



Connected Travel

SENSE OF ADVENTURE REQUIRED

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

WHERE COMFORT MEETS CURIOSITY, AND TRAVEL IS DESIGNED TO FEEL
AS GOOD AS IT LOOKS.

Sense of Adventure Required

The Soft Adventure Edit

This is where I share destinations I know deeply, journeys I'd confidently send my own clients on, and the thoughtful details that turn a trip into something that stays with you. Expect considered advice, personal perspective, and travel ideas for those who want a sense of adventure, without rushing, roughing it, or ticking boxes.

WELCOME TO THIS MONTH'S SENSE OF ADVENTURE REQUIRED

This edition is packed with travel inspiration, from our Supplier Spotlight on Adventure Destinations and highlights from the Treasures of the South Pacific supplier event, to why having a travel advisor in your corner still matters when things go wrong.

We're also looking at Qatar Airways' Formula 1 Grand Prix stopover packages and why more cruisers are rethinking summer travel.

So grab a coffee and get inspired for your next adventure!



TREASURES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE MATTERS — ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE CURATING TRAVEL.

Recently I attended Treasures of the South Pacific, a supplier event showcasing some of the incredible travel experiences available across the region.

While events like these are always inspiring, they're also an important part of my ongoing industry training and professional development. Travel is constantly changing. New experiences are introduced, hotels evolve, destinations change and suppliers continue to develop more immersive ways for travellers to experience a place.

Being a travel professional means staying curious and continually learning. For me, this is particularly important when it comes to soft adventure travel.

My clients aren't necessarily looking for adrenaline-fuelled adventures. They're often adventure-curious, wanting to explore somewhere differently, experience local culture, get out into nature or try something new, but with comfort and thoughtful planning along the way. That's where my industry knowledge and supplier relationships become valuable.

It's about understanding the traveller and matching them with experiences that are right for them. And that's one of the reasons I love attending events like Treasures of the South Pacific, I come away with new ideas, new connections and, most importantly, more knowledge to share with my clients.

The more I learn, the better I can curate your journey. So, if you're adventure-curious and ready to experience your next holiday a little differently, let's start planning.





TRAFALGAR

2027
Early Booking
Advantage

Save
10%
on worldwide tours

*T&Cs apply.

SUPPLIER SPOTLIGHT

ADVENTURE DESTINATIONS



Adventure by destination, not by style of travel....

When you hear the words adventure travel, what comes to mind? Perhaps trekking through remote landscapes, wildlife encounters, epic road trips or exploring somewhere far off the beaten track. But adventure doesn't have to mean roughing it, carrying a backpack for three weeks or pushing yourself to your physical limits. Sometimes adventure is simply choosing somewhere you've never been before.

That's one of the things I love about Adventure Destinations. Their philosophy is "adventure by destination, not by style of travel" and that makes them a fantastic fit for my approach to soft adventure travel.

Adventure Destinations specialises in some seriously exciting corners of the world, including Canada and Alaska, the USA, Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius, Borneo, Malaysia and Brunei, South America and Antarctica, Turkey, Greece and the Middle East, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

Their travel options range from independent and escorted tours to tailor-made itineraries, self-drive holidays, rail journeys, cruising, wildlife experiences and unique accommodation. Their team can take an existing itinerary and adapt it, or start from scratch and create something specifically around you.

Imagine travelling through the Canadian Rockies, watching the landscape unfold from the train, exploring national parks and then continuing north towards Alaska. Or perhaps you'd prefer a wildlife adventure in Africa, a small-group journey through Turkey, an expedition to Antarctica or a self-drive through New Zealand.

Adventure Destinations' strength is taking these big, bucket-list destinations and making them accessible, flexible and achievable. And that's important because I believe adventure should be about how you want to experience a destination, not about fitting into someone else's idea of what an adventurer should be.

Love a road trip? This is an area where Adventure Destinations really shines. Their Australia and New Zealand program includes more than 150 self-drive itineraries, with everything from classic road trips to unique accommodation and experiences. The itineraries can be modified, reversed or booked with or without a car. Think New Zealand's North Island or the South Island, with the freedom of a road trip but the reassurance of having your accommodation, experiences and key arrangements organised before you leave.

