



Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Newsletter



Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

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The Ministry Participates in 4 International Tourism Exhibitions



During the month of May, the Ministry participated in 4 international tourism exhibitions, including the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai (ATM), the International Tourism and Travel Exhibition (FITUR) in Madrid, the International Tourism Exhibition (UITT) in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, and the Milan International Tourism Fair (BIT). The Minister inaugurated the Egyptian pavilion participating in the 28th edition of the Arabian Travel Market ATM 2021, which was held from 16-19 May in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, with the participation of 1,300 exhibitors from 62 countries, under the slogan “A New Dawn for Travel and Tourism”. During the ATM, the Minister held a number of meetings with representatives of major tour operators, airlines and hotels in the Arab market; in addition to a number of Arab and international tour operators from Russia and Eastern Europe. He also met with representatives of hotels and travel agents from Egypt participating in the exhibition. He and the Minister of Civil Aviation met with the President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and the Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Airlines and group, to discuss ways to enhance joint cooperation between the two countries in the field of tourism and aviation. They also met with the Minister of Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises, in charge of the tourism file in the United Arab Emirates. In a related context, the Minister did a number of media interviews with the most prominent newspapers, television channels and Arab and international news agencies. (More details pg. 7)



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The President Follows Up on Tourism Development Projects



The meeting with H.E. The President

His Excellency the President met on May 29 with the Prime Minister, the Minister, and the Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, to follow up a number of current and future projects in the field of tourism development. The meeting discussed efforts to boost inbound tourism to Egypt, the latest developments in the tourism and antiquities sector, the opening of museums, the Grand Egyptian Museum and the development project of the Sphinx Avenue in Luxor.

The Prime Minister Visits the Restoration Project of Mohammed Ali Palace in Shubra

On 31 May, the Prime Minister visited the restoration project of Mohammed Ali Palace in Shubra; to follow up on the progress of work there. He was accompanied by the Minister, the Governor of Qalyubia and officials of the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces. The restoration work of the palace is in full swing, in preparation for its opening. The palace was built in 1808 AD, and the construction process continued until 1821. It consists of the Gabalaya kiosk building, and the Mosaic Palace building. Its construction was supervised by architect Zulfiqar Katkhuda.



Part of the visit of the PM

Summer Working Hours are Back for Malls, Cafes and Restaurants Starting June 1

On 30 May, the Prime Minister chaired the meeting of the Higher Committee for the Management of the Coronavirus Crisis, in the presence of the Minister and a number of ministers and officials. During the meeting, it was agreed to start implementing summer working hours for shops, malls, cafes, and restaurants, starting the first of June 2021. Strict measures will be taken against any establishment violating the set hours and hygiene safety regulations; including a fine and closing down for two weeks the first time and 1 month if repeated. .

Egypt Elected President of the Middle East Regional Committee in the UNWTO

Egypt won the presidency of the Middle East Regional Committee of the World Tourism Organization. This was during the elections held on the 47th meeting of the committee, which was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on May 26 and 27. During the meeting, it was agreed that Egypt will host the meeting of the committee in its 48th edition scheduled to be held early 2022.

The Minister, participated in the opening session of the “Tourism Recovery” summit held within the framework of the 47th meeting of the Middle East Regional Committee of the World Tourism Organization. It was inaugurated by



The opening session of the “Tourism Recovery” summit

the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, and the ministers of tourism of several countries. During the visit, the Minister met His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Special Adviser to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the non-profit King Salman Foundation. He also held a number of bilateral meetings with his counterparts in Arab nations. He met with the Minister of Tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Minister of the United Arab Emirates for Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises in charge of tourism, the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities in Iraq, and the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The meetings discussed enhancing mutual cooperation between Egypt and those countries in tourism and archaeology. The minister did several media interviews with newspapers, television channels, and Saudi, Arab and international news agencies.

Participating in the Celebration of the Anniversary of the Entrance of the Holy Family into Egypt

On 31 May, upon an invitation from His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of Saint Mark Episcopate, the Minister attended the celebration commemorating the entrance of the Holy Family to Egypt in St Mark’s Cathedral in Abbasia. The ceremony was attended by some ministers, members of the parliament and the senate and state officials.

A documentary about the Institute of Coptic Studies and the activities of Zagazig University and Tell Basta was presented during the event.

During his speech the Minister said that reviving the trail of the Holy Family is one of the most important national projects taking place under the directives of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and constant follow-up from the Prime Minister. He added that the whole government is working on this important initiative in coordination with the Egyptian Church.



