





Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Monday 27th October 2025





SINGAPORE

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from Singapore, where we will depart on a five-day cruise with Princess Cruises.

WE ARE battling the humidity in Singapore as we check into the Pullman Singapore ahead of our anticipated five-day Malaysian getaway with Princess Cruises on board Princess Discovery.

Tomorrow, we will sail to Kuala Lumpur.

Discovery will homeport in Sydney from 06 Dec to 07 Apr 2026, taking guests on 12 round-trip cruises to Fiji and New Zealand, plus several 'seacations' and coastal cruises, including a Sydney Swans member cruise in Jan.

Travel House sold

THE Tollman family has reportedly sold its Travel House office building facing Albert Park in Melbourne for \$9.5 million.

Media reports also suggest the Tollmans are looking to sell off other office spaces around the world after Apollo Global Management bought most TTC brands last year (TD 17 Jul 2024).

The sale follows the former owners of TTC listing the company's current Australian HQ for sale in Bondi Junction, Sydney.

Regional trips to surge

ALMOST half of Australian residents living in metropolitan areas aged between 18 and 64 will take a regional trip this summer, a new survey conducted by SCA iQ for Boomtown found.

Australia's regional areas will also be boosted by an uptick in travel intentions from regional residents, with 74% stating they intend to holiday locally over the summer months, up from 65% last year.

Of those planning a regional trip, the lion's share will head to

AA lands in Brissy

AMERICAN Airlines has landed at Brisbane Airport with its new Boeing 787-9 for the first time.

AA will fly to Brisbane from Dallas between Oct and Mar utilising the new aircraft, which includes 51 of the airline's new Flagship Suite premium business class product.

The upscale new seats will feature more personal storage space, a wireless charging pad. and USB-C and AC power.

American's new aircraft also features a redesigned premium economy and main cabins.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of the latest breaking travel industry news, plus full pages from:

- Consolidated Travel



the east coast, with 78% booking trips to Queensland or New South Wales, followed by 22% to Victoria and 11% heading to regional Western Australia.

The study showed that Aussies will provide a major spending stimulus for regional Australia as well, with high percentages indicating an allocated budget across several key verticals.

These include 87% planning to spend up big on dining out at cafes and restaurants, 62% on local stores, and 45% on accommodation.

Around 40% also plan to fork out for local experiences.

"The 2025/2026 summer in regional Australia is set to be one for the record books, with unprecedented reach and business momentum," Boomtown Chair Andrew Baxter said.

A third of Australians are still undecided about travel plans. AB

Gotta get in Quik

QUIKTRAVEL Shopping is now available in Quiktravel, offering more choices and better prices, with the ability to search, book and ticket on one platform.

Now, agents will be able to access more NDC fares than ever before - see p10.

Cruising in luxury

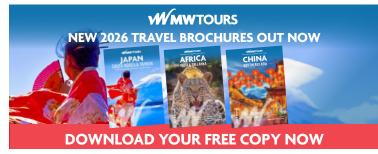
THIS week, advisors will learn about the latest in luxury as part of CLIA's Cruise Month.

Attend a webinar, undertake a CLIA training or professional development course and follow CLIA's social media content for the latest updates - see p9.







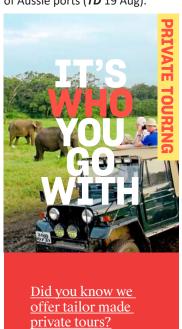


QF is now all IndiGo

QANTAS will expand its codeshare with IndiGo from next week, covering additional routes via Bangalore and Delhi.

QF flights to be operated by IndiGo from Fri 07 Nov will include Bangalore to Colombo, Goa, and Singapore, as well as Delhi-Kathmandu.

IndiGo also currently markets services operated by Qantas' sister Jetstar, connecting Bangkok, Phuket, and Denpasar to a range of Aussie ports (*TD* 19 Aug).



Click here to reach out

to our dedicated team.

Qantas reboots Delhi

EIGHT months after announcing a pause of its services between Melbourne and Delhi (*TD* 21 Feb), Qantas has resumed the route as a seasonal service from today.