And for the wildlife lovers...Adventure Destinations also offers some incredible wildlife-focused experiences. Their Africa program includes safari and wildlife journeys across destinations such as Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa and beyond. One example is their Botswana & Zimbabwe Wildlife Safari, which combines places such as the Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park, Hwange National Park and Victoria Falls. Imagine waking up surrounded by wilderness, heading out on a game drive, spending the afternoon relaxing at your lodge and ending the day watching the sunset over the African landscape.

Why I like working with Adventure Destinations. For me, it's their flexibility. They understand that travellers don't necessarily want an off-the-shelf holiday. Their team can combine accommodation, touring, transport, experiences and activities to create something that works for the individual traveller. Their specialists also have extensive destination knowledge and regularly travel to the regions they sell.

And that's exactly why Adventure Destinations is a supplier I love having in my travel toolkit. Where would your next adventure take you? If one of these destinations has sparked your curiosity, let's talk.

I'll help you turn the idea into a journey that's right for you, with the right amount of adventure, comfort and freedom.

ANZAC Day Tours 2027

Gallipoli • Dawn Service • Meaningful Journeys



ANZAC Day Gallipoli Tours 2027 25% Early Bird Discount Book by 31 October 2026

We are now pleased to announce that our ANZAC Day 2027 Gallipoli Tours are officially open for sale. Each year, demand for ANZAC departures exceeds availability, and 2027 is expected to be no exception.

Take advantage of our 25% Early Bird Discount – Book by 31 October 2026.



ANZAC Day - Digger Tour

5 Days
Departs Istanbul: 22 Apr, 2027
From ~~\$1835~~ \$1376
per person twin share

The Pilgrimage: A 5-day tour focused on paying tribute to our heroes. Experience Istanbul's highlights before heading to the heart of Gallipoli for the Dawn Service.



ANZAC Day - Colonel Tour

15 Days
Departs Istanbul: 22 Apr, 2027
From ~~\$6105~~ \$4579
per person twin share

The Ultimate Journey: A 15-day epic that commemorates ANZAC Day and explores all of Turkey, from Istanbul's icons to the surreal landscapes of Cappadocia and the rich history of the south.



ANZAC Day - Major Tour

11 Days
Departs Istanbul: 22 Apr, 2027
From ~~\$4609~~ \$3457
per person twin share

The Grand Explorer: An 11-day adventure blending the deep reverence of Gallipoli with the legendary sites of Troy, Ephesus, and the lunar landscapes of Cappadocia.

AI CAN PLAN THE JOURNEY

BUT WHO HAS YOUR BACK WHEN THINGS GO WRONG?



AI is already changing the way we travel. It can search destinations, compare options and help build an itinerary in seconds. And there's no doubt that technology can make travel planning faster and easier.

But travel is about more than planning.

Anyone who has experienced a cancelled flight, a missed connection, a hotel that can't find your booking or an itinerary that suddenly needs to change knows that travel doesn't always go according to plan.

And that's where the human element really matters.

AI can suggest. It can compare. It can provide information. But when something goes wrong, travellers often need more than an answer, they need someone who can take ownership, make decisions, advocate on their behalf and find a solution. Research from Expedia Group highlights this distinction, with 66% of travellers saying they would not trust AI to purchase or book travel on their behalf. Travellers may be happy for AI to suggest, but many still want a human to decide.

Technology + Human Expertise

I don't see AI and travel advisors as competing with one another. In fact, I believe the future of travel is about combining the best of both. AI can help me work smarter. It can speed up research, streamline administration and help me find options more efficiently.

But my role goes beyond finding a flight or hotel.

It's understanding you, your preferences, your comfort level, what matters to you and what you want to experience. It's knowing when the cheapest option isn't necessarily the best option. And, importantly, it's being there when the unexpected happens.

Because travel support isn't just about customer service. It's about accountability.

The real value of a travel advisor becomes particularly obvious when something goes wrong. That's when having someone in your corner can turn a stressful situation into a manageable one.

The future of travel is human

I'll happily embrace technology that makes travel planning better. But I don't believe the future of travel is about removing the human from the equation.

It's about using technology to free up more time for the things technology can't replicate, judgement, empathy, relationships and advocacy.

