

GT Experiences

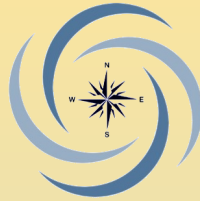
Turkey



GT Experiences

17 Legion Place - Rochelle Park NJ 07662 USA

Tel. 201 2663363—Toll free 888 913 2801—email info@gtexperiences.net—web www.gtexperiences.net



GT Experiences

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Magical Istanbul

Day 1 – Arrival in Istanbul

Arrival in Istanbul and transfer to the hotel. The remaining of the day is at leisure.

Day 2 – Istanbul; City Sightseeing

Start a leisurely day, drive to pier in Eminonu area for a short visit to historical **Spice Market (Egyptian Bazaar)**. This bazaar was built in 1664 as a part of Yeni Mosque complex situated nearby and named Egyptian Bazaar because spices and herbs brought from or via Egypt were sold in it.

Then, board a **private boat for the cruise along the Bosphorus**, a narrow strait between the continents of Europe and Asia connecting Black Sea in the north to the Sea of Marmara in the South. In the Byzantine and early Ottoman days, there was little settlement on either sides of the Bosphorus but as of the 18th century, it became a favorite place for the sultans and their entourage where they built their kiosks and waterside residence.

Meet with your guide at the lobby and drive to the Asian Side of Istanbul via transcontinental **Bosphorus Bridge**, unique in the world connecting two continents Asia and Europe. The bridge was built in 1973, the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. Its length is 1.560 m (1,074 m over the sea) and height from the sea is 64 m. It is the fourth longest suspension bridge in the world.



Visit **Beylerbeyi Palace**, situated on the shore at the Asian end of the Bosphorus Bridge and built between 1861 and 1864 by Sultan Abdulaziz. The palace is a three-story structure set on terraced grounds planted with trees brought from the entire world. The interior was decorated in a style typical of the 19th century – Europe and the original furniture is still in display. The building itself, constructed in the French Baroque style, is made of stone and marble. It was used by the Ottoman sultans as a summer residence. Then, drive to **Camlica Hill**, highest one in Istanbul, to enjoy the panoramic view of the city. Overnight in Istanbul

Day 3 – Istanbul; City Sightseeing

After breakfast, drive to old town and visit **Hippodrome Square**, the scene of Chariot races and the center of Byzantine civic life which was originally built by Roman Emperor Septimus in 203 AD. Then visit **Blue Mosque**, built in early 17th century and known as Blue Mosque because of its magnificent interior decoration with blue Iznik tiles. It is also unique in the world to have 6 minarets.

Continue to **St. Sophia Museum**, built by Emperor Constantius in 360 AD. St. Sophia was for many centuries the world's largest church and today is the fourth largest one after St. Paul's in London, St. Peter's in Rome and Duomo in Milan.

Throughout its Byzantine history, St. Sophia served as the cathedral of the city where emperors were crowned and victories celebrated.

After his conquest of the city in 1453, Sultan Mehmet II ordered for the building to be converted into a mosque by the addition of Islamic elements such as a mihrab, a minbar, minarets etc.

After having served this time as a mosque for 481 years, the building became a museum in 1934 by the order of Ataturk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey.





After lunch visit **Topkapi Palace**, built by Sultan Mehmet II after the conquest of Istanbul in 15th century. The palace housed the sultans and their exotic entourage until mid 19th century. The complex is a group of structures which incorporates works from successive periods of Ottoman reign. Today the museum displays priceless collections of the imperial treasury, numerous pieces of Chinese porcelain, traditional costumes of the sultans and their families and special section for the preservation of the relics of Prophet Mohammed.

Last stop will be at famous historical **Grand Bazaar**, the largest “souk” covered oriental shopping mall in the world, where you will find 4,400 shops under one roof where each trade has its own street. There is a wide selection of leather, jewelry, antiques, copperware, souvenirs, and famous hand-made Turkish carpets displayed in this historical shopping center.