The carrier will operate three return services a week between the Victorian and Indian capitals, adding 1,300 seats each week and 30,000 seats for the season.

Qantas first started flying between Melbourne and Delhi in Dec 2021, taking advantage of a growing demand for business and VFR travel in Victoria.

However, in Jun Qantas ceased the service citing "operational needs", at the time flagging a future shift to a seasonal basis later in the year.

Before today's nonstop direct relaunch, Qantas passengers from Melbourne were connecting to India via Singapore through its partnership with IndiGo.

The new seasonal service will operate through to 28 Mar 2026, with inbound numbers expected to spike during a packed cricket calendar, which includes the Australia vs India T20 at the MCG on 31 Oct, the Boxing Day Ashes Test, and multiple Big Bash League fixtures.

"Direct flights from Melbourne to Delhi deliver increased opportunities for trade, investment and tourism between Australia and one of the world's fastest-growing economies," Federal Tourism Minister Don Farrell said.

"More flights between
Australia and India create more
competition, driving down
the cost for travellers, helping
Australian businesses and
creating Australian jobs."



The new seasonal flights will be operated by A330-200 aircraft, featuring 26 lie-flat business class suites and 208 economy seats. AB

BNE made smoother

FROM tomorrow morning, passengers at Brisbane Airport's domestic terminal can access the new northern screening point, pledging to deliver a smoother screening experience.

Benefits to travellers include being able to keep laptops and aerosols inside bags for screening, as well as larger tubs to accommodate personal items.

Qantas passengers will be the first to experience the new screening point this week.

Agents ride for free

GROUPS by Beyond has announced that many of its group tours now include a free-of-charge opportunity for travel agent leaders to join.

"This initiative is part of our commitment to support travel agents in their efforts to grow their businesses while offering exceptional travel experiences to their clients," the company said.

The news is supported by Groups by Beyond expanding its tours specifically designed with travel agents in mind, including new countries and experiences.

Find out more details HERE.

Alaska Air outage

ALASKA Airlines has resumed flights after an IT outage late last week suspended all of its services for several hours.

At least 229 flights were cancelled, with Alaska Airlines warning on the weekend additional disruptions would be likely, as it repositioned jets and crews throughout its network.

The outage, which began on Thu afternoon local time, was not related to any cybersecurity hacking event, Alaska said.





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Sun shines on travel

SUNSHINE Coast Airport saw close to 460,000 passengers fly through from Jul to Sep, 17% higher than the corresponding quarter last year.

The increase followed a record passenger growth measured in Jul, up 18.9% on the Jul 2024.



"I went from mobile advisor to now a multi-store franchise with itravel."

-Sue & Emily



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LUXE | FRANCHILLI

Glamping plan criticised

A PROPOSAL which would see commercial tourism operators reserve sections of public campgrounds in NSW's national parks has been slammed as a cynical cash grab to privatise public assets.

The NSW Government is exploring a concept which would see commercial glamping offered in 16 national parks and reserves across the state, with the Parks & Wildlife Service now calling for expressions of interest.

Selected providers would be given access to book out parts of 23 of NSW's campgrounds up to a year in advance, more than double the 180 days allowed for public bookers.

The proposal states the scheme would make camping "more accessible" by providing supported camping services such as tent or caravan hire, equipment delivery (for items such as bedding and cooking gear), and potentially catering.

EOIs have been open since early last month, with licenses to potentially commence in Mar.

Successful businesses would receive a licence of up to six years, which would see them pay an annual upfront fee of \$830-\$1,245, depending on the location's desirability.

Operators would also pay up to 5-10% of the gross income earned from the licensed activity, according to the EOI.

Shadow Minister for Tourism Kevin Anderson said the plan



could put the great outdoors out of reach for many.

Greens environment spokeswoman Sue Higginson added the proposal was "regrettable", expressing concerns it would become a "beachhead" for the further privatisation of public campgrounds. MS

LE Asia mega sale

LUXURY Escapes has dropped a major sale on hundreds of holiday packages across Southeast Asia, along with an agent incentive.

With savings of up to 79%, travellers can enjoy flight deals with Singapore Airlines, Virgin Australia and Malaysia Airlines, to destinations including Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Maldives and Malaysia.