AI may help plan your adventure. But when the unexpected happens, you want a human in your corner.

And that's where a travel advisor earns their place in your journey.

QATAR AIRWAYS HOLIDAYS LAUNCHES STOPOVER PACKAGES FOR FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX 2026



Qatar Airways Holidays unveiled Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2026 packages to elevate the Qatar stopover experience.

For the first time, Qatar Airways Holidays integrated three-day Formula 1 race tickets into Qatar stopover packages along with flights and hotel accommodation, allowing passengers transiting through Hamad International Airport to transform their journey into an unforgettable Grand Prix getaway.

The enhanced Qatar stopover experience will include a three-day T16 Grandstand ticket to the 2026 Qatar Grand Prix, offering fans spectacular views of the final sector of the Lusail International Circuit.

To book the new stopover packages, customers need to make sure their **travel dates fall between 27 to 29 November 2026**. Travellers can select from a range of package categories, including Standard, Premium, Luxury and Premium Beach. Qatar Airways Holidays expects the Formula 1 inclusive Qatar stopover packages are available now and subject to availability and applicable terms and conditions.

The new offering complements the existing Formula 1 fan packages, providing travellers with yet another way to experience the excitement of the race at Lusail International Circuit while discovering Qatar's cultural attractions.

Contact me for more information.

Fairways & Getaways

Vietnam Group Departure
13–20 March 2027

8 DAYS
7 Nights

4 ★ BEACHFRONT RESORT

from **AUD \$2,364** *With Golf
from **AUD \$1,380** Non-Golfers
based on 2 pax sharing

INCLUDES

- 7 nights accommodation
- 3 rounds of 18-hole golf including cart & caddies*
- Daily breakfast
- Private airport & touring transfers
- English-speaking local guides & entrance fees
- Local support throughout

This relaxed golf and lifestyle escape blends championship golf with cultural experiences, coastal scenery and free time in beautiful Hoi An. Designed for both golfers and non-golfers, the itinerary combines premium golf, immersive local touring, Vietnamese cuisine and downtime by the beach, all while staying at a stylish beachfront resort.

3 ROUNDS OF GOLF

WORLD-CLASS GOLF EXPERIENCE

Play three of Central Vietnam's premier golf courses including the riverside BRG Nicklaus Course, the scenic mountain setting of Ba Na Hills Golf Club and the coastal fairways of Vinpearl Golf Nam Hoi An — each offering a unique and memorable golfing experience.



DA NANG BRG NICKLAUS



BA NA HILLS GOLF CLUB



VINPEARL GOLF NAM HOI AN

BEACHFRONT RESORT RETREAT

WYNDHAM HOI AN ROYAL BEACHFRONT RESORT ★★★★★

Unwind at the Wyndham Hoi An Royal Beachfront Resort, a stylish coastal retreat set just steps from the beach. Combining spacious ocean-view rooms with resort facilities, pools and easy access to Hoi An's ancient town, it provides the perfect base for both relaxation and exploration.



BEYOND THE FAIRWAYS

HOI AN COUNTRYSIDE JEEP TOUR

Explore rural Hoi An by Jeep visiting local farms, traditional craft villages and countryside communities before enjoying a home-cooked Vietnamese lunch with a local family.

BA NA HILLS & GOLDEN BRIDGE

Ride one of Southeast Asia's most impressive cable car systems to Ba Na Hills, famous for its mountain scenery, before visiting the iconic Golden Bridge and enjoying panoramic views over Da Nang and the coastline.

RED BRIDGE COOKING CLASS

Visit Hoi An's vibrant market before cruising by boat to Red Bridge Cooking School for a hands-on Vietnamese cooking experience.



13–20 March 2027
SPACES LIMITED | ENQUIRE NOW



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FAIRWAYS & GETAWAYS – HOI AN, VIETNAM

MARCH 2027 – ONLY 4 SPOTS LEFT

I'm delighted to invite you to join me on Fairways & Getaways, a hosted small-group journey to the enchanting town of Hoi An, Vietnam, in March 2027.

This carefully curated experience combines exceptional golf, fascinating cultural encounters, delicious cuisine, and time to relax in one of Southeast Asia's most charming destinations. Best of all, it's designed for both golfers and non-golfers, making it the perfect getaway for couples, friends, and solo travellers alike.