The Minister and His Holiness Pope Tawadros II

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Extending the Initiative to Support Domestic Tourism until the End of May 2021

In accordance with the directives of the Prime Minister, the Ministry and the Ministry of Civil Aviation decided to extend the initiative to support domestic tourism until May 2021 ,31, with all the set hygiene safety regulations implemented including hotels operating with 50% of their capacity.

Vaccination of Staff of the Tourism Sector in the Red Sea and South Sinai Continues

During the month of May, the Ministry in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population and the Egyptian Hotel Association continued vaccinating the staff of the tourism sector with the anti-Coronavirus vaccine in the Red Sea and South Sinai. This is the first stage of vaccinating staff working in the tourism sector all around Egypt. Vaccination started in the Red Sea and South Sinai because they receive the largest number inbound tourism to Egypt. The Deputy Minister for Tourism Affairs visited Sharm El-Sheikh, to follow up on the progress of vaccination, and a number of hotels to ensure they are ready for the summer season. In a related context, 726 hotels in 5 governorates and 86 floating hotels have obtained the hygiene safety certificate approved by the Ministry, the Ministry of Health and Population, and the Egyptian Hotel Association since the resumption of tourism.

Continuing Disinfection and Sterilization Procedures in Museums and Archaeological Sites



Disinfection and Sterilization of Sharm El- Sheikh museum

During the month of May, the Ministry continued the sanitation and disinfection process of all Museums and archeological sites to provide the maximum protection to workers, citizens, and tourists from the repercussions of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities visited a number of archaeological sites to follow up on the implementation of these measures. Disinfection and sanitation work is carried out on a daily basis in all museums and archaeological using material approved by the Ministry of Health and Population.

New decisions of the Supreme Council of Antiquities

The Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, headed by the Minister was held on 25 May. The Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, presented a number of archaeological projects, scheduled to open in the coming months; including the restoration of the Southern Tomb in Saqqara, the Palace of Mohammed Ali in Shubra, the Mosque of Altinbugha al-Maridani in historic Cairo, and Wakalat Al-Giddawi in Isna. It was agreed that the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board will promote these upcoming openings. The Board agreed to continue postponing implementation of the new prices for foreigners to archaeological sites and museums until May 2022, as a continuation of the Ministry's policy to support cultural tourism and encourage one-day trips from Red Sea cities to the Nile Valley.

In another context, the Supreme Council of Antiquities agreed to grant African citizens a %50 reduction on entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums, on the occasion of Africa Day celebrated on 25 May.

Tours and Visits

Visiting the Virgin Mary's Tree



The Minister visited Virgin Mary's Tree in Matareya on May 24 to follow up on the ongoing restoration work. This tree is one of the stops of the journey of the Holy Family in Egypt. The Minister asked for labels to be added on the icons in the outer courtyard, adding interactive screens to introduce the visitor to the points of the route of the Holy Family journey in Egypt and its restoration and development projects, in addition to placing some Coptic artifacts on display in the site. The Minister also asked for allocating a place as an outlet for archeological replicas of Konouz factory. In addition to allocating a parking area next to the garden of Virgin Mary's Tree.

... Following up on Renovations in the Citadel of Salah al-Din



The Minister visited the Citadel of Saladin to follow up on the restoration work in Mohammed Ali Mosque and the Clock Tower. Work in the Clock Tower began in December 2020, after completing the necessary archaeological studies and review of the old photos and drawings. The clock in the tower was given to Mohammed Ali Pasha from King Louis Philippe of France in 1846 to be placed in the Palace of Mohammed Ali Pasha in Shubra, and was stored in the palace until it was placed in the mosque during the reign of Khedive Abbas I in 1856.

Gloria Walker Fulfills her Dream of Visiting the Pyramids

On 9 May the Minister met with Mrs. Gloria Walker on the first day of fulfilling her dream of visiting the Pyramids of Giza. The Minister received her at the Sphinx paws, which was opened exceptionally for her.

Over the past few years, Gloria Walker has been the focus of the world's attention, with many international and regional media reporting her story widely, when her son revealed on his Facebook page that his cancer-stricken mother wanted to visit Egypt and watch the Pyramids of Giza.

Gloria Walker and her family's trip to Egypt lasted for a week and included Cairo and South Sinai.



The Minister with Ms Walker and her son

Archaeological Discoveries

Discovering a Number of Tombs in the Hamidiya Necropolis, Sohag

As part of the archaeological documentation and registration project of the rock tombs in al-Hamdiya necropolis in the Eastern Mountain in Sohag governorate, the Archaeological Mission of the Supreme Council of Antiquities succeeded in uncovering a large number of rock tombs of multiple models. Around 250 tombs etched at several levels in the mountain. They included tombs with a shaft or several burial shafts and others with a ramp that ends with a burial chamber. These tombs date back from the end of the Old Kingdom to the end of the Ptolemaic period.