Overnight in Istanbul

Day 4 – Departure

After breakfast, transfer to airport for your departure flight.



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Istanbul & Izmir (Ephesus)

Day 1 – Arrival in Istanbul

Arrival in Istanbul and transfer to the hotel. The remaining of the day is at leisure.

Day 2 – Istanbul; City Sightseeing

Start a leisurely day, drive to pier in Eminonu area for a short visit to historical **Spice Market (Egyptian Bazaar)**. This bazaar was built in 1664 as a part of Yeni Mosque complex situated nearby and named Egyptian Bazaar because spices and herbs brought from or via Egypt were sold in it.

Then, board a **private boat for the cruise along the Bosphorus**, a narrow strait between the continents of Europe and Asia connecting Black Sea in the north to the Sea of Marmara in the South. In the Byzantine and early Ottoman days, there was little settlement on either sides of the Bosphorus but as of the 18th century, it became a favorite place for the sultans and their entourage where they built their kiosks and waterside residence. Meet with your guide at the lobby and drive to the Asian Side of Istanbul via trans-continental **Bosphorus Bridge**, unique in the world connecting two continents Asia and Europe. The bridge was built in 1973, the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. It's length is 1.560 m (1,074 m over the sea) and height from the sea is 64 m. It is the fourth longest suspension bridge in the world.



Visit **Beylebeyi Palace**, situated on the shore at the Asian end of the Bosphorus Bridge and built between 1861 and 1864 by Sultan Abdulaziz. The palace is a three-story structure set on terraced grounds planted with trees brought from the entire world. The interior was decorated in a style typical of the 19th century – Europe and the original furniture is still in display. The building itself, constructed in the French Baroque style, is made of stone and marble. It was used by the Ottoman sultans as a summer residence.

Then, drive to **Camlica Hill**, highest one in Istanbul, to enjoy the panoramic view of the city. Overnight in Istanbul

Day 3 – Istanbul; City Sightseeing

After breakfast, drive to old town and visit **Hippodrome Square**, the scene of Chariot races and the center of Byzantine civic life which was originally built by Roman Emperor Septimus in 203 AD. Then visit **Blue Mosque**, built in early 17th century and known as Blue Mosque because of its magnificent interior decoration with blue Iznik tiles. It is also unique in the world to have 6 minarets. Continue to **St. Sophia Museum**, built by Emperor Constantius in 360 AD. St. Sophia was for many centuries the world's largest church and today is the fourth largest one after St. Paul's in London, St. Peter's in Rome and Duomo in Milan.

Throughout its Byzantine history, St. Sophia served as the cathedral of the city where emperors were crowned and victories celebrated. After his conquest of the city in 1453, Sultan Mehmet II ordered for the building to be converted into a mosque by the addition of Islamic elements such as a mihrab, a minbar, minarets etc.

After having served this time as a mosque for 481 years, the building became a museum in 1934 by the order of Ataturk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey.

After lunch visit **Topkapi Palace**, built by Sultan Mehmet II after the conquest of Istanbul in 15th century. The palace housed the sultans and their exotic entourage until mid 19th century. The complex is a group of structures which incorporates works from successive periods of Ottoman reign. Today the museum displays priceless collections of the imperial treasury, numerous pieces of Chinese porcelain, traditional costumes of the sultans and their families and special section for the preservation of the relics of Prophet Mohammed.

Last stop will be at famous historical **Grand Bazaar**, the largest "souk" covered oriental shopping mall in the world, where you will find 4,400 shops under one roof where each trade has its own street. There is a wide selection of leather, jewelry, antiques,

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copperware, souvenirs, and famous hand-made Turkish carpets displayed in this historical shopping center. Overnight in Istanbul

Day 4 – Istanbul / Izmir – Ephesus

After breakfast, transfer to domestic airport for your flight to Izmir.

