

Minikube — Complete Command Reference

All valid commands as listed in the official Minikube documentation.

Cluster Lifecycle

minikube start

Starts a local Kubernetes cluster.

```
bash

minikube start                # Start with default settings
minikube start --driver=docker # Use Docker as the driver
minikube start --nodes 3 -p multinode # Start a 3-node cluster
minikube start --cpus=4 --memory=8192 # Set CPU and RAM
minikube start --kubernetes-version=v1.28.0 # Specify K8s version
minikube start --container-runtime=containerd # Set container runtime
```

minikube stop

Stops a running local Kubernetes cluster. Preserves cluster state so it can be restarted later.

```
bash

minikube stop # Stop the default profile
minikube stop -p multinode # Stop a specific profile
```

minikube delete

Deletes a local Kubernetes cluster. All data and state are permanently removed.

```
bash
```

```
minikube delete          # Delete the default cluster
```

```
minikube delete -p multinode  # Delete a specific profile
```

```
minikube delete --all        # Delete all profiles/clusters
```

minikube restart

Restarts a running local Kubernetes cluster (equivalent to stop + start).

```
bash
```

```
minikube restart
```

Cluster Information

minikube status

Gets the status of a local Kubernetes cluster, including whether it is running and the health of its components.

```
bash
```

```
minikube status
```

```
minikube status -p multinode  # Status of a specific profile
```

minikube ip

Retrieves the IP address of the specified node in the cluster.

```
bash
```

```
minikube ip          # IP of the default cluster
```

```
minikube ip -n node2 # IP of a specific node
```

minikube version

Prints the version of Minikube.

```
bash
```

```
minikube version      # Print version
```

```
minikube version --short # Print just the version number
```

```
minikube version --components # List versions of all cluster components
```

```
minikube version -o json  # Output as JSON
```

```
minikube version -o yaml  # Output as YAML
```

minikube logs

Returns logs to help debug a local Kubernetes cluster. Useful for troubleshooting Minikube itself, not user application code.

```
bash
```

```
minikube logs          # Display recent logs
```

```
minikube logs -f        # Follow (stream) logs in real time
```

```
minikube logs --node node2 # Logs from a specific node
```

Addons & Dashboard

minikube addons

Enable or disable Minikube add-ons (extensions that run inside the cluster).

```
bash
```

```
minikube addons list          # List all available addons and their status
```

```
minikube addons enable ingress # Enable the ingress addon
```

```
minikube addons disable ingress # Disable the ingress addon
```

```
minikube addons enable metrics-server
```

```
minikube addons enable dashboard
```

minikube dashboard

Opens the Kubernetes Dashboard in a web browser, providing a GUI to manage cluster resources.

```
bash
```

```
minikube dashboard          # Open the dashboard in browser
```

```
minikube dashboard --url    # Print the dashboard URL without opening browser
```

Configuration & Profiles

minikube config

Modify persistent configuration values. Settings are saved and applied on subsequent `start` commands.

```
bash
```

```
minikube config set driver docker    # Set default driver
```

```
minikube config set memory 4096      # Set default memory (MB)
```

```
minikube config set cpus 2           # Set default CPU count
```

```
minikube config set kubernetes-version v1.28.0
```

```
minikube config get driver           # Get a config value
```

```
minikube config unset memory         # Remove a config value
```

```
minikube config view                 # View all configuration
```

minikube profile

Get or set the current profile. Each profile is an independent Minikube cluster.

```
bash

minikube profile list      # List all existing profiles
minikube profile set myprofile # Switch to a profile
minikube profile delete myprofile
```

minikube update-context

Updates the kubeconfig entry for Minikube in case the cluster IP or port has changed.

```
bash

minikube update-context
```

minikube update-check

Prints the current and latest available version of Minikube so you know if an update is available.

```
bash

minikube update-check
```

Node Management

minikube node

Add, remove, or list additional nodes in the cluster.

```
bash
```

```
minikube node list          # List all nodes
minikube node add           # Add a new worker node
minikube node delete node2  # Delete a specific node
minikube node start node2   # Start a stopped node
minikube node stop node2    # Stop a specific node
```

Networking & Services

minikube service

Returns a URL (or opens a browser) to connect to a Kubernetes service running in the cluster.

```
bash
```

```
minikube service myservice    # Open service in browser
minikube service myservice --url  # Print URL only, do not open browser
minikube service myservice -n mynamespace # Service in a specific namespace
minikube service list          # List all services and their URLs
```

minikube tunnel

Creates a network tunnel so that **LoadBalancer** type services get an accessible external IP on your local machine.

```
bash
```

```
minikube tunnel    # Start the tunnel (runs in foreground)
minikube tunnel --cleanup # Clean up tunnel resources
```

SSH & Remote Access

minikube ssh

Logs into the Minikube virtual machine via SSH. Useful for debugging and inspecting the node directly.

```
bash
```

```
minikube ssh          # Open an SSH session
```

```
minikube ssh "docker ps"  # Run a command remotely and return output
```

```
minikube ssh -n node2    # SSH into a specific node
```

minikube ssh-key

Retrieves the path to the SSH identity key for the specified cluster node.

```
bash
```

```
minikube ssh-key      # Key path for the default node
```

```
minikube ssh-key -n node2  # Key path for a specific node
```

minikube ssh-host

Retrieves the SSH host key of the specified node.

```
bash
```

```
minikube ssh-host
```

```
minikube ssh-host -n node2
```

