

AuroraStack Gallery Web

Lite User Manual

Release 1.1.25

Editorial grid



A dependency-free gallery renderer for ordinary HTML sites, static hosting and custom web applications. This manual covers installation, configuration, cloud manifests, performance and teardown.

1. Install and mount

Copy aurorastack-gallery.css, edition.js, aurorastack-gallery.js and the borders folder to your site. Load them in that order, add a target element, then mount a configuration.

```
AuroraStackGallery.mount('#gallery', { layout: 'grid', animation: 'fade', columns: 4, mobileColumns: 2, fit: 'contain', items: [{ url: '/photos/dawn.webp', alt: 'Dawn over a lake' }] });
```

The mount call returns a controller. Calling destroy() releases autoplay timers, transition timers, resize listeners, observers, pending manifest requests and image resources. Mounting again into the same target destroys the previous instance automatically.

2. Layout and appearance

Setting	Recommended use
layout	Lite: grid, masonry, slideshow.
animation	Lite: none, fade, slide, zoom.
height	0 for natural height or up to 1600 px.
fit	contain preserves the whole image; cover fills and may crop.
showControls	false produces an image-only slideshow while autoplay may continue.
autoplayDelay	1000-3600000 ms.
transitionDuration	150-3000 ms.
borderImageWidth	Visible ornamental frame thickness.
frameTint	Selected material colour; strength preserves 3D highlights and shadows.

Centre Accordion

On wide screens, accordion presents the active image with equal neighbour counts on each side. At 720 px and below, only the active image is displayed and navigation slides to the next single image.

3. Folder and cloud manifests

Browsers cannot securely enumerate arbitrary directories. Generate a small JSON manifest on the web server, deployment pipeline or cloud-storage service. It may contain URL strings, item objects, or an object with an items array.

```
{"items":[{"url":"harbour.webp","alt":"Harbour at dusk"}]}
```

- Set folderManifest to the manifest URL.
- Set folderBaseUrl when relative photo URLs need a different base.
- folderBatchSize controls how many records become active at a time.
- folderCacheMinutes controls sessionStorage manifest reuse.
- randomize shuffles locally without decoding the entire folder.
- Serve responsive, compressed images from a CDN or web server that supports cache headers.

4. Performance and accessibility

- Only the current layout-sized image window receives active URLs.
- Distant slider resources are released and restored on demand.
- Grid resources load and release around the viewport.
- Supply explicit image dimensions where possible to reduce layout shift.
- Use descriptive alternative text and concise captions.
- Navigation uses native buttons and supports reduced-motion preferences.
- Do not remove focus styles or rely on animation alone to communicate state.

Image saving deterrent

protectImages discourages right-click and dragging. It cannot prevent screenshots, developer tools, browser caches or direct network access. Use resized or watermarked published assets when needed.

5. Sample configurations

Setting	Recommended use
Portfolio grid	grid, 4/2 columns, 3:2, 12 px gap, contain, lightbox on.
Slideshow	slideshow, fade, controls off, autoplay on, 8000 ms delay.
Cloud folder	folderManifest plus folderBatchSize 12, cache 60 minutes and randomize true.
Filmstrip	Pro: filmstrip, 4/2 columns, palette colours and one clipped row.
Accordion	Pro: accordion, smooth slide, 900 ms transition, one-image mobile mode.

6. Edition and deployment notes

Web Lite includes grid, masonry, slideshow, the four Lite effects, frames, manifest batching and full teardown. It does not contact AuroraStack services or collect analytics.

Deploy all files from the ZIP together. Keep edition.js before the renderer, preserve the borders directory, and test one desktop width plus a phone width. Confirm there are no console errors, horizontal overflow or failed image requests.