Golfers will enjoy the opportunity to play some of Vietnam's most highly regarded golf courses, known for their spectacular settings and world-class design. Meanwhile, non-golfers can immerse themselves in the rich culture and craftsmanship that Hoi An is famous for.

Highlights for non-golfers include visits with skilled local artisans, including jewellery makers, expert tailors, and bespoke shoemakers renowned for their exceptional workmanship. There will also be the opportunity to participate in a Vietnamese cooking class, explore the colourful streets and markets, and perhaps commission a unique handcrafted piece to take home as a lasting reminder of the journey.

As your host, I will be travelling with the group throughout the trip, ensuring everything runs smoothly while sharing the experiences and creating a welcoming atmosphere for everyone.

Whether you're passionate about golf, interested in authentic cultural experiences, or simply looking for a memorable holiday with like-minded travellers, Fairways & Getaways offers the perfect balance of activity, discovery, and relaxation.

I invite you to view the detailed itinerary and learn more about this exciting hosted journey. Places are limited, so if you'd like to join us, please contact me as soon as possible to register your interest.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE DETAILED ITINERARY](#)



CONNECTED TIDES

CRUISERS RETHINKING SUMMER TRAVEL

Cruise lines are rethinking what constitutes the “best” time to sail Europe, with heat, water levels, pricing, and value all pushing demand away from the traditional summer peak season. The rising heat is one of the key factors that is making this period less attractive, with this year’s heatwaves breaking temperature records in almost 20 countries across the continent.

Cruise Weekly spoke to a number of travel advisors who recently cruised in Europe between Jun and Aug, who said temperatures are causing their clients to rethink their plans. “Because of the stiflingly hot last two summers, it is pushing people to travel in the shoulders to save money and not try to sightsee while it’s sweltering,” Travel Associates’ Kiyah Rook told Cruise Weekly. “I do still have a lot of customers who go for school holidays and uni break and they do want it to be hot, but I think it is getting outdated,” she added.

Envoyage’s Maria Summers said as many as 90% of her clients are avoiding peak season, and that she is actively encouraging them to book outside those months. “Jun, Jul, Aug is kind of out of the equation for Europe,” she explained to Cruise Weekly. “They’re now looking at going in those cooler months, the beginning of the season, Mar, Apr, maybe even into early May, and then late Sep, Oct, Nov, even Dec,” she said.

Shoulder season is increasingly offering a less crowded experience, as well as better value across the cruise sector. Rook said promotions from brands such as Oceania, which has been offering seven-night Dec cruises for less than \$3,000, are a great way for potential guests to enter the market without a large upfront commitment. “A few years ago when you looked after Oct, you couldn’t find anything,” she said. Summers added that as well as the increasing temperatures during the peak summer season, prices during these months had become too inflated.

The recent low-water disruption of many river cruises is also accelerating interest in earlier season departures. AmaWaterways reservation agent Bridget Pawley said travel in May across the next two years has been surging of late. “After all the publicity around low water levels in parts of Europe during Jul and Aug, I’m seeing more people looking at travelling earlier in the season and May is definitely getting a lot more attention,” she said.



VOYAGER OF THE SEAS

SAILING FROM BRISBANE, SYDNEY,
SINGAPORE & HONG KONG
2027-2028

ON SALE NOW



AMAWATERWAYS

LAUNCHES FIRST WOMEN-ONLY RIVER CRUISE



AmaWaterways™

AmaWaterways is responding to demand from women travellers and travel advisors with its first dedicated women-only river cruise, a 2027 sailing on the Rhône River.

The Colours of Provence Wine Cruise will depart **19 August 2027** aboard AmaKristina, combining a seven-night river cruise through southern France with optional three-night stays in Barcelona and Paris.

The sailing has been designed specifically for women travelling together and will feature a series of experiences exclusive to the departure, including curated wine tastings, a Pink French Martini demonstration, Lavender Gin tasting, Whispering Angel Rosé Sundeck Party and Miraval Champagne breakfast.

The cruise will also be hosted by McLaren Vale winemaker Emmanuelle Bekkers of Bekkers Wine.

