Django | Django REST Framework (DRF) | Flask | FastAPI | RESTful APIs | LLM integrations | pytest

• **Frontend:** JavaScript | Node.js | TypeScript | React Native | React | Svelte | Tailwind CSS | Jest

• **Databases:** PostgreSQL | MySQL | MariaDB | SQLite | SQL optimization | Elasticsearch | MongoDB | Redis

• **Development Tools:** Git | GitHub | Git Flow | Claude Code | Cursor | Neovim | tmux

• **DevOps:** Docker | Docker Compose | GitLab CI/CD | GitHub Actions | Ansible | Python Fabric | Caching strategies

• **Cloud Platforms:** Amazon Web Services | AWS EC2 | AWS S3 | AWS Lambda | Vercel | Linode

• **Dev Methodologies:** Agile | Scrum | XP | AI-Assisted Development | Secure by design | TDD | UXD

## SIDE PROJECTS

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**Django Admin Relation Links** | [Gitaarik/django-admin-relation-links](#) ★ 108 | 01/2014 - 12/2020

Django Admin navigation enhancement, simplifying navigation between related database objects. Open-sourced on GitHub and PyPi. Used in production at Chipta & Tender-it.

**Git Submodules Guide** | [gist.github.com/gitaarik/8735255](#) ★ 1028 | 01/2014 - 01/2014

Popular GitHub Gist explaining Git submodules fundamentals. Helped many developers understand submodules effectively.

**Monkful** | [Gitaarik/monkful](#) | 09/2013 - 10/2014

Python package to easily create RESTful API's for MongoEngine documents used for MongoDB database. Inspired by Django REST framework. Used in production at Travelbird.

## EDUCATION

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**Software Development, Dutch Vocational Education (MBO), Graduation Year 2007** | Nova College, Hoofddorp, NL

Comprehensive 4-year program including foundational computer science, algorithms, and data structures.

**Audio technician, Dutch Vocational Education (MBO), 08/2003 - 06/2004** | Mediacollege Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

I liked many aspects of the field (music & tech), but ultimately decided that it wasn't something I wanted to pursue in.

**Pre-vocational education, Dutch VMBO-t education, Graduation Year 2003** | Kaj Munk College, Hoofddorp, NL

Educated in topics like maths, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, economy, history, social studies, Dutch & English.

**Primary education, Dutch primary education, Graduation Year 1999** | Valkenburgschool, Heemstede, NL

Educated in core subjects like Dutch, maths, science, history, geography, gym & creative activities (art, music).

## LANGUAGES

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Dutch: Native

English: Fluent

## REFERENCES

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### Elmar Krack

*"Rik demonstrated exceptional technical leadership by designing and developing our entire platform from the ground up, handling both backend and frontend development with impressive skill."*

### Michaël de Groot

*"Rik modernized our client-facing interfaces and implemented backend optimizations that delivered substantial performance improvements. His work enabled us to process thousands of tickets rapidly during our busiest periods."*

Contact details available upon request