Zola Static site generator

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.

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

`zola serve`
Build and serve with live reload

`zola serve --drafts`
Include draft pages

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

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

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

BUILD AND CHECK

`zola build`
Render the site into public/

`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

`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

`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/

CONFIGURATION (cont.)

`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

`[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

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

FRONT MATTER (cont.)

`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

`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
```

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
+++
```