

2022 Kimberley Luxury Expeditions

26 departures now available!



Australia's Iconic Kimberley - 10 days / 9 nights

Broome - Darwin or Darwin - Broome | Aboard *Le Soléal* or *Le Lapérouse*

26 departures between March & September 2022 | From \$10,060 per person*

UP TO 30%* SAVINGS WHEN
YOUR CLIENTS BOOK EARLY



Voyage Highlights:

- Enjoy regular Zodiac® outings & shore visits to get close to the Kimberley nature with our highly qualified expedition team.
- Discover King George River & the majestic Twin Falls, the highest single drop waterfall in Western Australia.
- Listen to stories of the dreamtime from the oldest continuous culture on the planet and discover billions of years-old landscapes & ancient rock art.
- Explore pristine mangrove environments, home to numerous bird species and the iconic saltwater crocodile.
- Witness unique tidal phenomena such as the Horizontal Falls.
- Darwin to Broome itinerary may differ.

- Maximum of only 132 staterooms
- 95% of staterooms featuring their own balcony
- Zodiac® & shore excursions with expedition team included**
- Spa, fitness centre, theatre, lounges, pool & outdoor bar**

- All meals & open bar included on board
- Two world class restaurants to choose from
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- Complimentary Wi-Fi

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*Advertised price is based on the Ponant Bonus Fare, is per person, in Australian Dollars, based on a double occupancy in a Deluxe Stateroom on the 7 July 2022 voyage, including port taxes, yield managed, correct at time of writing - 04/03/2021. Price is subject to availability and can change at any time. Given the ever-changing international sanitary context, these itineraries as well as any land programmes and shore excursions may have to evolve according to port authorisations and governmental regulations in place at the time of the voyage. **Surcharge may apply. ^30% discount is based on the Ponant Bonus offer. Ponant Bonus is yield managed and may change at any time without notice. #Welcome Offer: AUD\$800 discount is per stateroom based on double occupancy and only valid for guests travelling on their first PONANT cruise. This offer is based on availability, cannot be combined with other special offers unless specified and may be withdrawn at any time, without prior notice. Terms and Conditions apply, refer to au.ponant.com for more information Photographs © PONANT Nick Rains / Studio PONANT Christophe Dugjed, Morgane Monneret. ABN: 35 166 676 517.

Ponant goes big on Kimberley 2022

PONANT has released its 2022 Kimberley Luxury Expeditions program, with a total of 26 departures aboard two ships now available for sale.

The 10-day/nine-night voyages between Darwin and Broome or vv will operate between Mar and Sep next year, with pricing starting at \$10,060 per person.

Ponant's *Le Soleal* and *Le Laperouse* will cruise the region, with fares including Zodiac and shore excursions with an expert expedition team, complimentary wi-fi, 24-hour room service, all meals and open bar on board.

For more details, see the cover page of today's *Travel Daily*.

Zacharias gets five+ years

ARTHUR Zacharias, the convicted fraudster who deceived Adelaide's Axis Travel owner Max Najar and scores of clients in a multi-year systematic Ponzi scheme (**TD** 09 Aug 2016) was yesterday sentenced in the Adelaide Magistrates Court.

The overall sentence of eight years was reduced by 30% for his guilty plea, meaning he will spend five years and six months in prison, with a four year non-parole period which includes

nine months on a previously suspended sentence for false Centrelink claims worth \$35,000.

Najar told *Travel Daily* the jail term was a "very minor price" for the major impact that Zacharias had on his business and clientele, who were fully protected with minimal inconvenience because he used his personal funds to rescue all bonafide customers.

"His sentencing will never compensate for what he devised, executed and inflicted upon us all," the agency owner said.

Evidence presented during the case demonstrated a web of deception, including an attempt to purchase Axis Travel involving a fake \$50,000 bank cheque.

Najar said having instituted strict new procedures in his business, he intended to speak to other travel industry owners "in the hope that they do not have to go through the nightmares that we have experienced".

Agent hotel deal

FAR East Hospitality has launched a travel trade exclusive deal, offering "buy one get one free" discounts at properties in Singapore for stays before 31 Dec.