Drive to visit **Ephesus**, the Roman capital of Asia Minor which remains to be the best preserved ancient city in the world. During the golden age of the Roman Empire (2nd century AD), Ephesus was an important commercial and cultural center. The protector of the city was Artemis, the Goddess whose temple was one of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World”. The Ephesians still worshipped Artemis when St. Paul came to the city to win converts. St. John brought Virgin Mary to Ephesus after the death of Jesus Christ and she lived until the age of 101 in a small house built for her on Mt. Koressos.



Now, the popular place of pilgrimage for Catholics and Muslims, the house received the official sanction of the Vatican and a commemoration ceremony is held every year on August 15th. The third church council in 431 was held in the Basilica of Virgin Mary in Ephesus.



Continue to visit, the **House of the Virgin** where it's believed that she passed last years of her life and died. She came to Ephesus together with St. John and

taken up to Panaghia Kapulu Mountain to survive the Roman persecutions. The House was destroyed by many earthquakes and not discovered until 1951 thanks to a German Nun Catherine Emmerich who saw its location in her visions. It is recognized as a shrine by Vatican. Now the House of Virgin Mary is renovated by George Quatman Foundation from Ohio and serves as a small church which attracts many Christians as well as Muslims coming to pray for her. Last stop will be the **Basilica of St. John** which was built in 6th century. The building was in the shape of a cross and was covered by 6 domes. Under the central dome was the tomb of St. John; that has a marble marker today. When Christianity became the state religion, the crowds who once flocked to the Temple of Diana turned their attention to this cathedral. Overnight in Izmir.



Day 5 – Izmir

Free day in Izmir to enjoy the beautiful city or join one of the optional tours such as;

- Izmir City Tour
- Excursion to Pamukkale
- Excursion to Pergamum

Day 6 – Departure

After breakfast, transfer to Izmir Airport.



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Istanbul & Cappadocia

Day 1 – Arrival in Istanbul

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The remaining of the day is at leisure.

Day 2 – Istanbul; City Sightseeing

Start a leisurely day, drive to pier in Eminonu area for a short visit to historical **Spice Market (Egyptian Bazaar)**. This bazaar was built in 1664 as a part of Yeni Mosque complex situated nearby and named Egyptian Bazaar because spices and herbs brought from or via Egypt were sold in it.

Then, board a **private boat for the cruise along the Bosphorus**, a narrow strait between the continents of Europe and Asia connecting Black Sea in the north to the Sea of Marmara in the South. In the Byzantine and early Ottoman days, there was little settlement on either sides of the Bosphorus but as of the 18th century, it became a favorite place for the sultans and their entourage where they built their kiosks and waterside residence.

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Then, drive to **Camlica Hill**, highest one in Istanbul, to enjoy the panoramic view of the city.

Overnight in Istanbul

Day 3 – Istanbul; City Sightseeing

After breakfast, drive to old town and visit **Hippodrome Square**, the scene of Chariot races and the center of Byzantine civic life which was originally built by Roman Emperor Septimius in 203 AD. Then visit **Blue Mosque**, built in early 17th century and known as Blue Mosque because of its magnificent interior decoration with blue Iznik tiles. It is also unique in the world to have 6 minarets. Continue to **St. Sophia Museum**, built by Emperor Constantius in 360 AD. St. Sophia was for many centuries the world's largest church and today is the fourth largest one after St. Paul's in London, St. Peter's in Rome and Duomo in Milan.



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Throughout its Byzantine history, St. Sophia served as the cathedral of the city where emperors were crowned and victories celebrated.

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After having served this time as a mosque for 481 years, the building became a museum in 1934 by the order of Ataturk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey.



After lunch visit **Topkapi Palace**, built by Sultan Mehmet II after the conquest of Istanbul in 15th century. The palace housed the sultans and their exotic entourage until mid 19th century. The complex is a group of structures which incorporates works from successive periods of Ottoman reign. Today the museum displays priceless collections of the imperial treasury, numerous pieces of Chinese porcelain, traditional costumes of the sultans and their families and special section for the preservation of the relics of Prophet Mohammed.