External Exhibitions

Participating in the 41st FITUR Exhibition in Madrid

Under the slogan “To activate tourism”, the ministry participated with a delegation from the tourism sector headed by the CEO of the Egyptian General Authority for Tourism Activation in the activities of the 41st edition of the International Travel and Tourism Exhibition (FITUR) in the Spanish capital, Madrid, which was held from May 19 to 23, with the participation of 60 countries. The head of the authority inaugurated the Egyptian pavilion participating in the exhibition, and met with the president of the Spanish Tourism Authority, in addition to holding a number of intensive professional meetings with representatives of major tour operators, tourism companies, airlines and hotels in the Spanish market, and a series of media meetings, in the Egyptian pavilion, with representatives of a number of Newspapers, television channels and international news agencies.

... In the UITT Exhibition in Ukraine

The Ministry represented by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board, participated in the UITT International Tourism Fair in Kyiv, Ukraine, from May 11 to 13, with the aim of boosting tourist traffic from Ukraine. The UITT is one of the largest international tourism fairs in Ukraine. The CEO of the ETPB participated in a number of meetings with Ukrainian officials in the field of travel and tourism, and the President of the National Tourism Organization of Ukraine, tour operators, representatives of tourism federations in the Ukrainian market and representatives of government agencies from other countries in the tourism and aviation sector.

The Ceo also met with the President of the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry UCCI.

In addition to a number of media meetings with the Ukrainian media.

...And the Milan International Tourism Fair “BIT”

The Ministry represented by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board participated in the Milan International Tourism Fair “BIT” in its virtual version 2021, that was held from 9 to 14 May. This exhibition is one of the most important tourism exhibitions in the Italian market. It is held in Milan, northern Italy, and attended by tour operators from all over the world.

“Kings of the Sun” Exhibition in Prague is Fully Booked until June 2021

Since its reopening on 4 May, after a short pause in the wake of the of the Coronavirus pandemic, all tickets for the exhibition “Kings of the Sun” in the Czech capital Prague have been sold out until June 6. The number of visitors since its reopening reached nearly 10,000 visitors.

This exhibition, which was inaugurated by the Minister and Czech Prime in August 2020, is the first for Egyptian antiquities in Prague, Czech Republic, and the largest exhibition of antiquities of the old kingdom. The exhibition

includes 90 artifacts from the excavations of the Czech mission in the archaeological area of Abu Sir, including the head of a statue of King “Ra-Nefer-Ef”. In addition to a number of statues from the Old Kingdom, including a statue of a writer, statues of senior statesmen and employees, and a group of canopic jars, in addition to 10 faience ushabti figurines.



some of the artifacts in the exhibition

Tourism Promotion

The Egyptian Museum in Tahrir and the Giza Pyramids Receive Russian Blogger Josen Gasanov

On 3 May, the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir and the Giza Pyramids received well-known Russian blogger and influencer Gusen Gasanov, who has 16.5 million followers on his Instagram page.

He shared his visits on his account on Instagram, and invited his followers to visit Egypt.



45 Bloggers from 16 Countries Visit Sharm El-Sheikh Museum

Sharm El-Sheikh Museum in South Sinai governorate received a delegation of 45 bloggers from 16 countries, including Russia, Ukraine, the Netherlands, Greece, America, Italy, Armenia among others.

South Sinai governorate prepared a program for them from May 21st until May 27th. It included visiting Sharm El-Sheikh Museum, the old Market and the Sahaba Mosque, in addition to a sea cruise.



The bloggers in the museum

Participating in the Closing Ceremony of El-Gouna International Squash Open

On 28 May, on behalf the Minister, CEO of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board, attended the closing ceremony of the 9th edition of the the 2021 El-Gouna International Squash Open for men and women. The tournament was held from May 20 to 28, at El-Gouna Convention and Culture Center (GCCC) in Hurghada under the auspices of the Ministry and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Miscellaneous News

Getting Khufu Solar Boat Ready to be Moved to the Grand Egyptian Museum

On 5 May, the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities followed up on the progress of work in the process of the transportation of the first Khufu Solar Boat from its current display site at the Khufu Boat Museum in the Giza Plateau to its new display place at the Grand Egyptian Museum. The packaging and reinforcement work on the body of the boat is conducted in accordance with scientific international standards. The restoration team performed a comprehensive cleansing of the body of the boat before the reinforcement work taking very good care of the safety of all parts of the boat during the transfer, in addition to using of acid-free materials in the packaging process.