The offer is available to staff of bona fide travel agencies, airlines and cruise lines - quote "TRAVEL TRADE OFFER" when booking via reaseasy@fareast.com.sg.

Indian Pacific back

JOURNEY Beyond has confirmed that The Indian Pacific has resumed its transcontinental journeys, departing yesterday from Adelaide bound for Perth ahead of its first full journey.

After a nearly 12-month COVID-19-related hiatus, the Indian Pacific will depart from Perth for Sydney on Sun, for the first time since last Mar.

Guests will still enjoy the all inclusive experience including off-train excursions to locations like the Blue Mountains, and continue to have access to the service's usual food and wine options.

Skal Melb event

SKAL International Melbourne will be holding a special lunch and AGM at the William Angliss College next Thu 11 Mar.

Tickets cost \$78.50 for guests and \$68.50 for members and includes a three course meal.

Book a spot by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a front full page from **PONANT**.

NEW EPISODE AVAILABLE TODAY!

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Travel Daily

NEWS ON THE FLY



Albatross defends

ALBATROSS Tours has responded to feedback from a number of agents, who have been upset about an email survey sent to consumers by the tour operator in recent days.

In the poll Albatross highlighted the benefits of booking direct, with MD Euan Landsborough saying he understood the upset the communication had caused.

He said limitations of Albatross' IT systems meant the questionnaire was sent to every previous passenger or potential passenger on the database - many clients whose interest had been generated by Albatross.

Landsborough stressed that distribution via professional travel agents was absolutely part of the Albatross business plan going forward, but added that in the current environment it was also doing anything it could to generate direct enquiry as well.

"Travel agents that support us will never have their loyal clients poached by us for direct sales.

"I absolutely apologise to all those loyal supporting agents I have upset," he added.

QF warns on quarantine

QANTAS is very hopeful that the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines will enable a relaxation of Australia's strict quarantine systems, warning it is unlikely to reinstate international routes where inbound passengers are required to isolate.

QF Chief Customer Officer, Stephanie Tully, told delegates at yesterday's Destination Australia conference in Sydney, that "in a world where there's vaccinations and there's rapid testing, we'd like quarantine not to be there".

"It will be a question for us about whether we fly if it's still there...we need our customers to be able to not quarantine to get the market we need," she said.

"It's the number one reason that people won't travel."

Tully cited QF's domestic experience, where border closures and the imposition of quarantine have repeatedly forced Qantas to cancel routes - which is "tragic and horrible...but I don't think we'll get the market to run routes if people have to quarantine".

She said Qantas was doing a lot of work on vaccine passports to make it as easy as possible

for customers to travel, as well as establishing infrastructure to manage the requirements around varying health systems in different countries.

Tully said helping clients navigate the new world of travel was likely to be a key differentiator for the carrier.

"Safety is inherent to the Qantas brand, so our employees, our customers, need to feel safe flying Qantas...if we can guide them through the journey of how they need to travel in the new normal then that will be good for us."

She also noted strong support among Qantas Frequent Flyers for the carrier's proposed requirement to only carry vaccinated passengers, with more than 90% in favour of the move.

"Other countries are also starting to indicate that they will not let people in without having had the vaccine - England included...we feel we will be in a reasonable position," Tully added.

The rollout of vaccines in Australia means the 31 Oct planned resumption of QF's international network is a "really reasonable" deadline, she said.

"If anything, it's conservative, it could resume a little bit earlier, and New Zealand should be earlier as well," she enthused.

The release of the carrier's schedule had seen a strong response, with high booking levels seen over the last couple of weeks for international travel in Nov, Dec and Jan, Tully added.

Now it's time to Goh

SINGAPORE Airline's long-time Regional Vice President South West Pacific, Philip Goh, has announced his retirement after more than 30 years with the company, with the aviation veteran to step down from his role in mid-Apr.

Goh will be succeeded by Louis Arul, who is currently SIA's Vice President for Partnerships and International Relations.



Window Seat

HI THERE, I'll have a large burger, fries and medium Coke please, oh and a COVID-19 vaccination too thanks.

Okay, this is very unlikely to be how it will work in practice but Bali has started operating special drive-thru virus jab clinics for tourism workers.