Last stop will be at famous historical **Grand Bazaar**, the largest “souk” covered oriental shopping mall in the world, where you will find 4,400 shops under one roof where each trade has its own street. There is a wide selection of leather, jewelry, antiques, copperware, souvenirs, and famous hand-made Turkish carpets displayed in this historical shopping center.

Overnight in Istanbul

Day 4 – Istanbul / Kayseri / Cappadocia

After breakfast, transfer to airport for flight to Kayseri.

Meet at Kayseri Airport and drive to multi-level **Underground City of Kaymakli**, which is one of the largest underground cities in Cappadocia with eight stories. In the area there are 36 underground cities and the original establishment is not known. Some dated back to Hittites (5C BC) and some as late as 6th C AD. These underground cities were used by early Christians escaping from persecution until 7th century. These underground cities can not be noticed from the ground level. They carved airshafts as deep as 85 meters into the rock and then made holes laterally at different levels in all directions. They hewed an elaborate system of the surface. They dug dwellings, bathrooms, kitchens, dining halls, storage rooms, wine cellars, chapels, graves and suchlike. Entrances at the surface level were also camouflaged.



Underground City of Kaymakli covers an area of approximately 4 meter -square. Visitors can see only about 10% of the city by going a maximum of five floors.

Continue to a famous winery to sample some of the wine produced in the area

Day 5 – Cappadocia

Before breakfast OPTIONAL “Balloon Tour”

Depart from the hotel with the sunrise for the unique experience; **Hot Air Ballooning**

You will fly over the valleys of Cappadocia and enjoy the beautiful views of the rocky formations, fairy chimneys and extraordinary landscape of the area. The tour ends around 08:00 a.m. and guests will enjoy champagne celebration at the end of this unique experience.

After breakfast, start the visits with **Goreme Valley** museum consists of steep cliffs and many hidden churches dating from second half of 9th C.



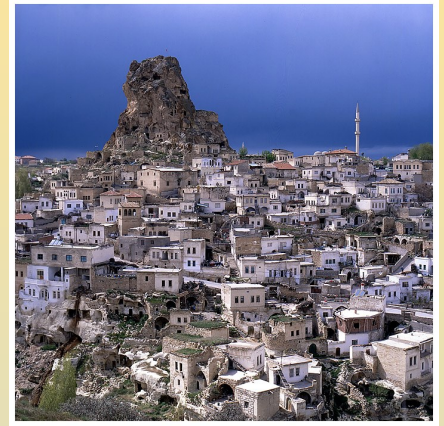
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Then visit **Pasabag** in Cappadocia is located on the road coming from Goreme. Highly remarkable earth pillars can be seen here, in the middle of a vineyard, hence the name of the place which means: the Pacha's vineyard. Pacha means General", the military rank, in Turkish and it is a very common nick name. This site is also called **Monks Valley**. The name was derived from some cones carved in tuff stones which stand apart. Currently, there is a vineyard and a number of tuff cones standing right next to the road. Continue to visit the villages of **Avanos**, is a small town famous for its pottery. It is built along the banks of Kizilirmak (Hayls River), the longest river originated and ending within the borders of Turkey; 842 miles. Those who want may enjoy famous "testi kebab". After lunch, visit traditional pottery making house where guests will see their own talents in producing their own potteries.



After lunch visit **Cavusin village**, a Greek town whose history goes back to the Early Christian Period. The rock cut buildings have collapsed because of erosion but the churches are still in place and being used as dovecotes. Overnight in Cappadocia

Day 6 – Departure.

After breakfast, drive to **Kayseri Airport**



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Istanbul, Cappadocia & Izmir

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Day 2 – Istanbul; City Sightseeing

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Overnight in Istanbul

Day 4 – Istanbul / Kayseri / Cappadocia

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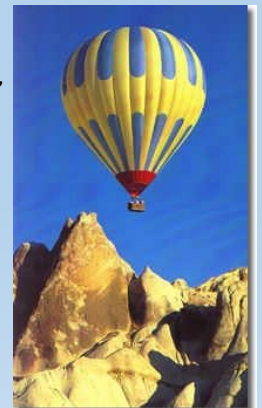
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Overnight in Cappadocia



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Day 6 – Cappadocia/Ankara/Izmir.

