

Karina Espínola

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✓ Professional Summary

Backend Developer with 10+ years of experience designing and optimizing backend systems. Developed and maintained 100+ APIs supporting 3,000+ monthly users, including complex payment orchestrator logic integrating multiple gateways and increasing payment success rates by ~20-30%. Skilled in Laravel, PHP, PostgreSQL with Eloquent optimization, and Pest testing framework (~70% coverage), known for performance tuning that reduced system errors and improved reliability.

Work Experience

Freelance Laravel Developer at Elaniin

2025-11 – Current | San Salvador, El Salvador (Remote)

- Developed key components of a Laravel-based institutional calendar API, implementing business rules for non-working days, fiscal year logic, recurring events, and working-day calculations.
- Collaborated closely with the frontend team, ensuring consistent API contracts and supporting their integration needs throughout the development cycle.
- Integrated new features seamlessly into the existing backend architecture, maintaining code quality, writing unit/feature tests, and ensuring backward compatibility.

Backend Developer at My Digital Nomads

2022-08 – 2025-08 | Remote

- Designed and developed 100+ API endpoints using Laravel and Express.js, supporting 3,000+ monthly users with core features including advanced search, account customization, user interactions, payments, and subscription renewals.
- Architected and implemented a payment orchestrator system, designing custom routing rules and business logic to route payments across multiple gateways, increasing payment success rates by adding fallback retry features for failed transactions.
- Designed and maintained relational databases in PostgreSQL, optimizing schema and queries for performance and scalability.
- Collaborated daily with a cross-functional team of 4-5 frontend and QA developers to align backend services with frontend needs and ensure high-quality releases.
- Introduced comprehensive feature tests across projects using the Pest framework, reducing deployment errors and improving code reliability.
- Utilized PHP, Laravel, PostgreSQL, Docker, and GitLab for development, deployment, and version control.

Web Developer at Jexan

2015-08 – 2022-07 | Remote

- Built 20+ WordPress websites from scratch, each serving ~300 monthly visitors, following SEO best practices to improve search rankings and organic traffic.
- Developed a Laravel + React.js greeting card web app integrating a third-party handwriting API, attracting 100+ monthly visitors, implemented a fully custom cover editor in vanilla JavaScript, and designed 3 scalable MySQL database schemas.
- Maintained and optimized 50+ client websites, cutting loading times by 50% through resource optimization and performance tuning.
- Converted 20+ design mockups from Adobe XD, Figma, and Photoshop into functional, responsive websites.
- Resolved tracking errors by correcting Google Tag Manager and Analytics tag implementations, improving data accuracy for marketing campaigns.
- Built 20+ newsletters from provided designs using SendGrid and Mailchimp, achieving 90%+ email deliverability and consistently high open rates.

Web Developer at Heavy Web Design

2015-02 – 2015-08 | Remote

- Provided front-end website development and maintenance using Joomla.
- Converted 5 design mockups into functional websites, ensuring timely delivery and visual accuracy.

Internship Student at University of El Salvador

2013-01 – 2013-08 | Remote

- Provided daily tech support to professors and students by resolving computer-related issues, organizing computer center activities, and preparing the center for exams.

Education

Bachelor of Computer Science: Informatics Engineering at University of El Salvador

2014-06 | San Salvador, El Salvador

Start date: 2007-01

Skills

PHP, Laravel, Node.js, Express.js, React.js, MySQL, PostgreSQL

Languages

English (Fluent), Spanish (Native)