The Indonesian Government has kicked off the express initiative in a bid to fast-track the recovery of its ailing tourism sector, with the aim of inoculating around 5,000 workers in hospitality and ride-sharing services by the end of this month.

The novel vaccination campaign was created by the Nusa Dua Bali Convention Center in Bali's capital Denpasar in partnership with Southeast Asian ride-hailing giant Grab.

Reasons to travel

DATA obtained under the Freedom of Information Act shows there were 105,028 exemptions handed out to outbound travellers by the Federal Government between 25 Mar and 31 Dec 2020.

The biggest reason permission was granted was for people leaving the country for more than three months (51,793), while compassionate grounds for family death or sickness was the second most popular reason, with 31,091 exemptions granted.

Over 11,000 people cited urgent and unavoidable personal business, while "critical industries and business" was the next most commonly used reason, which includes business travel and fly-in, fly-out workers.

Many more were allowed out than are currently permitted to re-enter under the current cap system, meaning the issue of Aussies stuck overseas is unlikely to be resolved any time soon.

Help us discover
chocolate
AROUND THE WORLD

In the lead up to Easter, submit your chocolate recipes from around the world for our weekly feature.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Travel Daily

NZ agents return over \$350m

THE New Zealand Government's Consumer Travel Reimbursement Scheme (**TD** 08 Sep 2020) has so far assisted with the repatriation of more than NZ\$352 million in refunds and credits to Kiwis whose overseas travel was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The program, which provided NZ\$47.2 million in funding to assist advisors to manage cancelled travel, saw agencies paid 7.5% of the value of any cash refunds they secured on behalf of their customers, or 5% of the value of travel credits.

NZ Consumer Affairs Minister David Clark said in "working with the travel sector, we are helping New Zealanders retrieve the money owed to them by overseas travel suppliers.

"The scheme has seen millions of dollars locked up offshore returned to everyday New Zealanders, who were at risk of never seeing a cent," he said.

Clark said the initiative meant

more money was coming back into local economies, "as Kiwis now look to holiday domestically".

He said it was an "excellent example of Government and industry working together for the benefit of New Zealanders...the expertise of the domestic travel sector continues to be crucial in helping get back money tied up in complex stranded bookings".

The amount retrieved so far is about half the estimated \$690 million in NZ overseas travel bookings hit by COVID-19, with officials working with the Travel Agents Association of NZ, First Travel, Flight Centre, House of Travel and Helloworld to facilitate the payments.

As at 31 Jan NZ\$21.3 million had been paid to agents through the scheme, which does not cover any refunds, credits or rebookings returned to NZ consumers prior to 14 Aug 2020.

A full list of agent recipients of funding is at mbie.govt.nz.

Sue Marr: the first line of defence



AT PRECISELY 11.47am (AEDT) yesterday, Thai Airways Marketing and Communications Manager, Sue Marr, joined the relatively new cohort of Australians vaccinated against COVID-19.

No, she's not in a high-risk group health-wise, but rather received the jab because of her frontline role at Sydney Airport where she helps out on days when TG flights operate.



TOURISM Australia MD Phillipa Harrison was clearly elated during the Destination Australia conference when she wrapped up the day by naming the event's MC Karl Stefanovic as the newest member of the Friends of Australia program.

The *Today* host was similarly excited, excitedly telling the crowd "this means a lot more to me than a Logie".

As well as a commemorative certificate, Harrison handed over a range of supporting collateral including a *Crocodile Dundee* hat, a toy kangaroo and some very patriotic thongs, saying "the team thought these would be better than some budgie smugglers".

The conference, which took place at Sydney's International Convention Centre, was the biggest ever Destination Australia event that Tourism Australia has hosted, with about 480 in-person

attendees as well as hundreds more who participated online from across the country and the world.

Having been established in 2010, the Friends of Australia program now comprises more than 130 influencers and opinion makers such as sports stars, entrepreneurs and celebrity chefs alongside megastars like Kylie Minogue and Chris Hemsworth.

New travel website

AUSTRALIAN Community Media (ACM) is going live this weekend with a new "national travel website designed to help Australians navigate the post-pandemic holiday market".

