Zola Static site generator

START HERE

`zola init <dir>`
Create a new site

`zola serve`
Live preview on :1111

`zola serve --drafts`
Preview drafts too

`zola build`
Render into public/

`zola check`
Verify pages and links

`zola build --base-url <url>`
Build for deploy

`zola serve --open`
Preview in browser

`zola --config <file> build`
Use another config

content/ Markdown + front matter → Tera → **templates/** page.html, section.html → `zola build` → **public/** static HTML

CONCEPTS

Zola is a single binary: content in Markdown, templates in Tera, Sass built in, no plugins.

A directory with _index.md is a section; other .md files in it are its pages.

Global flags such as --config and --root go before the subcommand.

CREATE AND SERVE

`zola init <dir>`
Create a site, asking setup questions

`zola init`
Populate the current directory

`zola init --force`
Init in a non-empty directory
Existing files and folders are never overwritten.

`zola serve`
Build and serve with live reload
Serves at 127.0.0.1:1111 by default.

`zola serve --drafts`
Include draft pages

`zola serve --open`
Open the site in a browser

`zola serve --port <port>`
Change the port

CREATE AND SERVE (cont.)

`zola serve --interface 0.0.0.0`
Reach it from other devices

`zola serve --base-url <url>`
Set base URL independently

`zola serve --debounce <ms>`
Delay between change and rebuild
Default 1000 ms; 0 is not supported.

`zola serve --output-dir <dir>`
Write served files elsewhere
Needs --force if the directory exists.

BUILD AND CHECK

`zola build`
Render the site into public/
Deletes the output directory first.

`zola build --base-url <url>`
Override base_url from the config

`zola build --output-dir <dir>`
Write to another directory

`zola build --force`
Skip the replace prompt

`zola build --drafts`
Include drafts in the build

BUILD AND CHECK (cont.)

`zola check`
Build without output, check links

`zola check --skip-external-links`
Only check internal links

`zola check --drafts`
Check drafts as well

`zola --root <path> build`
Run on a project elsewhere

`zola --config <file> build`
Use a different config file

`zola --help`
List commands and flags

`zola <cmd> --help`
Help for one subcommand

PROJECT LAYOUT

`zola.toml`
Site config at the project root

`content/`
Markdown pages and sections

`templates/`
Tera templates

`static/`
Files copied as they are

`sass/`
Sass compiled to CSS

`themes/<name>/`
Installed themes

PROJECT LAYOUT (cont.)

`content/<dir>/_index.md`
Turn a directory into a section

`content/<name>/index.md`
Page with colocated assets

`<!-- more -->`
End of the page summary

CONFIGURATION

`base_url = "<url>"`
Site root URL (required)

`title = "<site>"`
Site title

`theme = "<name>"`
Use a theme from themes/

`compile_sass = true`
Build sass/ to CSS

`build_search_index = true`
Generate a search index

`generate_feeds = true`
Create Atom feed

`taxonomies = [{name = "tags"}]`
Declare taxonomies

`[markdown]`
Markdown rendering options

`smart_punctuation = true`
Typographic quotes and dashes

`insert_anchor_links = "heading"`
Add anchors to headings

CONFIGURATION (cont.)

`[extra]`
Your own values: config.extra.<key>

FRONT MATTER

`title = "<text>"`
Page or section title

`date = 2026-01-31`
Page date, unquoted

`draft = true`
Hide unless --drafts is used

`slug = "<slug>"`
Replace the filename in the URL

`path = "<path>"`
Set full output path
Overrides slug and filename; no leading slash.

`weight = <n>`
Order when sort_by is weight

`template = "<file>.html"`
Pick another template

`[taxonomies]`
e.g. tags = ["rust"]

`sort_by = "date"`
Sort section pages (section)

`paginate_by = <n>`
Pages per page of a section

`page_template = "<file>.html"`
Template for pages in a section

FRONT MATTER (cont.)

`transparent = true`
Pass pages up to parent section

`redirect_to = "<url>"`
Redirect a section

`aliases = ["<old-path>"]`
Redirect old URLs here

`extra.<key> = ...`
Own data for templates

RECIPES

New site and first post

```
zola init blog
cd blog
mkdir content/posts
printf '+++\ntitle =
"Hello"\ndate = 2026-01-31\n+++
\nHi.\n' > content/posts/
hello.md
zola serve --open
```

Preview on the local network

```
zola serve --interface 0.0.0.0
--port 8080 \
  --base-url http://<lan-
ip>:8080
```

CI build for production

```
zola check
zola build --base-url https://
example.com \
  --output-dir public --force
```

Blog section config

```
# content/posts/_index.md
+++
title = "Posts"
sort_by = "date"
paginate_by = 10
+++
```