



Xian Travel Guidebook

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Xi'an, being the capital in ancient China for more than 1,100 years through almost 13 dynasties, is one of the most important cradles of Chinese civilization and traditional Chinese culture. Six UNESCO World Heritage sites, splendid culture and magnificent natural sceneries create a distinctive Xi'an.

Need to Know

City name: Xi'an(西安)

Time zone: UTC +8

Area code: (+86) 029

City districts: 11 administrative districts, 2 counties and 1 functional area

Electricity: 220V/50Hz

Population: 7.16 million

Zip code: 710000

Weiyang District	Xincheng District	Beilin District	Lianhu District	Baqiao District
Yanta District	Yanliang District	Lintong District	Chang'an District	Gaoling District
Huyi District	Lantian County	Zhouzhi County	Xi Xian New Area	

Main train stations: Xi'an Railway Station, Xi'an North Railway Station, Xi'an South Railway Station, Epanggong Railway Station

Main airports: Xi'an Xianyang International Airport

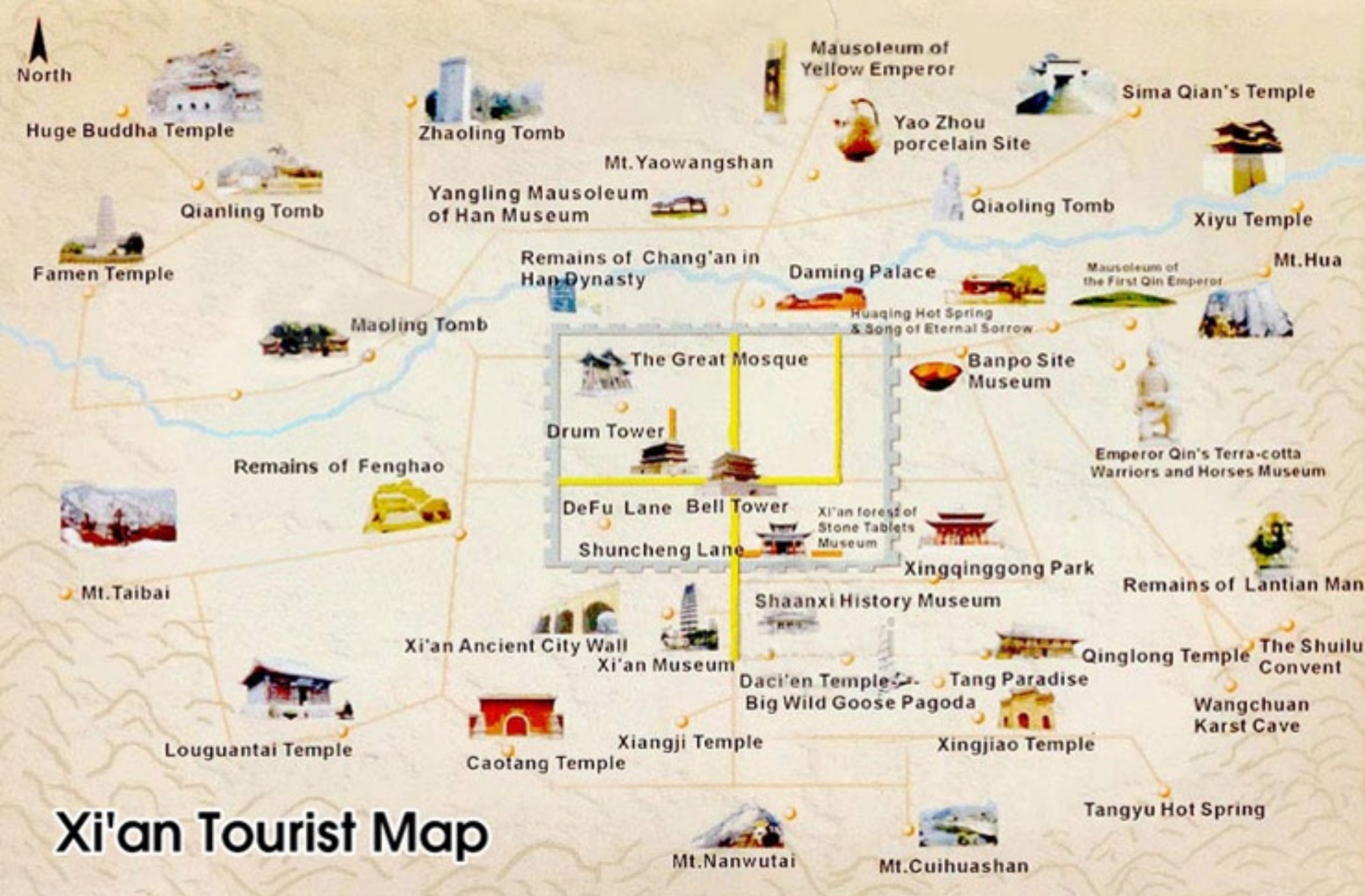
Taxi fare: There is a 8.5 yuan charge for the first 3km and 2 yuan per kilometer thereafter. From 11 pm to 6 am, the initial charge rises to 10 yuan and 2.3 yuan per additional kilometer thereafter.

