FREE WEBSITE HOSTING GUIDE

Host your business website for ₹0/year

A plain-English, step-by-step guide to putting your website live using Claude, GitHub and a free hosting service, instead of paying for a yearly hosting plan.

Claude
Helps you build and edit the website

GitHub
Stores your website's code, free

Vercel / Cloudflare
Puts your site on the internet, free

~~~~₹5,500~~~~ → **₹0** hosting cost per website, per year (you still renew your domain name)

i **This is not a guide against Hostinger.** Hostinger and similar companies are good products that bundle hosting, support, email and convenience. This guide simply shows that the hosting part can be done for free if you are comfortable doing a few steps yourself.
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THE BIG PICTURE

How a website actually goes live

Every website, no matter who hosts it, goes through the same journey. Paid hosting plans bundle these steps together. You can do each one yourself with free tools.

1. Code
The files that make up your site
Claude helps

›

2. Store
Code kept safely online
GitHub · free

›

3. Host
Serves the site to visitors
Vercel · free

›

4. DNS
A + CNAME records point your domain to the host

›

5. Live
yourbusiness.com opens on any browser or phone

What it costs

Item	Typical paid hosting plan	Free stack in this guide
Hosting (per website)	Hostinger "Premium" web hosting renews at about **₹449/month = ₹5,388/year** + 18% GST*	**₹0** on GitHub + Vercel or Cloudflare Pages free plans
Domain name	Paid yearly to your registrar	Same, still paid yearly to your registrar
SSL (https padlock)	Included	Included, automatic
Updates	Upload through a panel	Push to GitHub, and the site updates in about a minute

*Renewal pricing from a public Hostinger India price listing (Oct 2026). Intro prices on long plans are lower; check hostinger.in for current prices.

Which free host should I pick?

Your situation	Recommended host	Why
Personal site, portfolio, side project	**Vercel (Hobby plan)**, used in the main steps of this guide	Easiest setup, made for Claude-built sites
A business or commercial website	**Cloudflare Pages (Free plan)**, covered in Step 3B	Vercel's free plan is limited to **non-commercial, personal use**. For business use, choose Cloudflare Pages or pay for Vercel Pro.

Is this right for you?

This works best for **brochure-style business websites** (home, about, services, gallery, contact, landing pages). It is **not** a drop-in replacement for a WordPress site, online shop or anything needing a database. Paid plans also include support, email inboxes and backups. Decide whether you need those before you switch.

BEFORE YOU START

Checklist (about 1 hour total)

- [ ] A **Claude** account (claude.ai) to build or edit your website
- [ ] A free **GitHub** account (github.com) to store the code
- [ ] A free **Vercel** account (vercel.com) *or* **Cloudflare** account (dash.cloudflare.com). Sign up using "Continue with GitHub".
- [ ] Login details for where you **bought your domain** (GoDaddy, Hostinger, Namecheap, BigRock, etc.)
- [ ] Your logo, photos, business details, phone number, WhatsApp and address

1 Build your website with Claude

Claude writes the code. You describe what you want.

1. Open Claude and describe your business clearly. Use the example prompt below as a starting point.
2. Ask for a **static website** (plain HTML/CSS/JS). It is the simplest to host for free.
3. Review the preview, ask for changes ("make the header green", "add a WhatsApp button") until you are happy.
4. Download all the files into one folder on your computer. The main page must be called `index.html`.

```
# Example prompt
Build a mobile-friendly static website (HTML, CSS, JS only, no build step)
for my business "Sharma Interiors", a home interior designer in Pune.
Pages: Home, Services, Gallery, About, Contact.
Include a click-to-call button, a WhatsApp button (+91 XXXXX XXXXX),
Google Maps embed, and an enquiry form. Clean, modern, fast-loading.
Give me every file with its folder path so I can save them.
```

Tip: let Claude do the uploading too

If you use **Claude Code** (or Claude with a connected folder), you can ask it to create the files directly, set up the GitHub repository, and push the code for you. That replaces most of Step 2.

2 Store your code on GitHub

Free, unlimited repositories. Every change is saved, so it also works as your backup.

1. Sign in at **github.com** and click **+ → New repository**.
2. Name it (e.g. `sharma-interiors-website`), choose **Private** or Public, and click **Create repository**.
3. On the new page, click **uploading an existing file**. Drag in **all** your website files and folders, then click **Commit changes**.
4. Check that `index.html` appears at the top level of the repository, not inside another folder.

Comfortable with the terminal? Instead of uploading, run these commands in your website folder:

```
git init && git add . && git commit -m "First version"
git branch -M main
git remote add origin https://github.com/<your-username>/<repo-name>.git
git push -u origin main
```

3 Put it online (deploy)

Choose **3A** for personal projects or **3B** for business websites.

3A · Vercel personal use

1. Go to **vercel.com → Sign Up → Continue with GitHub**.
2. Click **Add New… → Project**.
3. Find your repository and click **Import**. Allow GitHub access if asked.
4. Leave the settings as they are and click **Deploy**.
5. In about a minute you get a live link like `your-project.vercel.app`. Open it to check.

3B · Cloudflare Pages business OK

1. Go to **dash.cloudflare.com** and sign up (free plan).
2. Open **Workers & Pages → Create → Pages** and choose to connect / import a **Git repository**.
3. Connect GitHub and select your repository.
4. For a plain HTML site, leave the build command empty and the output directory as `/`. Click **Save and Deploy**.
5. You get a live link like `your-project.pages.dev`.

Your site is now live

It's live on a free address. The remaining steps connect your own domain name (yourbusiness.com) to it.

4 Add your domain to the host

Tell Vercel or Cloudflare which domain name belongs to this website.

On Vercel

1. Open your project → **Settings** → **Domains**.
2. Click **Add**, type `yourbusiness.com`, and confirm. Also add `www.yourbusiness.com` when offered.
3. Vercel now shows the exact DNS records you need. Keep this page open.

On Cloudflare Pages

1. Open your Pages project → **Custom domains**.
2. Click **Set up a custom domain** and enter your domain.
3. Follow the screen. Cloudflare shows the record(s) to add, or offers to manage your DNS for you.

5 Update DNS where you bought the domain

This is the A record and CNAME step, the "mapping" that connects your name to your site.

1. Log in to your domain registrar (GoDaddy, Hostinger, Namecheap, BigRock…) and open **DNS / Manage DNS / DNS Zone Editor** for your domain.
2. **Edit or delete** the existing **A record** for `@` that points to your old hosting. Also remove any **AAAA** record for `@`.
3. Add or update these records (Vercel example below), then save:

Type	Name / Host	Value / Points to	TTL
A	`@` (your main domain)	`76.76.21.21`	Default
CNAME	`www`	`cname.vercel-dns.com` (or the value Vercel shows)	Default

Important: copy the exact values your dashboard shows

The values above are Vercel's general ones. Your project may show slightly different, project-specific values. Always use what **your** Vercel or Cloudflare screen displays.
Do not touch MX records. They control your business email. Deleting them will stop your emails.

4. Go back to the Vercel/Cloudflare domains page and wait for it to show **Valid Configuration / Active**. This usually takes minutes, but DNS changes can take up to 24–48 hours worldwide.
5. The **https padlock (SSL)** is set up automatically once the domain is verified. You don't need to buy anything.

6 Updating your website later

No hosting panel and no FTP. Just push and it updates.

Ask Claude "Change the phone number" / "Add a new service" › **Push to GitHub** Upload the changed files or `git push` › **Auto-deploy** Vercel / Cloudflare rebuilds in about 1 minute › **Live** yourbusiness.com shows the new version

If something breaks, you can roll back to the previous version from your Vercel or Cloudflare dashboard. GitHub keeps every earlier version of your code.

Switching from paid hosting? Do it in this order

1. **Back up** your current website files and any content from your hosting panel.
2. Build and deploy the new site (Steps 1–3). Check it fully on the free `.vercel.app` / `.pages.dev` link.
3. Check where your **email** is hosted. If it is part of your hosting plan, arrange email elsewhere (or keep that plan) before cancelling.
4. Change DNS (Steps 4–5) and confirm the domain shows the new site.
5. Only then **turn off auto-renewal** of the old hosting plan. Keep renewing your **domain**. You can keep it with the same registrar.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Fix
"Invalid Configuration" on Vercel	Check the A/CNAME values match exactly. Delete old A/AAAA records for `@` that point to the previous host. Wait 15–30 min and refresh.
404 / blank page after deploy	`index.html` must be at the top level of the repository, not inside a subfolder.
Domain still shows the old site	DNS is still updating. Try mobile data or another device, and allow up to 48 hours.
Contact form doesn't send	Static sites need a form service (many have free tiers) or a WhatsApp / mailto button. Ask Claude to set one up.
Emails stopped arriving	An MX record was changed or deleted. Restore it from your email provider's setup instructions.

QUICK RECAP

Your 6-step checklist

- [ ] **1. Build**: describe your business to Claude and get a static website (`index.html` + files)
- [ ] **2. Store**: create a GitHub repository and upload the files
- [ ] **3. Deploy**: import the repository into Vercel (personal) or Cloudflare Pages (business)
- [ ] **4. Add domain**: enter yourbusiness.com in the host's Domains settings
- [ ] **5. Map DNS**: at your registrar, set the **A** record (`@`) and **CNAME** (`www`) to the values shown. Don't touch MX.
- [ ] **6. Update anytime**: change it with Claude, push to GitHub, and it goes live automatically

Free plan limits to know about

Service	Free plan highlights	Watch out for
GitHub	Unlimited public and private repositories	Keep passwords and API keys out of your code
Vercel Hobby	100 GB data transfer/month, automatic SSL, 100 deployments/day	**Non-commercial, personal use only** per Vercel's fair-use rules
Cloudflare Pages Free	500 builds/month, up to 100 custom domains per project, automatic SSL	20,000 files per site, 25 MB max per file

Limits checked against vercel.com/docs and developers.cloudflare.com in October 2026. Providers can change their plans, so check their pricing pages before relying on them.

The bottom line

A typical small-business website doesn't need a paid hosting plan. With Claude to build it, GitHub to store it and a free host to serve it, you pay only for your domain name. That saves roughly **₹5,000–₹6,500 per website, every year**.

A note on fairness

This guide isn't meant to criticise Hostinger or any hosting company. Paid plans give you real value: support, email, one-click WordPress and convenience. If you need those, they're worth paying for. This guide is about awareness, so you can make an informed choice.

Not affiliated with Anthropic, GitHub, Vercel, Cloudflare or Hostinger. Product names belong to their owners. Prices and plan details are as of October 2026 and may change.