The new offers will be published weekly, with the first round featuring a five-night package at Rimba by Ayana in Bali's Jimbaran Bay, now available for \$1,799, representing savings of up to 70% - see more **HERE**.

Meanwhile, Luxury Escapes is offering a Bali holiday package valued at more than \$6,200 for the advisor who makes the highest number of Asian holiday Agent Hub bookings during the incentive period from now until the end of Nov.

Transnusa adds more

NEW Indonesian carrier Transnusa will increase its commitment to the Australian market once again, adding three more weekly flights between Perth and Denpasar.

From 03 Dec, the airline will offer 17 flights a week.



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Utah ready for big final act at Sundance

EXCLUSIV

AMONG the many reasons to schedule a trip to the US state of Utah is to catch the Sundance Film Festival one last time before it shifts to Colorado in 2027.

The iconic film festival was evolved and rebadged by the late Hollywood film star Robert Redford in 1985, and ever since has garnered international attention from travellers seeking trips to Utah to take in the festival and explore its natural appeal.

Speaking about the festival with Travel Daily last week, **Utah Office of Tourism Managing Director Natalie Randall** (pictured) said catching the event a final time at its spiritual home has spurred travel interest.

"While the 2026 festival is our final one, we are happy to celebrate with Sundance, and Utah will always be the [festival's] home," she said.

"Robert Redford made the huge



investment all those years ago, but the institute will remain in Utah, the filmmaker labs will remain - so there will always be a strong Sundance connection for travellers to enjoy."

Utah will also lean in heavily to ensure the final Sundance Film Festival is a memorable final act, with Randall confirming the wheels are in motion to enhance its appeal in Jan/Feb 2026.

"We are definitely looking at

seeing what other opportunities exist - Park City for example will close down the main street for this ultimate festival experience.

"That way festival-goers can really feel like they are fully immersed in the Park City culture, and it's the only time that downtown closes in Park City."

Film continues to be a major pillar of Utah's visitation strategy, having recently opened a film trail to mark 100 years since the first movie was filmed in the state.

"There are currently 29 film markers in place throughout the state, and by the end of the year we hope to have 31 in place for tourists to visit," Randall said.

The markers contain QR codes that provide greater detail about what films were shot in specific areas, such as the famous canyon chase scene at the end of Thelma and Louise, to name just one.

The Sundance Film Festival takes place from 22 Jan to 01 Feb. AB

Eyes on a makeover

ONE of the London Eye's capsules was seen floating down the River Thames last week as part of plans for its recent 25th anniversary makeover.

The revamp will see 32 of the attraction's capsules removed and upgraded with the latest technology and safety features.

The first 10-tonne capsule will undergo six months of testing to evaluate which components will need to be replaced or improved.

It took 12 hours for 12 people to detach the capsule and swap it over with a temporary cage.

By early 2029, the revamp will be completed.

It is the largest cantilever observation wheel in the world.



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CT ready with resilience

CT PARTNERS' annual conference will kick off on Wed, with a record 105 business leaders and industry partners arriving in Singapore for three days of connection.

The theme of this year's event is 'resilience and reinvention', featuring a program of business strategy sessions, market insights, showcases and networking opportunities between members and suppliers, in addition to Singaporean cultural experiences.

Former SAS Commander Ben Pronk will be delivering a keynote, sharing his thoughts on resilience, high-performance decision-making and leading businesses under pressure.

Pronk is now Executive-in-Residence at the Australian Graduate School of Management, a board member for VGI Partners and Patron of the Military Art Program Australia.

The highlight of the conference will be a gala dinner in Gardens

China boosts SYD

SYDNEY Airport welcomed 10.68 million passengers between Jul and Sep, representing 3.4% on the same period in 2024.

International traffic saw the greatest gains made, rising by 6.6% to 4.28 million travellers.

Chinese passport holders recorded 11.6% growth alone.

Milder gains were made on the domestic front, which grew 1.4% to 6.4 million passengers.



by the Bay, where the Ian Edwards Award will be presented, in memory of the former general manager, who was described by the network as the "heart and soul" of CT Partners before he passed away in 2021.

