



PRESS KIT
2026

EDITORIAL



The first museum created to commemorate the victory over Nazism after the Liberation, the Dday museum in Arromanches is the second most visited museum in France on the theme of the Normandy Landings. The museum is accredited under the French Museums Act 2002-5 of January 4, 2002.

The failure of the Canadian raid on Dieppe in 1942 led the Allies to conclude that no port, essential for supplying the landed troops, could be taken from the enemy. Winston Churchill came up with the idea of building prefabricated harbors in England, towed across the English Channel and installed in Normandy - Operation Mulberry. One port was set up in the American landing sector at Saint-Laurent-sur-mer (MULBERRY A), and a second at Arromanches (MULBERRY B). Telling the story of this MULBERRY B is the raison d'être of the Arromanches museum.

Inaugurated on June 5, 1954, the museum closed its doors definitively on November 2, 2022, to make way for a new facility. This marked the start of a race against time to transfer the collections, base them and be ready to welcome visitors in a new setting costing some 10 million euros by April 2023.

Like MULBERRY B, the building to house the collections is made entirely of rough-cast concrete, prefabricated in a factory and erected on site. The three-storey building features full-height glazing and a roof terrace. A new facility also means a new approach to museography. With double the exhibition space, the collection is displayed in a way that is more in line with today's standards. The right balance is struck between traditional museography and multimedia. The establishment's core business, which is to explain the history of man-made ports, is reaffirmed and placed in the context of the Normandy landings.

Composed of seven areas, the museographical tour ends with an immersive video mapping on a 28 m² model, allowing visitors to understand the workings of the Arromanches artificial harbour. The year 2023 saw the addition of a second building section in place of the current museum. This will be devoted to storage and administration. At the same time, two outdoor areas were created. To the east, a pine garden for strolling and temporary outdoor exhibitions, and to the west, a memorial esplanade leading to the museum entrance.

With the disappearance of the direct witnesses to these events, the museum, whose discourse was essentially based on the celebration of the Allied victory, underwent a profound transformation with the aim of moving from memory to history. In fact, it has become a privileged place for transmitting information to younger generations.

Frédéric Sommier
Directeur du Musée du Débarquement



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THE ORIGINS OF THE MUSEUM

The Dday museum in Arromanches was the first museum to be created on this theme in the aftermath of the Second World War. As early as 1945, the municipal councils of the D-Day landing towns met regularly to coordinate reconstruction: they presented the Prefect of Normandy with proposals concerning development and town-planning plans, monuments and commemorative plaques, as well as the organization of anniversaries and ceremonies.

The Comité du Débarquement, founded in 1945, is also responsible for commemorating June 6, 1945. It was against this backdrop that the idea of building a museum in Arromanches to commemorate the D-Day landings was mooted. The initiative came from Raymond Triboulet, the first sub-prefect of the Free French in 1944 in Bayeux (Calvados), then a minister under General de Gaulle, and a former member of the French Resistance. The Musée du Débarquement at Arromanches, designed by the architect Carpentier, was inaugurated on June 5, 1954 by René Coty, President of the French Republic. Until its closure, the former Arromanches museum building will have welcomed over 20 million visitors.

A major cultural facility in Calvados and Normandy, the Landing Museum's mission is to present its collections and a discourse accessible to as many people as possible on the history of the Landing, and in particular the construction of the Mulberry B artificial harbour, the remains of which can still be seen outside the museum.

In 2007, the Comité du Débarquement handed over management of the museum to the commune of Arromanches, which set up a Groupement d'Intérêt Public (GIP) with the Comité as its private partner. In 2023, the Airborne Museum association joins this partnership.

A new page in the museum's history was written in April 2023, with the opening of a new building designed by the Projectiles agency and inaugurated by French President Emmanuel Macron on June 6, 2023.