AmaWaterways' standard inclusions will remain, including accommodation, gourmet dining, daily guided shore excursions, wellness activities, premium wines with lunch and dinner and gratuities.

With limited availability, including a small number of solo staterooms, this exclusive departure offers a unique opportunity for your clients to experience Provence alongside like-minded women in an intimate and welcoming setting. We encourage you to secure their place early.

From \$8,350 Per Person

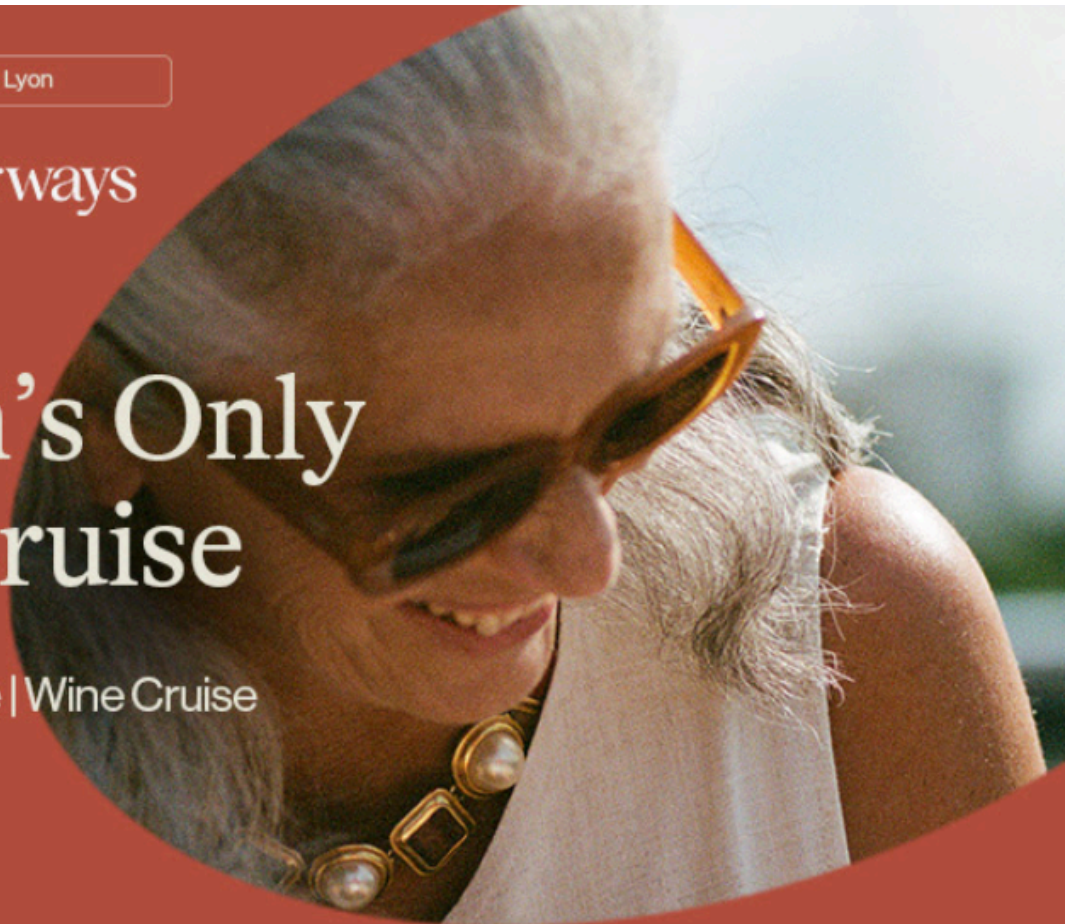
Fixed Window accommodation, with Twin Balcony staterooms available from \$12,250 per person. Pricing is based on twin share.