Operating under the Explore brand which launched in early 2020 as a weekly insert for the group's 14 daily newspapers, the initiative overseen by ACM Travel Editor Peter Lynch is claimed to give the Explore brand a "potential reach of over 4.6 million readers" - see exploretavel.com.au.

BA offers test kits

BRITISH Airways is offering discounted rapid COVID-19 test kits, which customers can buy for £33 to give them peace of mind when planning future travel.

The Qured rapid test kits, approved by the British Govt, can be supplied to any UK address, and can be taken abroad in preparation for the passengers' return journey to the UK.

The test is remotely administered by a health advisor on a video call, who will guide customers on a self-administered nose and throat swab and then help them process the sample.

Verified results are available after 20 mins, and the customer can then download a "fit to fly" certificate if the test is negative.

SIA data breach

MORE than half a million of Singapore Airlines' frequent flyer members have had their data compromised by a major cyber attack that originally targeted IT vendor SITA.

The airline is not a client of SITA but did share restricted sets of data as a member of the Star Alliance group, which the carrier said was necessary to verify memberships and provide customers of other member airlines travel benefits.

The attack on SITA is also associated with the Malaysia Airlines breach (**TD** 04 Mar).



Travel Daily

CORPORATE UPDATE

Zeno COVID test support

EXPENSE management platform Serko has announced the rollout of new COVID-19 testing and vaccine functionality to its Zeno tool to provide business travellers with assurance.

The new feature was incorporated in response to an increasing number of countries requiring negative COVID tests and vaccine requirements to visit, creating what Serko labels as “confusion around the mandated requirements” of travel.

“We are living in an incredibly dynamic environment, this type of content is key to Serko’s ability to help customers travel safer and smarter,” said Serko Chief

Executive Officer Darrin Grafton.

“With a single integration into Zeno we’re able to integrate the most up-to-date information to stay ahead of the evolving needs of the market.

“The efficiencies this brings our product development teams is a game-changer,” he added.

Using simple uniform text and visuals to communicate COVID requirements for over 100 airlines provided by ATPCO Routehappy, the data is then integrated into the Zeno booking flow and can be reviewed in the tool’s flight options at the point of purchase by the user, allowing for more informed booking and planning decisions.

The new functionality has also been designed with the predicted need for vaccination certificates in mind, with the extended dataset primed for if and when governments make individual decisions around vaccinations.

FC biz travel tips

FLIGHT Centre Business Travel has released six of its best tips for travel managers wanting to ensure staff comply with the company’s travel policies.

The blog post recommends businesses create policies that actively makes business trips as easy as possible to undertake, such as free upgrades, wi-fi and other “perks” that will keep staff content on the road.

Keeping policies “short and simple” is considered another key pillar of compliance, as is the methods in which the policy is communicated to employees, for example making sure it is accessible at any point in the day.

Advice also encourages corporate travel managers to “keep up with the times” by booking accommodation tailored to each individual traveller.

Flight Centre Business Travel also advocates for clear messaging around expenses and using a TMC to enforce policies.

1000 Miles ahead

1000 Mile Travel Group has vowed to continue putting the case forward for the corporate travel space, revealing the company’s executives will be meeting with AFTA CEO Darren Rudd next week to discuss how COVID impacts its business and the sector more broadly.

The Business Travel member said it hoped the meeting would include discussions about strategies for survival in a post-COVID world and follows its already proactive approach to drumming up support, which has so far included speaking with local MPs across the country and editorials in the mainstream media.

GBT, Neo is the one

AMERICAN Express Global Business Travel (GBT) has introduced a new fare display for its booking tool Neo, offering an easy-to-scan format with a view of all fare bundles offered in side-by-side cards, similar to the interface on airline websites.

“When users shop for airfares in Neo... they now get more choice in fares available to them and can see them all in one place,” the company said.



Scenic announces Eclipse in Aus



SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has confirmed *Scenic Eclipse’s* exclusive 2021 Kimberley debut season (**TD** 03 Mar), revealing details about its itineraries which are now scheduled to commence on 19 Jun.

The yacht will cruise in Australian waters for a limited season, which will include five 11-day handcrafted Discovery Voyages, operating between Darwin and Broome.