THE MUSEUM OVER TIME



1953

Museum opens to the public

1956

On June 6, models of the port make their debut in the museum

1990

Completion of the veranda and opening to the public

1954

Official inauguration of the museum by René Coty, President of the French Republic

1985

Creation of the museum store

2007

Creation of the Groupement d'Intérêt Public, the museum's new way of management

2021

January marks the start of work on the new museum

2024

Inauguration of the Pine Garden on June 29

2012

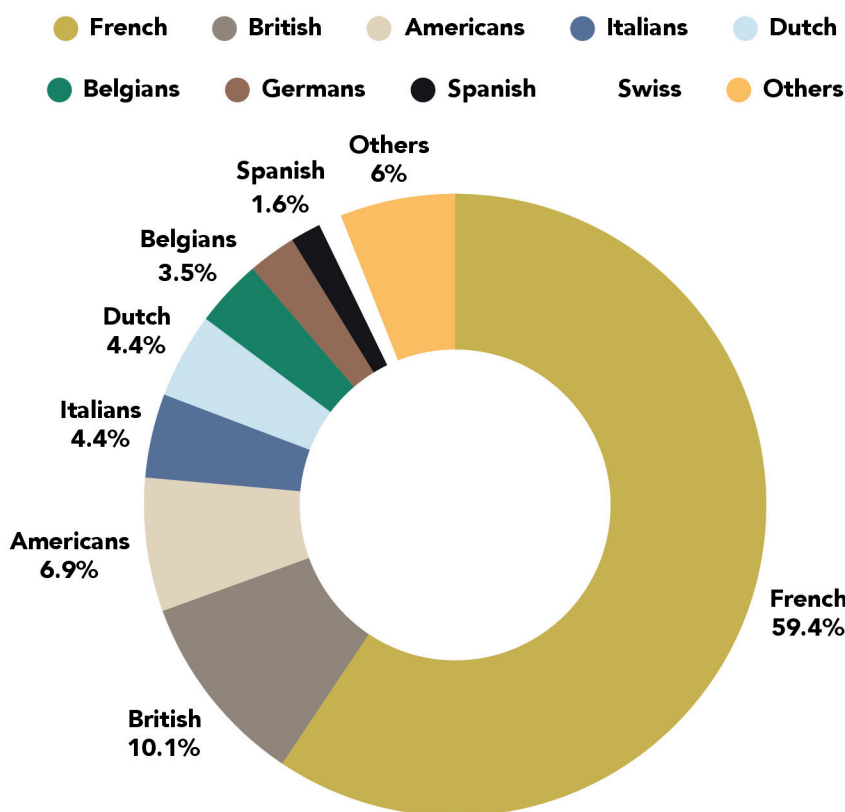
Start of the new museum project

2023

New museum opens to the public on April 1

Official inauguration of the museum by French President Emmanuel Macron

THE MUSEUM'S KEY FIGURES 2024



From January 1st to December 31, 2024.

312 557 the total number of visitors to the museum in 2024

313 000 average annual frequency since 1954 (in no. of visitors)

