# MkDocs Docs from Markdown

**START HERE**

**`pip install mkdocs`**
Install MkDocs

**`mkdocs build --strict`**
Fail on warnings

**`mkdocs new <dir>`**
Create a project

**`mkdocs gh-deploy`**
Publish to GitHub Pages

**`mkdocs serve`**
Live preview

**`mkdocs get-deps`**
List needed packages

**`mkdocs build`**
Build the site

**`mkdocs --version`**
Show version

**docs/*.md** your pages → `mkdocs.yml` **Config + theme** nav, plugins → `mkdocs build` **site/** static HTML → `gh-deploy` **gh-pages** hosted site

## CONCEPTS

Docs are plain Markdown files in docs/, wired together by mkdocs.yml. Run commands from the folder holding mkdocs.yml.

site/ is generated output: keep it out of git (add it to .gitignore).

Plugins and themes such as Material are separate pip packages; get-deps lists what your config needs.

## PROJECT

**`mkdocs new <dir>`**
Create mkdocs.yml and docs/index.md

**`mkdocs new .`**
Scaffold in the current folder

**`pip install mkdocs`**
Install MkDocs

**`pip install mkdocs-material`**
Install the Material theme

**`mkdocs --version`**
Show installed version

**`mkdocs get-deps`**
Print packages the config needs

**`pip install $(mkdocs get-deps)`**
Install those packages

## PREVIEW

**`mkdocs serve`**
Serve at localhost:8000 with live reload

**`mkdocs serve -a <host:port>`**
Pick address and port

**`mkdocs serve -a 0.0.0.0:8000`**
Reachable from other machines

## PREVIEW (cont.)

**`mkdocs serve --dirty`**
Rebuild only changed pages

**`mkdocs serve -w <path>`**
Also watch another dir or file

**`mkdocs serve --watch-theme`**
Reload on theme changes

**`mkdocs serve --no-livereload`**
Disable auto reload

**`mkdocs serve -f <file>`**
Use another config file

## BUILD AND DEPLOY

**`mkdocs build`**
Write the site to site/

**`mkdocs build --strict`**
Abort on any warning

**`mkdocs build -d <dir>`**
Choose the output folder

**`mkdocs build -f <file>`**
Use another config file

**`mkdocs build --clean`**
Remove stale files first (default)

**`mkdocs build --no-directory-urls`**
Use page.html style URLs

**`mkdocs build -t readthedocs`**
Override the built-in theme

**`mkdocs gh-deploy`**
Build and push to gh-pages

**`mkdocs gh-deploy -m "<msg>"`**
Set the deploy commit message

**`mkdocs gh-deploy -b <branch>`**
Deploy to another branch

**`mkdocs gh-deploy -r <remote>`**
Deploy to another remote

## BUILD AND DEPLOY (cont.)

**`mkdocs gh-deploy --force`**
Force-push the branch

**`mkdocs gh-deploy --no-history`**
Squash branch history

## MKDOCS.YML

**`site_name: <title>`**
Required site title

**`site_url: <url>`**
Canonical URL of the site

**`nav:`**
Page order and titles

**`theme:`**
**`  name: <theme>`**
Choose theme (mkdocs, readthedocs, ...)

**`plugins: [search]`**
Enable plugins (replaces defaults)

**`markdown_extensions:`**
Add Python-Markdown extensions

**`docs_dir: <dir>`**
Source folder (default docs)

**`site_dir: <dir>`**
Output folder (default site)

**`strict: true`**
Warnings fail the build

**`repo_url: <url>`**
Link to source repo

**`edit_uri: edit/main/docs/`**
Per-page edit link path

**`extra_css:`**
Extra stylesheets in docs_dir

**`validation:`**
Set link problems to warn or ignore

## NAVIGATION

**`- Home: index.md`**
Title plus file path

**`- index.md`**
File only, title taken from page

**`- Guide:`**
**`  - Intro: guide/intro.md`**
Nested section

**`- Issues: https://<url>`**
External link, title required

Without nav, MkDocs lists all pages alphabetically. Paths are relative to docs_dir.

### Where things live

| Path | Purpose |
|---|---|
| `mkdocs.yml` | configuration |
| `docs/index.md` | home page |
| `docs/img/` | images, linked relatively |
| `site/` | build output |

## RECIPES

### New project, preview

```
pip install mkdocs
mkdocs new mysite
cd mysite
mkdocs serve
```

### Material theme with search

```
pip install mkdocs-material
# mkdocs.yml
theme:
  name: material
plugins:
  - search
```

### CI check, then publish

```
mkdocs build --strict
mkdocs gh-deploy --force
```

### Preview on the LAN

```
mkdocs serve -a 0.0.0.0:8000 --watch-theme
```