Emergency contacts

Fire: 119
Police: 110
Medical emergency: 120
Traffic accident: 122
Xi'an tourist information hotline: 029-87260498
Xi'an tourist complaint hotline: 029-12345

Attractions in Xi'an

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1. Terracotta Warriors – 兵马俑

Terracotta Warriors, known as the eighth wonder of the world, is buried with the First Qin Emperor, Yingzheng, and it is a collection of clay soldiers as a symbol of its armies which helped him to unite China. In here you can see terracotta soldiers with lifelike facial expressions, chariots and weapons, made 2000 years ago.

2. Big Wild Goose Pagoda – 大雁塔

Big Wild Goose Pagoda, also known as Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, is one of the most famous attractions in Xi'an that reputed for its dignified but plain structure and creative design conception. This attic-style brick pagoda was built in 652 during the Tang Dynasty and originally had five stories, as a place to hold sutras and figurines of the Buddha. Now, it is a landmark building of Xi'an.



3. Xi'an City Wall – 古城墙

Xi'an City Wall, built 600 years ago in the Ming Dynasty, is the biggest and best-preserved ancient city wall in China. Xi'an City Wall was built for city safety, stretches 13.74 kilometers in length and 12 meters in height, and now it is a must visit tourist attraction. You can overlook the scenery of Xian on the Wall, ride bicycles here or enjoy performances.



4. The Bell Tower & The Drum Tower- 钟楼&鼓楼

Located at the center of Xi'an City, The Bell Tower and The Drum Tower are known as the twin sister tower, dating back to about 600 years. The Bell Tower and the Drum Tower, formerly used by monks to ring out alarms and the time of day for the city. The Bell Tower and The Drum Tower are one of the main symbols and representative architectures of the Ming dynasty in the city.





5. Shaanxi History Museum - 陕西历史博物馆

Located in downtown Xi'an, Shaanxi History Museum is a large comprehensive historical museum, enjoys a large group of cultural relics and precious historical collections. It is an ideal place for learning about the origins and development of ancient Chinese history.



6. Muslim Street – 回民街

Muslim Street, also called Huimin Street or Muslim Quarter, located in the center of Xi'an City, is a fantastic place to wander. All shops and restaurants in the street are operated by Muslims. A variety of Muslim food and snacks can be tried here, tasty and very cheap. Muslim Street has been a must visit place in Xi'an, and tourists could taste Xi'an famous food, and buy souvenirs in there.

7. The Great Mosque - 化觉巷清真大寺

The Great Mosque of Xi'an, located near the Drum Tower, is one of the oldest and most renowned mosques in the country. Built in the Tang Dynasty, it still used by Chinese Muslims today as a place of worship. The one characteristic of Great Mosque Xi'an is that it mixes together with the traditional Chinese architectural style and Islamic architecture style perfectly.



8. Small Wild Goose Pagoda 小雁塔

Small Wild Goose Pagoda is one of the most well-preserved Tang Dynasty buddha temples. As one of the famous historical sites in Xi'an, Small Wild Goose Pagoda is reputed as the Tang Dynasty elaborate and valuable Buddhist architectural heritage. It stands at a height of 43 m (141 ft) with fifteen levels of tiers. And now, this pagoda is a part of Xi'an Museum which is open to the public for sightseeing.