"There is nothing quite like having our members and partners all in one room," said CT Partners CFO Matt Masson.

"The energy, the generosity of knowledge-sharing and the sense of shared momentum - it's what sets CT Partners apart." JHM

Jayride cash boost

JAYRIDE has raised \$200,000 through a placement of convertible notes - a type of short-term loan that can later be converted into company shares.

Half the funds came from a sophisticated investor, and the other half from Jayride Director Brett Partridge.

Jayride CEO Randy Prado said the funding helps the rideshare company to continue building momentum despite tough market conditions, as well as support its goal of being relisted on the ASX after it was suspended earlier this month (TD 07 Oct).

Six Senses Myoko unveiled



IHG Hotels and Resorts and Patience Capital Group have announced plans for the new ultra-luxury hotel Six Senses Myoko, set to open within the Myoko Suginohara Ski Resort in Niigata Prefecture, Japan.

Construction for the new property is scheduled to begin in Apr next year and will open at the earliest by Dec 2026, featuring 57 rooms and suites, several with private onsen, and 21 branded residences.

Six Senses Myoko will also include two restaurants and bars, a boutique, and a spa with treatment rooms, hydrotherapy and private onsen facilities.

Myoko is a two-hour train ride from Tokyo, with skiing across 90 hectares and an 8.5km run and

13.4 metres of annual snowfall. The location is also renowned

for its abundance of hot springs and picturesque landscapes.

According to the property group, the new hotel will be designed by Kengo Kum and Kume Sekkei as part of the 'Golden Winds' concept, reflecting the area's natural elements and seasonal changes.

The new Six Senses property is part of a broader regional plan that includes four hotels and two commercial facilities by 2034.

Ikon Pass, Alterra Mountain Company's global multi-resort access pass, recently expanded its resorts in Japan for the upcoming season (TD 22 Oct), including Myoko Suginohara Ski Resort, Furano and Shiga Kogan. JHM









THAI lease issues

THAI Airways International has failed to secure the new aircraft lease which was earlier deemed "essential" by its Chief Executive Officer, raising concerns over the airline's fleet strategy.

The carrier's board rejected a proposal to lease between eight and 10 aircraft, which were hoped would replace the nine planes recently retired by Thai.

Thai had been negotiating to lease three B777-300ERs and six B787s, but those negotiations fell through, with other airlines beating it to the punch.

The board was concerned the outdated aircraft models might prove uneconomical to operate, according to local online newspaper The Nation.

TG had planned to lease the aircraft for a six-year period from mid-next year.

SQ retires **B737-800**

SINGAPORE Airlines will retire its Boeing 737-800, a move that will see the carrier rely on the B737 MAX for narrowbody flights.

The last service is scheduled as SQ442/441 with operations between Changi and Kathmandu.

The retirement of the 737-800 comes less than five years after the aircraft model was introduced to the Singapore fleet.

SQ's 737 MAX fleet now consists of 19 aircraft, with an average age of just over five years.

The model has been progressively delivered to Singapore over recent years.

WSI readies for opening

WESTERN Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI) has commenced its openingday preparations, with ongoing trials to be carried out across the terminal and broader airport precinct over the coming months.

"Decades of planning, years of construction and millions of work hours have got us to this exciting moment where we're essentially switching on all of the various systems and services at WSI and putting these brand-new assets through their paces," said Matt Duffy, WSI Chief Operating Officer.

"This next phase will see our WSI team trial the dozens of technology systems and assets on which our 24-hour airport will rely each day and importantly, test the resilience of those systems as well."

At the same time, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) will conduct flight path safety checks at WSI, which will involve a light plane carrying out test flights to ensure the airport's approach procedures are safe and accurate, before the aircraft lands on the runway.

The flight checks will also allow CASA to confirm that obstacles are marked correctly on charts to ensure infrastructure like towers, masts or buildings, as well as environmental factors like trees, can be safely navigated by aircraft landing at WSI.

Additionally, a planned emergency exercise will take place at the airport next week,



which will see the first 737 land on its runway.

WSI remains on track to open for all services in the second half of next year. JM

Carnival's TIME is now

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has partnered with the Travel **Industry Mentor Experience** (TIME) to create a new scholarship for the program.

