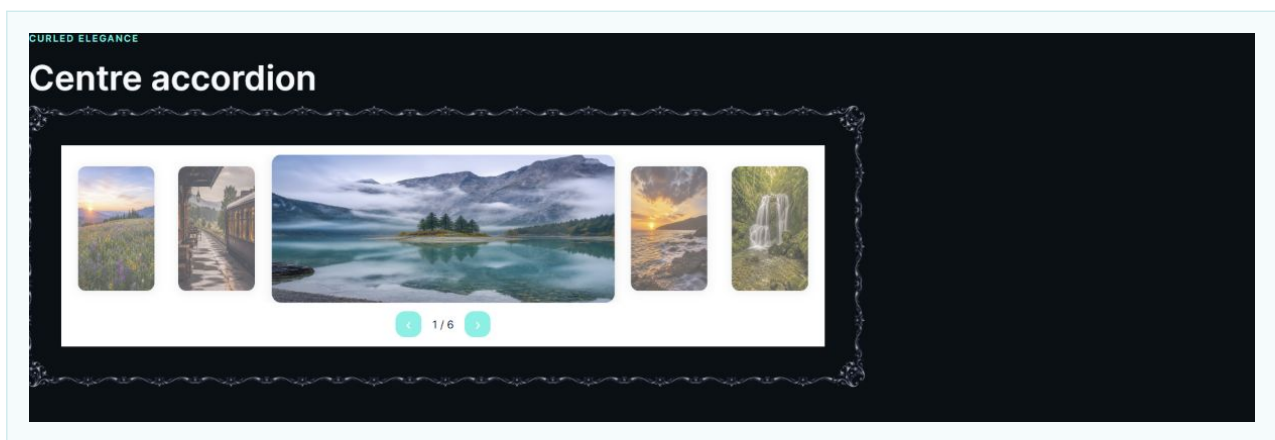


AuroraStack Photo Galleries

WordPress Lite User Manual

Release 1.1.25



Fast, configurable photo galleries for WordPress Media, folder sources and imported manifests. This manual explains installation, gallery-specific settings, frames, large-folder performance and publishing.

1. Install and create a gallery

- Upload the ZIP from Plugins > Add New > Upload Plugin, then activate it.
- Open AuroraStack Photo Galleries > Add New.
- Add Media Library images, paste direct HTTPS URLs, import a manifest, or select an optional Media folder source.
- Publish and place the generated [aurora_gallery id="123"] shortcode in a post, page or Elementor Shortcode widget.
- Use the per-gallery Gallery Design & Behaviour cards when a gallery must differ from the global defaults.

Replace a featured image

Open a post, use the AuroraStack featured-gallery selector, choose Replace featured image with gallery, and select the gallery. This works with ordinary themes and Elementor Free. The published gallery retains its configured background, frame, layout and mobile behaviour.

Automatic folder updates

A gallery linked to a Media root or folder reads the current attachment index. Newly added photos are included after the folder index cache expires or is refreshed. Parent folders include descendant folders.

2. Layout, motion and image fit

- Grid - responsive rows of equal-ratio items.
- Masonry - natural-height columns for mixed orientations.
- Slideshow - one image at a time with optional controls and autoplay.

Use Fit whole image (contain) when the complete photo must remain visible. It scales proportionally and never stretches the picture. Use Crop to fill (cover) when filling the selected ratio is more important than retaining every edge.

Setting	Recommended use
Gallery height	0 keeps natural height; use up to 1600 px for a controlled gallery footprint.
Transition speed	150-3000 ms. Around 800-1000 ms makes 3D flip and smooth slide easier to perceive.
Time visible	1000-3600000 ms, configurable independently per gallery.
Controls	Show or hide previous, counter and next controls per gallery while autoplay continues.
Image fit	Contain scales the complete image; cover fills and may crop.
Mobile columns	Centre Accordion forces one active image at 720 px and below.

3. Colours, borders and frames

Global appearance lives under AuroraStack Photo Galleries > Settings > Appearance. Each gallery can override the same controls, including every colour picker, border width, frame artwork, frame slice, frame thickness, frame colour and tint strength.

- Set Photo border width to 0 to remove the line around each photograph.
- Choose None to remove decorative gallery artwork.
- Curled Elegance and Gothic Cathedral include ornamental presets.
- Frame thickness controls how much artwork is visible; frame slice controls how the source corners and edges are divided.
- Frame colour and tint strength recolour the material while retaining highlights, engraved shadows and a three-dimensional appearance.
- The gallery reserves space outside its background so transparent frame corners are not clipped.

Reusable presets

Configure a palette and frame, enter a name under Save as new preset, enable the save option and save settings. The named preset becomes available to other galleries.

4. Large folders and performance

- Folder sources cache a lightweight attachment-ID index rather than preloading every image.
- Only the initially visible batch is resolved. Later batches arrive near the navigation boundary.
- Slider layouts retain the current and nearby decoded images and release distant src and srcset resources.
- Grid and masonry resources are released after moving well outside the viewport.
- Choose a new random starting image on every page load when a cached page must not freeze the first image.
- Use WordPress-generated responsive sizes and upload WebP or AVIF where supported.
- Typical initial counts of 8-24 and folder batches of 8-16 give a good balance.

Image protection

The optional deterrent blocks right-click and dragging inside gallery and lightbox images. Browsers cannot reliably block screenshots, operating-system capture tools, developer tools, browser caches or direct image URLs. Publish resized or watermarked copies when stronger deterrence is needed.

5. Imports and sample configurations

Lite accepts Media Library images, direct HTTPS URLs, CSV and JSON files. Pro also accepts XLSX and administrator-triggered remote JSON. Recognised fields include attachment_id, url, media_url, source_url, thumbnail_url, alt, caption, link, permalink and source.

Setting	Recommended use
Fast portfolio	Grid, 4 desktop columns, 2 mobile columns, 3:2, contain or cover, 16 initial items.
Hero slideshow	Slideshow, 16:9, fade, 6000 ms autoplay, controls optional.
Large random folder	Folder source, random order, random start per load, 12-item batches, 60-minute index cache.
Curled showcase	Curled Elegance, frame thickness 40-60 px, tint strength 70-100%, contain fit.
Centre Accordion	Pro: 3:2, smooth slide, 900 ms transition, 5500 ms autoplay; one image on mobile.

6. Edition and support notes

Lite is intended for WordPress.org review. It has no licence screen, telemetry, executable download, automatic visitor-side network request or time-limited feature. Pro is distributed separately by AuroraStack.

Keep this manual with the ZIP. For support, include the gallery ID, active edition and version, selected layout, source type, WordPress version, theme name and a reproducible description. Do not send passwords or social-network access tokens.