9. Hanyang Mausoleum 汉阳陵

Hanyang Mausoleum, located in Xianyang City in Shaanxi Province, is the multi-burial cemetery of Emperor Jing of Han and his queen. The tomb was built from 153 BC to 126 BC, covering an area of 20 square kilometers. It is a large-scale cultural tourism scenic spot mixing the modern technology, ancient civilization, history, culture and landscape together. It is the largest museum with largest floor space in China.



10. Banpo Neolithic Village Museum 半坡新石器时代村落博物馆

Banpo sites is the largest and best-preserved Neolithic Yangshao cultural village sites at China's Yellow River basin. Banpo Neolithic Village Museum is built around a historical site consisting of the remains of a 6,000-year-old village once home to a matriarchal clan community. This excavated site of a village dates back to 4500 BC and was discovered in 1953. It is the first Prehistoric site museum in China, located in Banpo Village.



11. Mt. Huashan – 华山

Mt. Huashan is the highest and most precipitous one among the Five Great Mountains (2,154.9 m), which reputed for its majestic breath-taking crags, steep paths, beautiful scenery precipices, deep and narrow creeks, and profound Taoist culture. It has 5 main peaks, the east peak, which named "Chaoyang Peak", is one of the 9 great places of China to see the sunrise.



Things to do in Xi'an

1. Visit the Terracotta Warriors

Terracotta Warriors, one of the eight wonders in the world, is no doubt the top one attraction on your visiting list of Xi'an. There are more than 8,000 terracotta warriors, horses displayed in this Terracotta Warriors museum, along with almost 10,000 bronze weapons. Visiting Terracotta Warriors is no doubt to be one of the best things to do in Xi'an.

2. Go for a ride on Xi'an City Wall

Xi'an City Wall, build in Ming Dynasty, is one of the must-see places in Xi'an. It is the best-preserved ancient city wall in China with the largest scale. Go cycling on the city wall is considered the best way for visiting, it's better to go in the morning or after sunset. You may have the chance to learn Tai Chi with local people if you like.

3. Admire the Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Big Wild Goose Pagoda, as another famous landmark of Xi'an, has been well-preserved as a holy place of Buddhism for more than 1,300 years. The Daci'en Temple and the 110,000-square-meter North Plaza along with Big Wild Goose Pagoda, consist the whole scenic area. Don't miss the musical fountain performance at the plaza.

4. Discover the Shaanxi History Museum

Shaanxi History Museum, with all kinds of historical relics exhibiting inside the museum, will be a perfect place for you if you are interested in the long history and rich culture of ancient China, especially from Tang Dynasty. This museum is free to visit, really a great chance to have a cultural discovery trip.

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5. Take Lessons for Chinese Calligraphy, Painting or Paper-cutting

If you find it too tired for having outdoor activities each day, you can consider spending some time for traditional Chinese culture by joining some activities, such as Chinese Calligraphy, Painting or Paper-cutting. Tang Bo Art Museum will be a good place for you to have a wonderful cultural experience in Xi'an.



6. Learn to Make Mini Clay Terracotta Warrior

A visit to the Terracotta Warriors is not quite enough, making mini clay Terracotta Warrior will add more unique and unforgettable memories to your Xi'an tour. You can easily find some work shops around the museum that you can experience the whole procedure of making mini Terracotta Warrior.



7. Make Dumplings with Locals

Xi'an is a wonderful place to have a dumpling banquet. Here in Xi'an, you can visit a local family and learn to make dumplings by yourselves. The whole procedure of making dumplings can be really meaningful and fun, besides, you may find the dumplings more delicious after your hard work.



8. Challenge yourself on Mount Huashan

Mount Huashan is one of the five greatest mountains in China, it is the most dangerous mountain among the five famous mountains. The majestic breath-taking crags and steep paths of this precipitous mountain may be a great challenge for some people, especially the Plank Road, but the extraordinary sceneries on the mountain really worth a visit.