Docker & Podman Integration

minikube docker-env

Outputs environment variable instructions so your local `docker` CLI communicates with the Docker engine running *inside* the Minikube VM. Lets you build images directly inside Minikube.

```
bash

minikube docker-env      # Print the export commands
eval $(minikube docker-env)  # Apply the env variables in your shell (Linux/macOS)
minikube docker-env -u    # Print unset commands to revert
```

`minikube podman-env`

Same as `docker-env`, but configures the environment for Podman instead of Docker.

```
bash

minikube podman-env
eval $(minikube podman-env)
```

Image & Cache Management

`minikube image`

Manage container images inside the cluster. Lets you build, load, list, or remove images without pushing them to a registry.

```
bash

minikube image list      # List all images in the cluster
minikube image load myimage.tar # Load a pre-built image into the cluster
minikube image build .    # Build an image inside Minikube
minikube image rm myimage:latest # Remove an image
```

`minikube cache`

Manage the local image cache. Caching speeds up repeated cluster creation.

```
bash

minikube cache list          # List all cached images
minikube cache add nginx:latest # Cache an image locally
minikube cache delete nginx:latest # Remove an image from cache
```

File Operations

minikube cp

Copies a file from your local machine into the Minikube node.

```
bash

minikube cp /local/path/file.txt /remote/path/file.txt
minikube cp /local/file.txt:/remote/file.txt -n node2 # Copy to a specific node
```

minikube mount

Mounts a local directory into the Minikube node, making your local files accessible inside the VM.

```
bash

minikube mount /home/user/shared:/mnt/shared
minikube mount /local/dir:/remote/dir --port 9001 # Use a specific port
```

Pause & Unpause

minikube pause

Pauses all Kubernetes workloads (containers) inside the cluster. The VM stays running but pods are suspended. Useful to save resources when not actively working.

```
bash

minikube pause
minikube pause -n node2    # Pause a specific node
```

minikube unpause

Resumes all previously paused Kubernetes workloads.

```
bash

minikube unpause
minikube unpause -n node2
```

Utility & Help

minikube kubectl

Runs a `kubectl` binary that matches the Kubernetes version of your Minikube cluster. Handy if your local `kubectl` version is different from the cluster version.

```
bash

minikube kubectl -- get pods
minikube kubectl -- get nodes
minikube kubectl -- apply -f deployment.yaml
```

minikube completion

Generates shell completion scripts for Minikube, enabling tab-completion in your terminal.

```
bash
```

```
minikube completion bash      # For Bash
```

```
minikube completion zsh       # For Zsh
```

```
minikube completion fish      # For Fish
```

minikube help

Displays help information about any Minikube command.

```
bash
```

```
minikube help                  # General help
```

```
minikube help start           # Help for the start command
```

```
minikube start --help         # Same as above (alternative syntax)
```

minikube options

Shows a list of all global command-line flags that apply to every Minikube command (e.g., verbosity, logging, profile selection).

```
bash
```

```
minikube options
```

minikube license

Outputs the licenses of all Minikube dependencies to a specified directory.

```
bash
```

```
minikube license -o /path/to/licenses
```

Summary Table

| Command | Purpose |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <code>start</code> | Start a local Kubernetes cluster |
| <code>stop</code> | Stop the cluster (preserves state) |
| <code>delete</code> | Delete the cluster permanently |
| <code>restart</code> | Restart the cluster |
| <code>status</code> | Show cluster status |
| <code>ip</code> | Get cluster/node IP address |
| <code>version</code> | Print Minikube version |
| <code>logs</code> | Get cluster debug logs |
| <code>addons</code> | Enable/disable/list add-ons |
| <code>dashboard</code> | Open the Kubernetes Dashboard |
| <code>config</code> | Manage persistent configuration |
| <code>profile</code> | Manage multiple cluster profiles |
| <code>update-context</code> | Fix kubeconfig after IP/port change |
| <code>update-check</code> | Check for Minikube updates |
| <code>node</code> | Add/remove/list cluster nodes |
| <code>service</code> | Access Kubernetes services |
| <code>tunnel</code> | Expose LoadBalancer services locally |
| <code>ssh</code> | SSH into the Minikube node |
| <code>port-forward</code> | Expose services on the host |

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| ssh-key | Get SSH key path for the node |
| ssh-host | Get SSH host key for the node |
| docker-env | Configure Docker CLI for Minikube |
| podman-env | Configure Podman CLI for Minikube |
| image | Build/load/list/remove images |
| cache | Manage local image cache |
| cp | Copy files into the node |
| mount | Mount a local directory into the node |
| pause | Pause all workloads |
| unpause | Resume paused workloads |
| kubectl | Run cluster-matched kubectl |
| completion | Generate shell completion script |
| help | Show help |
| options | Show global flags |
| license | Output dependency licenses |

Source: [Official Minikube Command Reference](#)