The cruise line's National Sales Manager Mark Richards noted the funding is an investment in the future of the travel industry.

"At Carnival Cruise Line, we're proud to back TIME through the Carnival Scholarship, helping passionate travel professionals step into leadership and create a stronger, brighter future for our entire industry," he said.

TIME said it is very grateful to all its supporters over the years, as its partners continue to inspire the next generational of leaders.

"We're incredibly grateful to welcome Carnival Cruise Line as a partner of TIME," founder Penny Spencer commented.

"Their support not only strengthens our program but also sends a powerful message about the value of mentoring and giving back to the industry," she said.

Intrepid takes a hike

INTREPID Travel has launched 28 new active trips for 2026. featuring hiking, cycling, kayaking, snorkelling and rafting adventures around the world.

Bringing the operator's total active offerings to 148, the new additions include five multiactive trips - which offer a mix of physical activities - as well as 21 walking and trekking itineraries, and two cycling tours.

Highlights include the six-day 'Iceland: Hike, Bike & Kayak' adventure, which will see guests hike the volcanic slopes of Eldfell, traverse the icy expanse of Solheimajokull Glacier, kayak along serene inland waterways, and cycle through dramatic, otherworldly landscapes.

The new itineraries are a response to growing demand for active adventures, with Intrepid citing a 9% increase year-on-year across its active trips, and a 23% rise for its multi-active range.

"Active travel is undoubtedly one of our fastest growing categories," said Intrepid GM of Experiences, Erica Kritikides.

"These trips let travellers move, explore and reconnect with nature, while sharing the experiences with a community of like-minded travellers."







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IHG's soft brand

IHG Hotels and Resorts has announced the launch of a new soft brand, a premium collection complementing its premium conversion brand, voco.

CEO Elie Maalouf said in an earnings call that "it will initially focus on our EMEAA region, where there is a significant proportion of high-quality hotels with their own unique identity".

IHG's Vignette Collection is also a soft brand.

Class of Envoyage

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's Envoyage has enrolled its first class of 100 travel advisors in the American Society of Travel Advisors' (ASTA) new Verified Travel Advisor (VTA) certification program (TD 30 Aug 2017).

Looking ahead, Envoyage said it aims for 200 advisors across its US network to become VTA certified in the next six months.

Schooled at sea

PONANT Explorations Group has announced a new partnership with the Australian Maritime College (AMC), which will see the line open its fleet to up to 30 cadet placements each year.

The cadets will join Ponant's expedition vessels as crew members, allowing them to gain hands-on experience in some of the world's most remote waters.

According to Ponant, the tie-up is a commitment to the future of Australia's maritime industry.

AW's top agents celebrated



ADVENTURE World's top performing agents in Victoria were in the spotlight last week during a luxurious event hosted by the travel operator.

The event celebrated the advisors for their significant achievements and commitment to selling Adventure World's Africa product and itineraries.

Attendees sipped on Africaninspired cocktails and enjoyed the hotel's luxurious atmosphere while listening to product updates and insights from the brand, as well as a short series of presentations on Adventure World's Africa portfolio and purpose-led values.

"These key advisors are at the heart of our business," said Elsa McLean, Head of Sales at Adventure World.

"This event is a crucial way for us to thank them for their passion and commitment to sharing the magic of Africa, the Adventure World way, with their clients.

"It's about strengthening our partnerships and sharing the knowledge that helps them continue to craft truly unforgettable journeys," McLean added. JHM

Pictured: Anna Burgdorf, Herbie Rosenberg, Elsa McLean, Hilton Walker, Samantha Van Eldik, Andrea Morgan.

Solomons special

SOLOMON Airlines has launched a seven-day international sale with a 3% ticketing commission for agents.

Travellers can nab one-way economy flights from Brisbane to Auckland from \$286, or to Munda or Honiara Airport in the Solomon Islands from \$382, which includes up to 30kg of checked baggage and 7kg carry-on.

Available until Fri 31 Oct, the sale applies to travel from 01 Nov 2025 until 31 Mar 2026, with some blackout dates applying.