The team working on Khufu Solar Boat

The Original External Gate of the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir is Reinstalled

The original external gate of the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir was reinstalled on 11 May. It was dismantled months ago and preserved in the museum's garden, and replaced with another modern gate temporarily to allow a smooth exit of the cars carrying the royal mummies on the day of the "Pharaohs' Golden Parade", from the museum the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat. The museum's original outdoor gate was restored last year, for the first time since it was damaged in 2011.

The Russian Minister of Youth and Sports Visits the Religions Complex

On May 23, the Religions Complex hosted the Minister of Youth and Sports and his Russian counterpart. They visited the Hanging Church, Amr Ibn Al-Aas Mosque, and Abu Serga Church. They were accompanied by the Head of the Islamic, Coptic and Judaic Antiquities Sector, who explained the history of the area and the renovations and development work done in it.

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board

The Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board headed by the Minister, met on 31 May. The meeting discussed mechanisms and proposals for promoting tourism during the coming period. They also discussed the Agenda of Events of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities during the coming three months, and emphasized the importance of having one events agenda for Egypt. The Board reviewed the media strategy of the Ministry, which will be ready within two months, in order to launch a 3 - year international promotion campaign for Egypt before the beginning of next fall.

Promoting Ecotourism

The Minister met with the, Minister of Environment to discuss ways to support environmental and sustainable tourism and promoting ecotourism, especially Eco-Egypt's campaign, locally and internationally. The two ministers also discussed activating licenses for environmentally friendly hotels and the development of procedures for environmental impact assessment studies for hotels to provide a sustainable climate for environmental tourism in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy.

Meeting with a Serbian Government Delegation

On 25 May, the Minister met with a Serbian government delegation headed by Governor of "Vojvodina" province of the Republic of Serbia. During the meeting, they discussed enhancing tourism and archaeological cooperation between the two countries and increasing inbound tourism from Serbia. They also discussed the work of the joint Egyptian-Serbian committee, which will witness a broader framework of cooperation. While in Egypt, the Serbian delegation visited the Pyramids of Giza and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat.

Enhancing Cooperation Between Egypt and Greece

On 23 May, the Minister received the ambassador of Greece in Cairo. They discussed ways to enhance tourism and archaeological cooperation especially with the gradual opening of tourism in Greece. They also discussed the possibility of cooperation in the field of scientific research, the work of joint archaeological missions, and coordination regarding the preparation of joint tourism programs between the two countries, in the field of sea cruises.

Archaeological Awareness and Training



Students from Qena and Luxor visiting Karnak temple

The Department of Cultural Development and Community Communication launched an initiative titled "Hekayetna" (Our story) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education to raise tourism and archaeological awareness among school students; by organizing a number of visits to tourist and archaeological sites in the various Egyptian governorates.

NMEC Receives Visitors from All Over the World



NMEC has seen a large turnout of visitors since its opening last April. Dozens of tourist groups from France, Spain, the United States of America, Brazil, Romania, Japan and China flocked to the Museum during the month of May. They toured the Central Exhibition hall and the Royal Mummies Hall.

The Museum also received a number of public figures and foreign ambassadors in Cairo; including the Russian, the Japanese, and the Belgian ambassadors. An American delegation including the US National Security Council's coordinator for the MENA, the Counselor of the US Department of State, the National Security Council Coordinator for MENA, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle Eastern Affairs also visited the Museum. The Museum also received a high-level delegation from the Francophone University Agency, and a delegation of the Federation of African Olympic Committees "ANUKA".



Organizing a Visit to the Museum on Africa Day



On the occasion of Africa Day, which Egypt celebrates along with fellow African countries, on 25 May, the Ministry in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged a visit for the ambassadors of African countries and their spouses to the Museum. The tour included a visit to the Central Exhibition Hall, the Mummies Hall, and the Museum Garden.

H.E. the President Issues a Decree Forming GEM's Board of Trustees for 3 Years

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi issued on 17 May a presidential decree forming the board of trustees of GEM for three years, headed by H.E. the President.

The board of trustees includes foreigners, namely Japanese Deputy Prime Minister, Director of Kyoto National Museum, His Royal Highness Special Adviser to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the non-profit King Salman Foundation, the secretary-general of the World Tourism Organisation, and the director of the Metropolitan Museum.