THE REVIVAL OF THE MUSEUM



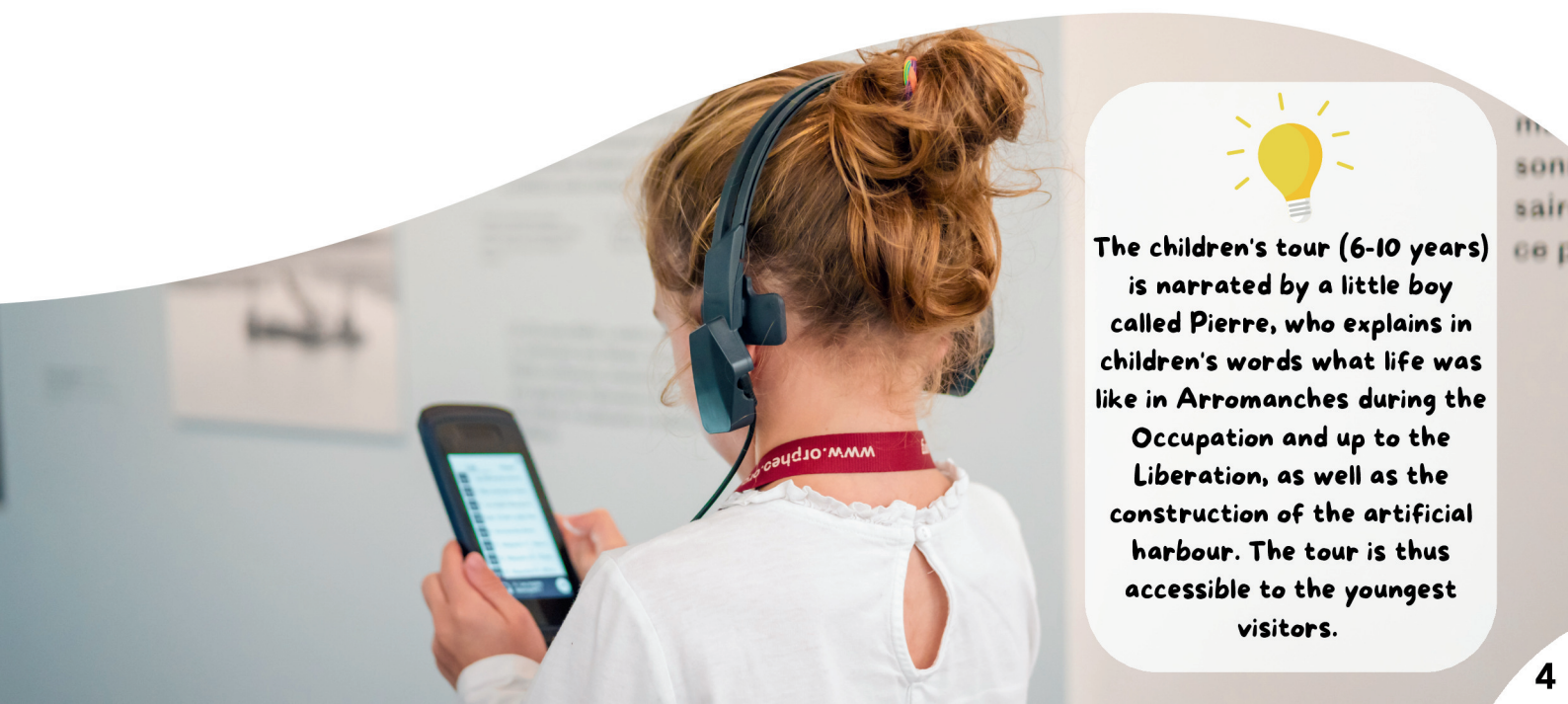
On April 1, 2023, the restructured museum opened its doors after more than two years of renovation.

In this new setting, all tours are now audioguided. The “classic” tour lasts an average of 1h30. An audioguide specially designed for children (6-10 years) is also available. A 45-minute automated group tour is also available.