After breakfast, drive from Cappadocia to Ankara along the Silk Road. En-route we stop at the well preserved **Agzikarahan Caravanserai**, built in 13th century by Seljuks. The Caravansaries are public buildings built on the caravan routes for trade in normal times and for military use in times of emergencies. In these buildings they provided the caravans with every possible service such as places to sleep, hamams, mosques, doctors, veterinaries, kitchens, coffeehouses, libraries etc... Continue to Ankara and the Mausoleum of Ataturk, the founder of the Modern Republic of Turkey.

And visit, **The Museum of Anatolian Civilizations**, close to the citadel gate, a 15th century Ottoman bedesten has been beautifully restored and since 1921 it houses a marvelous and unique collection including Paleolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Hatti, Hittite, Phrygian, Lydian, Urartian and Roman works. In 1997 this great museum won the "European Museum of the Year" award among 65 museums from 21 European countries.

At the end of the tour, transfer to Ankara airport for flight to Izmir.



Day 7 – Izmir (Ephesus)



Drive to visit **Ephesus**, the Roman capital of Asia Minor which remains to be the best preserved ancient city in the world. During the golden age of the Roman Empire (2nd century AD), Ephesus was an important commercial and cultural center. The protector of the city was Artemis, the Goddess whose temple was one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World". The Ephesians still worshipped Artemis when St. Paul came to the city to win converts. St. John brought Virgin Mary to Ephesus after the death of Jesus Christ and she lived until the age of 101 in a small house built for her on Mt. Koressos. Now, the popular place of pilgrimage for Catholics and Muslims, the house received the official sanction of the Vatican and a commemoration ceremony is held every year on August 15th. The third church council in 431 was held in the Basilica of Virgin Mary in Ephesus.

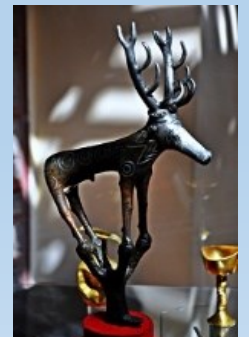
Continue to visit, the **House of the Virgin** where it's believed that she passed last years of her life and died. She came to Ephesus together with St. John and taken up to Panaghia Kapulu Mountain to survive the Roman persecutions. The House was destroyed by many earthquakes and not discovered until 1951 thanks to a German Nun Catherine Emmerich who saw its location in her visions. It is recognized as a shrine by Vatican. Now the House of Virgin Mary is renovated by George Quatman Foundation from Ohio and serves as a small church which attracts many Christians as well as Muslims coming to pray for her.

Last stop will be the **Basilica of St. John** which was built in 6th century. The building was in the shape of a cross and was covered by 6 domes. Under the central dome was the tomb of St. John; that has a marble marker today. When Christianity became the state religion, the crowds who once flocked to the Temple of Diana turned their attention to this cathedral.

Overnight Izmir

Day 8 – Departure

After breakfast, transfer to Izmir Airport.



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Blue Voyage (Cruise)



How about escaping modern civilization and the busy city life for a few days? How about leaving the office, picking up your luggage and catching the next plane to Bodrum or Dalaman? What about helping to weigh anchor just a couple of hours later or enjoying with your best friends an evening deck drink while the sun is setting on turquoise waters, thousands of miles away from the

office, watching pine-wooded gentle hills where once, millennia ago, incredible ancient civilizations flourished?

Blue Voyage is not an ordinary yacht cruise. Sailing on a "Gulet", the traditional Turkish vessel chosen for Blue Voyages, with no great luxury but reasonable comfort means some roughing for those who would like to participate in the navigation experience itself, and active sporting opportunities for all those who would swim, fish, ski, surf and dive in crystal clear waters. And those who wish to do absolutely nothing are also encouraged to do so!