Nightlife in Xi'an



1. Watch Tang Dynasty Show

Tang Dynasty Show is a famous music and dance performance showing the Chang'an culture in Tang Dynasty. Enjoy a show will be one of the best things to do at night, you may choose a show in the Tang Dynasty Theatre Palace, Shaanxi Song and Dance Grand Theater, or at Huaqing Hot Spring.

2. See the Guanzhong Leather-silhouette Show

Guangzhou Leather-silhouette Show is a very traditional and local Shanxi type show that you should not miss during your travel to Xi'an. Artists control the shadow puppetry and move them as a real human. It is a very interesting show to enjoy and the audiences at home and abroad are all speak highly of this art.

3. Enjoy the Music Fountain Show

The north square of Big Goose Pagoda is renowned as urban "Reception Hall" of Xi'an. It has the largest matrix waterscape music fountain in Asia which starts at 8:00pm every day. The stunning music and colorful light fountain show on Giant Wild Goose Pagoda's North Square is definitely not miss nightlife choice.

4. Appreciate night view of Xi'an

The gorgeous night view of Xi'an is one of highlights in the city. Tang Paradise is resplendent and magnificent under the illumination of the lights and lakes. The night view of Bell Tower and Drum Tower is even more beautiful and spectacular than daytime.

5. Seek for Food and Souvenirs along Muslim Street

Featured food is what you can't miss during your tour in Xi'an. Muslim Street, one of the most famous food streets in Xi'an, will be an ideal place for you to seek for some delicious food, as well as distinctive souvenirs for your family or your friends.

Eating in Xi'an

1. Mutton Paomo 羊肉泡馍

Mutton Paomo is one of the most representative local foods in Xi'an. It is also a "unique food peculiar to Shaanxi". The main materials for this food are pancakes and mutton. As a well-known Muslim snack, Mutton Paomo enjoys an international reputation and is popular for tourists.

Recommended restaurants:

Lao Liu Jia Paomo Restaurants (老刘家泡馍馆): No. 101, Beiguangji Street, Lianhu District, Xi'an

Lao Sun Jia Paomo Restaurant(老孙家泡馍馆): No.40, Xiyangshi, Lianhu District, Xi'an



2. Rou Jia Mo 肉夹馍

Rou Jia Mo, which means meat burger or meat sandwich in English, is a very famous local snack loved by people. It can be taken as the world's oldest hamburger, as it appeared since Qin Dynasty, for about 2000 years ago. Nowadays, Rou Jia Mo becomes a symbol of Xi'an catering culture.

Recommended restaurants:

Qin Yu Roujiamo(秦豫肉夹馍): No.19, Dongmu Toushi, Beilin District, Xi'an

Fan Ji Roujiamo (樊记腊汁肉夹馍): No. 53, Zhulishi Street, Beilin District Xi'an

3. Liangpi 凉皮

Liangpi is a dish of cold noodles in a sauce with various flavor such as sweet, tangy, savory, herbal, nutty and dozens of others. It is very suitable to eat in summer and is also a very famous snack in Xi'an. The noodles are made from wheat or rice flour. As the good taste of the dish, it has spread to every corner of China, especially the northern and central regions.

Recommended restaurants:

WeiJia Liangpi(魏家凉皮): No. 3, South Street, Beilin District, Xi'an

Ziwu Road Zhang's Roujiamo(子午路张记肉夹馍): No. 383, Zhuque Street, Yanta District, Xi'an



4. Gourd Chicken 葫芦鸡

Gourd Chicken is a famous traditional dish of Xi'an, known as the "best dish of the ancient capital of Changan(Xi'an)". The golden rich color, crisp skin, tender meat and good smell make it become a must-eat dish in Xi'an. The dish dates back to the Tang Dynasty, and now is a classic dish and welcomed by locals.

Recommended restaurants:

Changan food stall(长安大牌档): 6F, SEG Plaza, No.123 Changan Middle Road, Yanta District, Xi'an

Zhujian Gourd Chicken (竹间葫芦鸡): Fenglin South Road, Chang'an District, Xi'an City



5. Biangbiang Noodle (BiángBiáng面)

Xi'an Biangbiang Noodle is a kind of traditional cooked wheaten food at Guanzhong area of Shanxi Province. The Biangbiang Noodle was made primarily by rubbing, stretch, throw, pull and other steps to make. The noodle is wide and thick, like the waistband, before eating adding various SaoZi or Hot pepper sauce, spicy and fragrant.