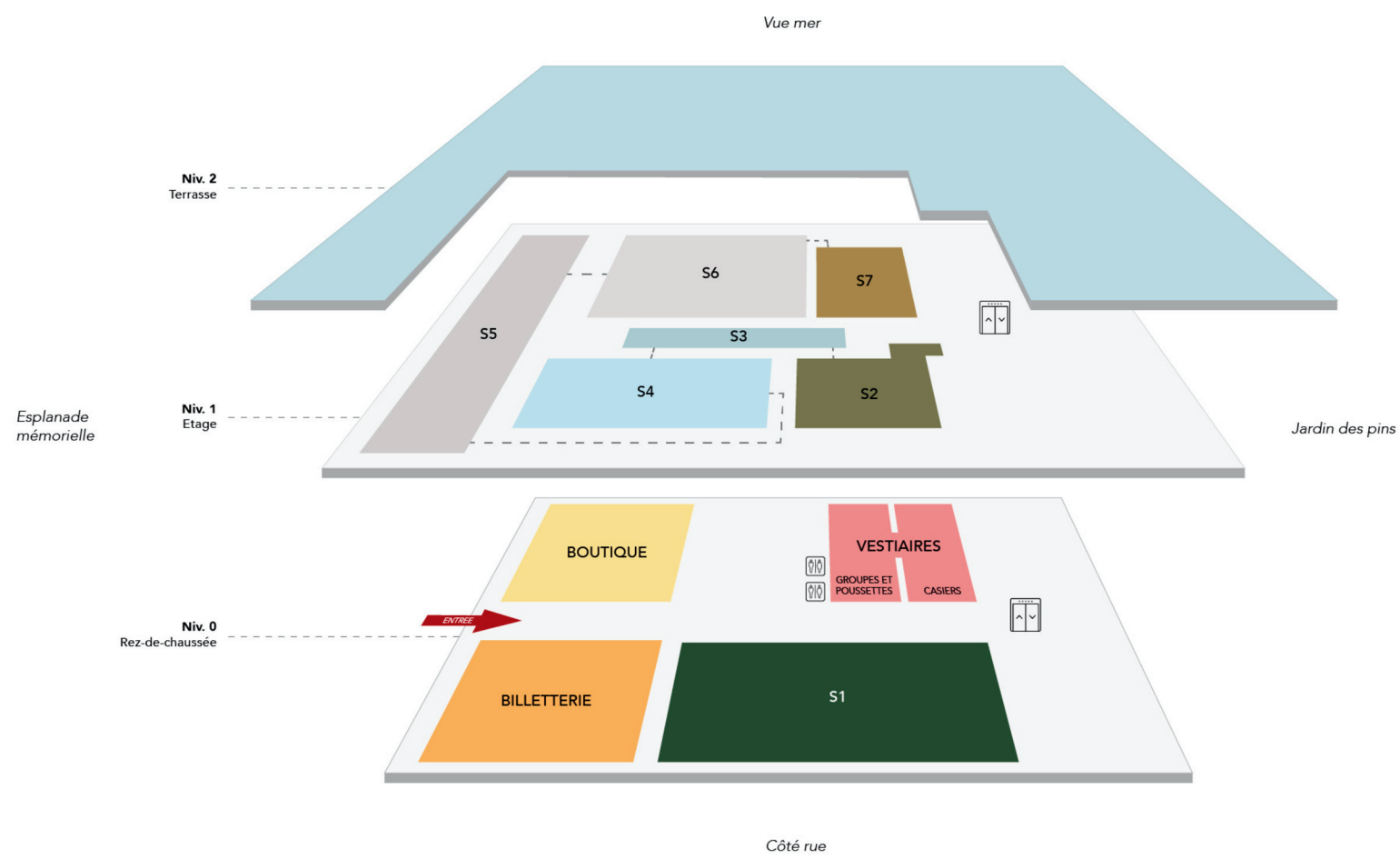
Audioguides are available in 10 languages, to guarantee a uniform transcription of the visit for all our visitors (French, English, Italian, German, Dutch, Spanish, Czech, Hebrew, Chinese, Polish).

The museum is also equipped with podotactile signage, a magnetic loop for the hearing impaired, LSF integration in audio guides and an audio guide in FALC.

The museum's permanent exhibition is divided into 7 parts: an introductory film to set the context for the visit, followed by 6 sequences recounting Arromanches during the Occupation, the story of the D-Day Landings on the 5 beaches (Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword), and above all the incredible story of the artificial port and its role in the Battle of Normandy.



The children's tour (6-10 years) is narrated by a little boy called Pierre, who explains in children's words what life was like in Arromanches during the Occupation and up to the Liberation, as well as the construction of the artificial harbour. The tour is thus accessible to the youngest visitors.



- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  Séquence 1
Film Introductif |  Séquence 3
La faille |  Séquence 5
La galerie des maquettes |  Séquence 7
La bataille de Normandie |
|  Séquence 2
L'Europe à l'heure des ténèbres |  Séquence 4
L'assaut |  Séquence 6
Le port en fonctionnement | |

FOCUS ON THE MUSEUM

PART 1 INTRODUCTORY FILM

Once you've picked up your audioguide from the museum's reception staff, the cinema is the first part of the museum to which visitors should head. Here, an 8-minute film is shown. From the Treaty of Versailles, through Hitler's rise to power, to the construction of the artificial harbour at Arromanches, this film provides context for the visit to follow.