The Egyptian board members are the Ministers of Tourism and Antiquities, Finance, and Culture, as well as Zahi Hawass, Farouk Hosny, Hesham Okasha, Farouk El-Okda, TV host Sherif Amer, Mohamed Lotfi Mansour, and the director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

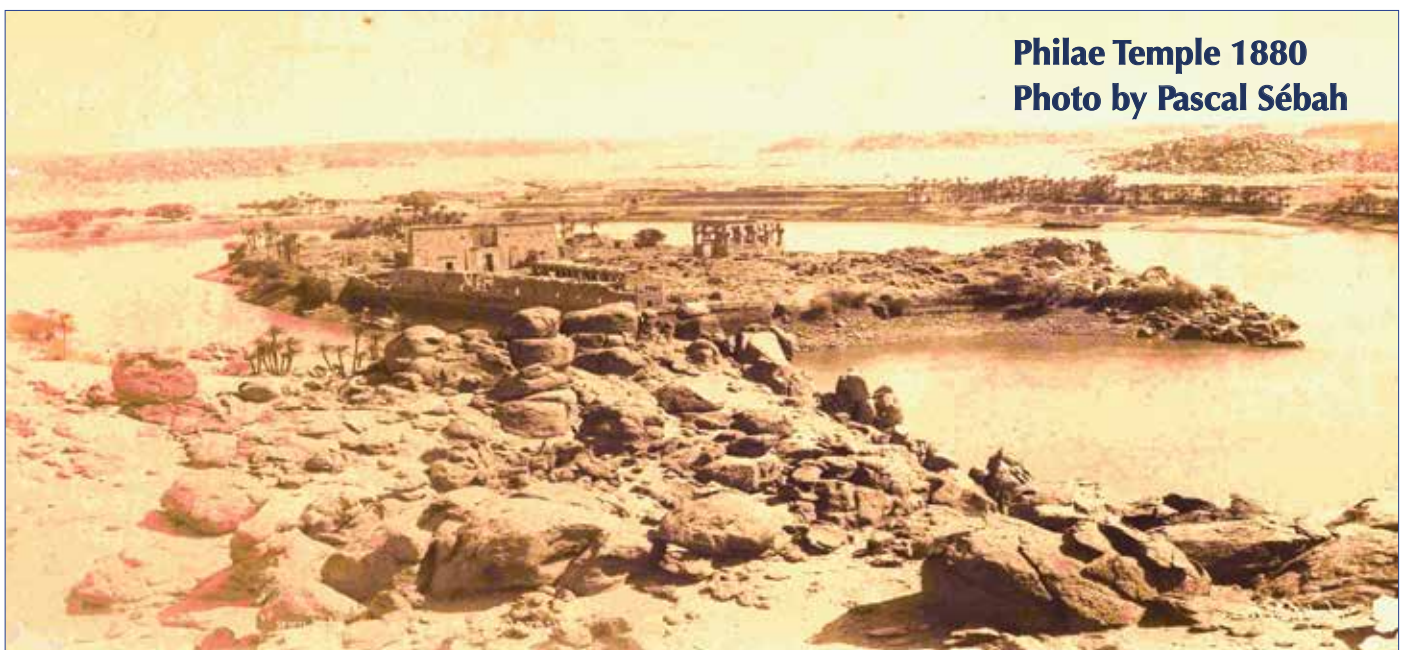
Re-Installation of King Tutankhamun's Third Shrine is Complete

The GEM's restorers and archaeologists have finished reinstalling the third Shrine of King Tutankhamun, which the museum received last month. Re-installation took about 14 hours of meticulous and delicate work, in preparation for displaying it with the rest of the Shrines of the Boy King.

A team of restorers from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir and the GEM are currently working in the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, on the restoration, supporting and protection for the first and second Shrines of King Tutankhamun. Scientific documentation, including X-ray radiography, photography and video, is taking place and a comprehensive report is prepared on the status of each shrine, which would help in the process of dismantling and regrouping, in preparation for their transfer to the GEM.



From the Archive of the Center of Documentation



Philae Temple 1880
Photo by Pascal Sébah

Opening 2 Museums on International Day of Museums



The museum at terminal 2

On 18 May of each year, the world celebrates the International Day of Museums. On this occasion, the Minister and Minister of Civil Aviation inaugurated two antiquities museums in Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 of Cairo International Airport. On this day both museums were open free of charge for all travelers. The idea behind those museums is to give travelers a glimpse of the unique treasures of the great Egyptian civilization.

Terminal 2 Museum houses 304 artifacts and terminal 3 Museum displays 59 artifacts, all unique and carefully selected. To encourage travelers to visit these museums, entry tickets were set at \$ 3 or LE 50 for a foreign visitor and LE 25 for Egyptian visitors.

ICOM organised International Museum Day (IMD), in 1977. Its objective is to raise awareness about the fact that "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples."

Each year has a theme and this year it was "The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine".



The museum at terminal 3



PEPSICO INERTIA SAMSUNG windfalfilms



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