Recommended restaurants:

Biangbiang Noodles(Biangbiang面南院门店): No.80, Nanyuan Gate, Beilin District, Xi'an

Biangbiang Noodles(Biangbiang面光华路店): 1/F, Xingye Building, 13 Guanghua Road, Yanta District, Xi'an



photo by ctrip.com

6. Dumpling Banquet 饺子宴

Dumplings, called Jiaozi in Chinese, is a food that can be made and cooked in many different ways, so this delicacy can even be served as a banquet dish during your Xi'an tour. The dumplings served at the banquet are prepared with well-selected materials, including a wide variety of ingredients and featuring different kinds of stuffing, aromatic taste and rich in nutrition.

Recommended restaurants:

Defachang Dumpling Restaurant(德发长饺子馆): Negative 2F, Yongning International Art Museum, Nanmenli, Xi'angzimiao Street, Beilin District, Xi'an





Shopping in Xi'an

1. Where to shop

Jiefang Road Commercial District is the most prosperous district in Xi'an. There is a huge outdoor market that sells almost everything you could ever want! The Wanda Square here shows the prosperity of this city.

Dong Da Jie (East Street) is packed with large malls, such as the Tangcheng Department Store and Kaiyuan Shopping Mall, and some special stores, such as Xi'an Overseas Chinese Store and Xi'an Antique Shop.

Xi'angzi Temple Street (Teahouse and Gallery Street) is in small scale but very compact and exquisite, also here is filled with large or small tea houses and coffee shops.

Wenbaozhai Shopping Center is famous for buying silk rugs, woolen blankets, Jewels, jade articles, paintings, calligraphy, and silk clothing.

Antique Market is the biggest antique market in this city and a paradise for those antique collectors with a wide range of the antiques from large furniture to small coins.

Luomashi Street is a commercial pedestrian street where tourists go to sample local specialties, entertainment and culture.

2. What to buy

Terracotta Warrior Replicas are not only splendid souvenirs to buy, but also the art value and the innovative ideas have made them the highlights of Xi'an.

Paper-cut is a very distinctive visual art of Chinese handicrafts which serves as window decorations.

Leather Shadow Play, or shadow puppetry, is one of China's oldest traditional handicrafts and performing arts.

Tri-colored Pottery of the Tang Dynasty is a shining pearl among ancient Chinese pottery.

Calligraphy Rubbings are the best choice for those visitors who are fond of Chinese calligraphy.

Exquisite **Jade Carving** such as jade bowls, jade bracelets, jade pendants, etc., can be great souvenirs for your friends.

1. How to get to Xi'an

Xi'an is convenient for tourists and visitors to come with modern infrastructure, one international airport, and three railway stations, and several bus stations.

► By flight

Xi'an Xianyang International Airport, 25 kilometers to Xi'an downtown, has international and domestic flights coming and leaving. Non-stop international flights are available from Seoul, Hong Kong, Singapore to Xi'an, flights from other international cities to Xi'an may have stops in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. And most big cities in China have non-stop flights to Xi'an, within 3 hours.

From	To	Travel Time by Flight
Seoul	Xi'an	3h
Hong Kong	Xi'an	3h
Singapore	Xi'an	5.5h
Beijing	Xi'an	2 h
Shanghai	Xi'an	2.5h
Chengdu	Xi'an	1.5h
Hangzhou	Xi'an	2h
Guilin	Xi'an	2h

► By train

Xi'an is one of the biggest transport centers, where you can catch a train and go to anywhere in China. High speed trains are highly recommended to you, for its high speed and comfortable environment.

2. Trains from Xi'an to

High speed trains from Xi'an North Railway Station to			
Destination	Frequency	Duration	Price (CNY) for a 2 nd Class Seat
Beijing West	20	4.5-6 hrs	515.5
Shanghai Hongqiao	9	6-7.5 hrs	669.5
Chengdu East	45	3-4 hrs	263
Hangzhou East	5	7-11.5 hrs	653.5
Guangzhou South	8	7.5-9 hrs	813.5
Guilin North	1	10 hrs	692



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