A few extracts



PART 2

EUROPE IN THE HOUR OF DARKNESS

The second section looks at the German occupation of Arromanches during the Second World War. The preparation of the D-Day landings through the actions of the French resistance and British spies is also evoked. Finally, numerous photographs and documents relating to the conferences attended by many Allied heads of state are on display.

The story of Robert Thomas, a pioneer of the Resistance in Calvados, is told.



In this room, several display cases showcase the equipment used by German soldiers at the time.



PART 3

THE NIGHT OF JUNE 5TH

The rest of the tour takes visitors to the heart of "the rift".

This area features a projection of the events of the night of June 5-6, 1944. Here, images of the bombing raids and parachute drops that took place in the run-up to D-Day are shown.

The display cases in this area show the outfits worn by the pilots and paratroopers (British and American) at the time.



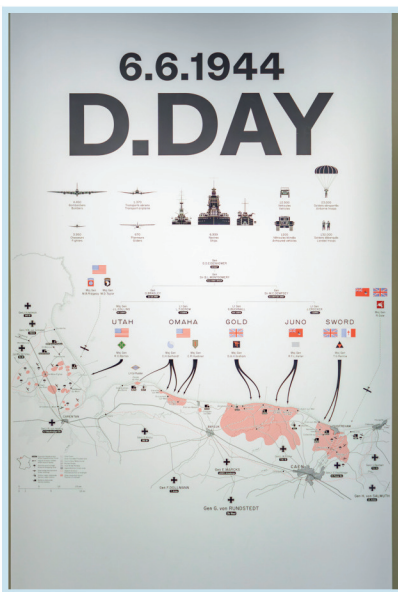
500 Rupert dolls like this one were dropped on the night of June 5-6 in Normandy as a diversionary tactic.



PART 4

THE ASSAULT

This room, dedicated to the D-Day landings, features a 7-minute archive film explaining how Operation Neptune unfolded on the five Normandy landing beaches. On the display side, the left-hand side of the room is dedicated to Gold Beach, the British sector in 1944 where the museum is located today.



Numerous objects and uniforms belonging to British soldiers are on display. The right-hand side of the room is devoted to the other four beaches: Utah, Omaha, Juno and Sword. These showcases include the jacket and revolver of Philippe Kieffer, leader of the French commandos who landed on Sword Beach on June 6, 1944.



PART 5

THE MODELS GALLERY

In this part of the museum, large-scale models - one of which is animated - show the various parts of the artificial harbour at the time. These models, which were installed in 1956, are the heart and soul of the museum, and help visitors to understand how the port functioned.

At the end of each model, an archive film is projected, putting the elements of the port in context.



A diving suit used by the Royal Navy. It was used to inspect the seabed for prefabricated harbors.



PART 6

THE HARBOUR IN OPERATION

This space features a large 28 m² model in pristine Corian, depicting the coast in relief, from Tracy-sur-Mer to Asnelles. A video mapping system is projected onto this model, a new feature of the restructured museum. Using light effects and images projected onto the model, visitors can follow the construction of the port day by day. This immersive sequence also highlights the port's role in the logistics of the Battle of Normandy.

Numerous showcases display officer, sailor and stretcher-bearer uniforms. The role of women in the British Army is also highlighted.



An immersive, educational projection that will delight young and old alike.



PART 7

THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY

This last sequence, a link between the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy, is intended to create a link with museums that deal specifically with this subject.

Through film and archive footage, it also presents life in Arromanches after the conflict, and what became of the port after November 19, 1944, the date on which it ceased to be used.

Finally, an archive film is dedicated to the remains of the port and the underwater remains linked to the D-Day landings, which still exist on the seabed.