19-26 August 2027 | Arles to Lyon

 AmaWaterways

Women's Only River Cruise

Colours of Provence | Wine Cruise



Flights *on us*



Economy airfares included **up to \$2,800 per person***



LYON & PROVENCE

Avignon to Lyon or vice versa

8 DAYS • 1 COUNTRY • 7 GUIDED TOURS
SET SAIL • MAR-NOV 2027;
MAR-NOV 2028

From **\$5,495pp** in Standard Stateroom
From **\$6,495pp** in Veranda Stateroom

Based on 26 March 2027 departure



PARIS TO THE SWISS ALPS

Paris to Zürich or vice versa

12 DAYS • 4 COUNTRIES • 10 GUIDED TOURS
SET SAIL • MAR-NOV 2027;
MAR-NOV 2028

From **\$6,395pp** in Standard Stateroom
From **\$7,495pp** in Veranda Stateroom

Based on 20 March 2027 departure



RHINE GETAWAY

Basel to Amsterdam or vice versa

8 DAYS • 4 COUNTRIES • 6 GUIDED TOURS
SET SAIL • MAR-NOV 2027;
MAR-NOV 2028

From **\$4,995pp** in Standard Stateroom
From **\$6,095pp** in Veranda Stateroom

Based on 19 March 2027 departure



GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR

Budapest to Amsterdam or vice versa

15 DAYS • 4 COUNTRIES • 12 GUIDED TOURS
SET SAIL • MAR-NOV 2027;
APR-NOV 2028

From **\$8,795pp** in Standard Stateroom
From **\$13,295pp** in Veranda Stateroom

Based on 29 June 2027 departure



PASSAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE

Budapest to Bucharest or vice versa

11 DAYS • 5 COUNTRIES • 8 GUIDED TOURS
SET SAIL • MAR-NOV 2027;
MAR-NOV 2028

From **\$6,895pp** in Standard Stateroom
From **\$9,095pp** in Veranda Stateroom

Based on 26 March 2027 departure



CAPITALS OF EASTERN EUROPE

Vienna to Bucharest or vice versa

17 DAYS • 7 COUNTRIES • 12 GUIDED TOURS
SET SAIL • MAR-NOV 2027;
MAR-NOV 2028

From **\$10,195pp** in Standard Stateroom
From **\$14,695pp** in Veranda Stateroom

Based on 04 June 2027 departure

For a limited-time on select 2027-2029 river, ocean and expedition voyages.
Economy flights included up to AU\$2,800 per person (OLB Code FOU28)
Or save \$2,800 per person in lieu of flights (OLB Code CFB25)

NO KIDS • NO CASINOS • NO NCFS



Soft Adventure Travel Trend: Slow Down to Go Further

One of the biggest shifts I'm seeing in travel is the move away from simply seeing more and towards experiencing more. Travellers are choosing slower, more immersive journeys, swapping packed itineraries for local experiences, smaller groups, scenic journeys and time to actually connect with a destination.

Think cycling between villages, walking through local landscapes, learning to cook a regional dish, travelling by train instead of rushing between airports, or simply spending a few extra days in one place. It's adventure, but without the exhaustion!



Missed Something Recently?

If you've missed any of my recent blogs, you can catch up via the links below. I share longer-form stories, destination insights, and thoughtful travel reflections there.

[The Mediterranean's Best Kept Secret - Malta Part 1](#)

[The Mediterranean's Best Kept Secret - Malta Part 2](#)

[Reflections of Standing at ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli](#)

Never miss a blog, subscribe to have them delivered straight to your inbox - [Click Here To Subscribe](#)



Soft Adventure Travel Tips - The South Pacific

1. Get out of the resort

Don't spend your entire trip by the pool. Get out and explore — visit a local village, take a nature walk, snorkel a reef or discover a hidden beach.

2. Allow time to wander

The South Pacific is best experienced at island pace. Don't over-plan your days. Allow time for spontaneous discoveries, local encounters and simply enjoying the surroundings.

3. Choose experiences over sightseeing

Swap the tick-box tour for something immersive, a cooking experience, cultural visit, lagoon cruise, waterfall hike or meeting local artisans. The best memories often happen when you slow down and connect.

If this newsletter stirred something, a memory, a curiosity, or the sense that it might be time to plan a journey of your own, I'm always happy to help shape it. Thoughtfully planned, well connected, and designed around how you want to experience the world.

Email: jen.camilleri@connectedtravel.com.au

Call: 0411 332 172

Follow: <https://www.facebook.com/ConnectedTravelJenCamilleri>



I have been trained and certified to offer you the highest level of service and value when planning your cruise with Princess.
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