Window Seat

AS ARTIFICIAL intelligence continues to reshape the travel sector, a new study has provided a timely reminder that the emerging tech may be more human after all.

According to researchers at the Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology in South Korea, several AI bots have demonstrated signs of gambling addiction.

The study showed large language models that power popular AI chatbots like ChatGPT and Google's Gemini repeatedly made irrational, high-risk betting decisions when placed in simulated gambling environments.

Given more freedom, the models often escalated their bets until they lost everything, mimicking the behaviour of human gambling addicts.

Perhaps this is a sober reminder to the travel sector not to go all in on AI just yet?

Big concerns for GA

GLOBAL Airlines' Airbus A380 has been in storage for three months, according to reports from Airlive, raising questions about the British carrier's future.

The aircraft has been sitting idle at Tarmac Aerosave in France since Jul, fuelling growing speculation about the virtual carrier's viability.





BROCHURES



Silversea - Legends of the Arctic 2026 Silversea has unveiled a new brochure showcasing its 2026 Arctic voyages. From Iceland to Greenland and beyond, your clients can spot polar bears, quillemots, Arctic terns and whales as they glide through striking fjords and hike snowcapped mountains. Throughout each adventure guests will hear insights from Silversea's team of biologists, geologists, naturalists, historians, and other experts. Within the brochure, advisors and their clients will find sections on the cruise line's ships, as well as a sample itinerary for

each destination, including Svalbard, Greenland, and Hudson Bay, with a schedule of departure dates. View the guide online HERE.



LstMtns - Swim and Camp guidebooks Blue Mountains publisher LstMtns has launched two new guidebooks ahead of summer - Swim and Camp. The Swim edition showcases wild swimming holes throughout the Blue Mountains region, while the Camp edition highlights the best bush camps, quiet creekside escapes, caravan-friendly sites, and remote hidden spots. Packed with more than 250 pages' worth of adventures across NSW's most-visited national park, both books include ratings and key information, as well as QR

codes linking to live maps. The guides are available now via lostmtns. com and select stockists across Australia.



Greece Med Travel - Italy 2026

Boutique travel specialist Greece & Mediterranean Travel Centre has launched its new Italy 2026 brochure, showcasing the country's most iconic cities, charming villages, and cultural experiences. The operator offers flexible itineraries that cater to all types of adventurers, from solo explorers to couples and families. Highlights include diverse and dynamic routes, customisable travel experiences, tours focusing on art, wine, history and gastronomy, and insights

from destination specialists with local relationships and on-the-ground knowledge. Find the brochure HERE.



Int'l Rail team rolls up



INTERNATIONAL Rail recently held its largest team gathering to date, celebrating a "remarkable" year of growth for the fully remote company.

Eighteen team members from across Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand came together in Melbourne for a weekend of connection and collaboration.

The gathering kicked off with a scenic ferry journey from Docklands to Port Arlington, followed by a relaxed team dinner at a local pub and an overnight stay in the coastal town.

The next morning began with a 'Wellness Walk + Talk' featuring coffee catch-ups and a business update from International Rail owner and Managing Director Jonathan Hume.

The team also enjoyed a journey aboard The Q Train from Drysdale to Queenscliff, where they were treated to a five-course meal and drinks while taking in the picturesque Bellarine Peninsula.

"This annual get-together is more than just a celebration - it's a chance to share ideas, strengthen collaboration, and reconnect as a team," said Hume.

"We've had an incredible year, and this weekend left us feeling inspired and ready for the busy months ahead." JM

Pictured: The team red-carpet ready with drinks in hand to board the Q Train at Drysdale.

Let it snow, MGallery

ACCOR'S boutique brand, MGallery, has announced the signing of Madarao Kogen Hotel and Lime Resort Myoko in Japan as part of a strategic partnership with Patience Capital Group.

Both properties are located in the Japan Alps and are popular among ski enthusiasts.

Set on the slopes of the northern-most part of Nagano Prefecture, Madarao Kogen Hotel will undergo an extensive renovation, and is set to feature 80 guest rooms upon reopening in late 2027.

Meanwhile, Lime Resort Myoko will be transformed into a modern wellness-focused resort, and is expected to have 38 rooms and open by winter 2026.

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