Guests during the Australian season will be the first to enjoy *Eclipse’s* latest innovations, with the addition of new cabanas and a Panorama Bar on Deck 10, a reimaged Yacht Club, Asian fusion dining with the new Night Market @ Koko’s, and culinary masterclasses at Epicure.

Scenic has also invested in technology and sustainability

systems, including a dynamic GPS positioning system, which maintains *Eclipse’s* location without dropping anchor on the Kimberley’s sensitive sea beds.

Pictured: Spa deck rendering.

75% revenue dip

PASSENGER revenue for Emirates declined by three quarters for the 12 months to 31 Dec 2020 when compared to the previous year.

The impact of the pandemic on the carrier’s cash generation was laid bare in its latest financial report, with only \$1.2 billion recorded for the period, down on the \$4.8 billion reported in 2019.

Passenger numbers fell year-on-year from 17.5 million to 4.2 million, operating with a seat load factor of 52.9%.

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Icon under a microscope



THIS landmark is iconic and easily recognisable when you see the whole picture, but can you identify it from this small portion of the image?

Coloured buildings are quite common in cities, but this area

rose to fame due to its setting for a number of films.

The houses are painted by homeowners and can be worth up to 20% more than regular-coloured ones, but you do have to put up with Instagrammers.

Test your knowledge

FOR travel, flying is a key part of our industry, and it's also full of symbols and acronyms.

Agents have to know airport codes, airline codes, airline liveries and more.

How well do you know the aviation industry? Do you know what airports these codes stand for, and what plane liveries are pictured?

AIRPORT CODES

1. VTE
2. JNB
3. LRE
4. FRA

2



AIRLINE LIVERIES

1



3



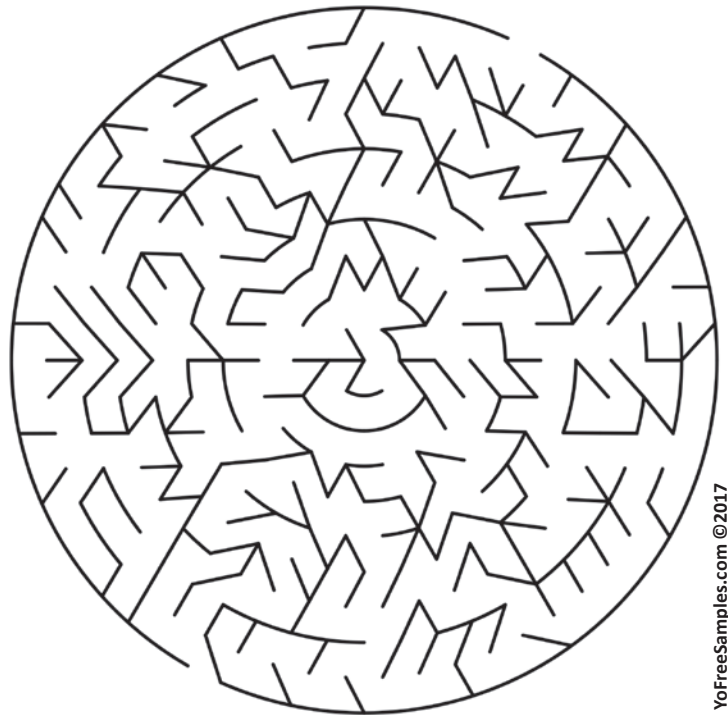
Pub quiz

1. Natura Artis Magistra is a zoo found in what European capital?
2. The capital of Slovakia, Bratislava, is the only national capital to directly border two other countries. What are they?
3. Times Square is found at the junction of Broadway and which other thoroughfare?
4. To the nearest 100 metres, for how many kilometers does the Las Vegas Strip stretch for?
5. What is the largest city in the Russian Far East?
6. Can you name London's four World Heritage Sites?
7. What destination is known as "Jet City"?
8. Vincent Thomas Bridge can be found in which city?
9. Which was the last of the republics of the USSR to declare independence?
10. King William Street runs through which Australian capital?

A-maze-ing

CAN you find your way through this maze?

Start at the top right corner and finish in the bottom left.