Engine of a Hawker Typhoon
found 5m underground in
Normandy, between Cheux and
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THE ROOF TERRACE



At the end of your visit, head up to the second floor of the museum to enjoy a breathtaking view of the remains of the artificial harbour. Offering an exceptional panorama of the sea and this unique historic site, this space will allow you to admire the sheer scale of this engineering feat from a new perspective.

An unmissable experience that will give you a deeper understanding of history whilst enjoying spectacular surroundings!

Open subject to weather conditions.



THE SHOP



Round off your visit with a stop at the museum shop, located at the end of the exhibition. There you'll find a wide selection of books on the D-Day landings and the Second World War, games and souvenirs for all ages, commemorative medals and a selection of local products.

The perfect place to extend your experience and take home a souvenir of Arromanches!



TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

80 ANS DÉJÀ ! RETOUR SUR LES COMMÉMORATIONS DU 6 JUIN 1944



From May 2024, discover the temporary exhibition "80 years already! A look back at the commemorations of 6 June 1944", which traces 80 years of commemorations since 1945 through archive photographs, press articles and more...

You'll discover the key moments that have marked these commemorations, from the creation of the D-Day Committee by Raymond Triboulet in 1945 to the international ceremonies that today bring together the heads of state of the countries involved in the Second World War.



OUTSIDE TEMPORARY EXHIBITION



From Saturday 23 May 2026, discover our new temporary outdoor exhibition, set up in the pine garden behind the museum.

Offering a fresh perspective on Operations Overlord and Dragoon, this exhibition – comprising 10 triptychs – highlights the decisive role played by the sea in the success of the 1944 landings. Logistics, naval strategy, the transport of troops and equipment, not to mention the commitment of French sailors: these are just some of the themes that invite visitors to rediscover a crucial chapter in the Liberation. An open-air exhibition, accessible to all, offering a deeper understanding of how control of the seas helped pave the way to victory.



INSCRIPTION ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST



liberté
j'inscris
ton nom

LES PLAGES DU DÉBARQUEMENT,
NORMANDIE, 1944
inscrites au Patrimoine
mondial de l'UNESCO

Des lieux d'Histoire, un héritage pour l'humanité.
Utah - Omaha - Gold - Juno - Sword - Pointe du Hoc.
La reconnaissance du caractère exceptionnel de ces sites
souligne la valeur de ce patrimoine universel, porteur
de paix, de liberté et de coopération entre les peuples.

Pointe du Hoc
Utah Beach
Omaha Beach
Gold Beach
Juno Beach
Sword Beach

10 RÉGION
NORMANDIE

Scannez pour
voir les Plages du
Débarquement

1944 D-DAY
NORMANDIE
TERRE DE LIBERTÉ

Page d'information inscrite au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Photo: M. Chénier - M. N. 1944 - D-Day Normandie

The Normandy D-Day Landing Beaches are now inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This international recognition includes Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword Beaches, as well as Pointe du Hoc. It highlights their outstanding universal value and their major role in the liberation of Europe, while conveying a universal message of remembrance, peace and freedom. In Arromanches, the remains of the Mulberry B artificial harbour still bear witness to the extraordinary scale of this operation.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



SCHEDULES 2026

FEBRUARY - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER
10AM TO 5PM

MARCH - OCTOBER
9:30AM TO 5:30PM

APRIL - SEPTEMBER
9AM TO 6PM

MAY - JUNE - JULY - AUGUST
9AM TO 7PM

ANNUAL CLOSURE IN JANUARY

EASTER WEEKEND
9AM TO 7PM

CLOSED DECEMBER 24, 25 AND 31

SUNDAYS
**10 AM (EXCEPT JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST:
9 AM)**

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RATES 2026

INDIVIDUAL RATES

ADULTS: €12.90
CHILDREN (6-18) / STUDENTS: €8.30
**FAMILY PASS (2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN):
€37**
ADDITIONAL CHILD: €4

GROUP RATES (20 PERS. MINIMUM)

ADULTS: €9.50
CHILDREN (6-18) / STUDENTS: €5.70

FIND US

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