ANSWERS 04 MAR

Where in the world: Bohey Dulang, Sabah, Malaysia

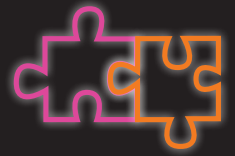
Know your brands: 1 Accommodation Association (Australia),

2 Kathmandu, 3 BridgeClimb Sydney, 4 Subaru

Whose animal is this: Komodo dragon - Indonesia

**NEED A DISTRACTION
AMID THE DOOM
AND GLOOM?**

Check out our daily puzzle page.



Travel Daily

Raffles at Galaxy Macau unveiled

ACCOR'S ultra-luxury brand Raffles has partnered with resort company Galaxy Entertainment Group to develop the all-suite Raffles at Galaxy Macau.

The 450-suite property is scheduled to open to the public in the second half of this year and will feature private pools and gardens for select rooms, as well as an infinity pool, luxury spa, Japanese-style restaurant and personal butler services.

"The Raffles at Galaxy Macau will invite guests to experience Raffles' legendary service and impeccable design, offering an oasis of luxury and adventure in one of the world's most exciting destinations," said CEO Accor Greater China Gary Rosen.

No fans allowed?

THE Tokyo Olympic organising committee's President Seiko Hashimoto has hinted the ongoing effects of the pandemic may mean the upcoming Games will go ahead without any fans watching from the stands.

The major sporting event is at this stage still scheduled to go ahead on 23 Jul, with a report in local Japanese media citing an unnamed source who claims a decision had already been made to block spectators from travelling to the various venues.

Hashimoto met with IOC President Thomas Bach this week to discuss how the games can go ahead safely, suggesting a final call would be made before Apr.

Half a million visitors travelled to the Rio Games in 2016.

A well earned Captain Cook



SMALL group travel operator Captain's Choice was recently able to take advantage of the easing of travel restrictions by embarking on a fun trip to the picturesque Yarra Valley located about 240km east of Melbourne (pictured).

The company's crew enjoyed the arched greenery of the

Alowyn Gardens in Yarra Glen, known for its symmetrical beauty that blends with the diverse flora growing in its many garden beds.

"It was great to reconnect and travel again, albeit close to home," the company said.

Captain's Choice employs private tour doctors to accompany guests on its trips for added safety and often facilitates travel between destinations by private plane charter.

A reduced deposit of \$500 is required at the time of booking for the operator's domestic trips, with international tours requiring \$2,000 at the time of booking.

Some love for Max

UNITED Airlines has announced the purchase of 25 additional Boeing 737 Max jets, slated for delivery in 2023.

The airline also revealed it would be moving up 40 other 737 Max orders to next year.

TRAVEL SPECIALS



WELCOME to Travel Specials, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of, send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au

Savings of up to \$2,000 per couple are available on Viking's 29-day Mediterranean's Iconic Shores itinerary. Priced from \$19,495 per person, the cruise promotion is on offer for bookings made before the end of the month. For additional info, call Viking on 138 747.

Victoria's **Hotel Chadstone Melbourne MGallery by Sofitel** in the city's south-east has teamed up with LEGOLAND Discovery Centre for the school holidays. The hotel is offering families two nights' accommodation in a Classic Twin room, underground parking, breakfast each morning, a deluxe LEGOLAND amenity pack for each child, and 20% off LEGOLAND family passes. Prices start from \$600. To book the Easter Family Package call 03 9108 3333.

Book a small group escorted tour to Scandinavia with **Beyond Travel**, with discounts of up to \$300 per couple. Valid for bookings deposited by the end of Apr, this offer comes with a 100% refund guarantee on bookings cancelled for any reason until at least 02 Aug. For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

Nitmiluk upgrade

NITMILUK National Park in the NT is receiving \$15.4 million of upgrades, including more than 20 kilometres of shared walking and mountain bike trails for tourists.

The money is coming from the Northern Territory Government's Turbocharging Tourism fund (\$5.4 million) and various infrastructure packages (\$10 million).

The new trails provide new travel options for riders of all abilities, offering spectacular views of the park's canyons.

Got a confidential tip? Contact *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click **HERE**

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