Leisurely from cove to cove, from pristine waters of one secluded bay to a sunken city of the Antiquity, and over the seas again, with pine forests reaching down to the turquoise shore, the journey will carry you to ancient Halicarnassus Mausoleum, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World,

to Cleopatra's private beach, the impressive Lycian rock tombs of Caunos and Myra, the "Caretta Caretta" beach at Dalyan, to the lagoon of Oludeniz, a national reserve, to Patara, the birth place of St. Nicholas, to the eternal fires of Mt. Olympos (Chimaïra) and to the myriad other archeological remains impossible to enumerate here.

Gulets, sea-going wooden vessels built in Turkey, blending practicality with tradition so typical of a Blue Voyage, are essentially kin to the traditional fisher and transport boats of the Mediterranean. In time, their design evolved to have a broader beam and a wider deck, and the interior was totally rearranged to accommodate their guests, naturally with WC and shower. The result is reasonable comfort usually with 6 to 8 cabins, normally with 2 berths each, with totally separate quarters for the crew. These motorboats are equipped with all necessary navigational and safety aid, a music system, snorkles, fishing tackle and a dinghy, and also windsurfers but only if requested with the booking.

Gulets have a friendly crew of 2 or 3, consisting of a captain, one or two shipboys and a skilled cook who prepares delicious Turkish food.

Traditional guletting is made either by privately renting a gulet or for individual requests, booking

only a cabin on weekly scheduled boats. Cabin charter booking can be made only from Saturday to Saturday for understandable practical reasons. Private guletting has no limitation in length of time, starting from minimum 1 week Both forms of guletting are on full board basis.

The usual sailing time is about 4 hours a day, the rest of the time left for sports, exploring or doing nothing, with the gulet at anchor. Hereafter a sample itinerary is presented to give a basic idea.



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Tel. 201 2663363—Toll free 888 913 2801—email info@gtexperiences.net—web www.gtexperiences.net



The life onboard.....

Whether it is a private charter tour or a cabin charter tour, a Blue Voyage is always a fascinating experience. If you are on a private tour you can shape your course of voyage with your captain as you wish. Usually daily duration of cruising is no longer than 3-4 hours, and the rest of the day can be spent in gorgeous coves enjoying the sun and the sea.

Sunbathing on the deck, swimming in clear waters, diving, windsurfing, water-skiing, or just fishing... Or anchoring in a cove and trekking in the wild nature, visiting a nearby village and coming closer to the native people and their traditions or visiting one of the numerous ancient sites, which are accessible from nearly every cove.

Here, in the middle of the Idyll, you can feel the touch of nature and history and you consider your existence from a completely new point of view. You can spend your time full of entertainment on board gulet.



The captain and the crew are continuously at your disposal in an effort to provide you with all you need. The cook pampers you during the whole voyage with specialties and mouth-watering dishes of the delicious Turkish Cuisine, of which you surely will be a fan at the end of the voyage.

Sample “Guletting – Blue Voyage” Itinerary

DAY 1

Arrive in Bodrum and transfer to Bodrum port.

Embarkation! Welcome cocktail, dinner and overnight at Bodrum.

DAY 2

After breakfast departure to Black Island, lunch. Dinner and overnight at Cati.

DAY 3

Breakfast at Cati. Lunch and dinner at the different bays of Seven Islands.

DAY 4

After breakfast departure to Långöz, lunch. Arriving to Karacasöğüt, optional drive to Marmaris. Dinner and overnight at Marmaris

DAY 5

After breakfast departure to Cleopatra Island. Lunch and dinner in different bays of the English Harbour, overnight at English Harbour.

DAY 6

Breakfast in English Harbour, lunch at Ceramos, dinner and overnight at Cokertme.

DAY 7

After breakfast departure to Orak Island, lunch. Dinner and overnight at Bodrum.

DAY 8

After breakfast leaving the yacht in Bodrum and transfer to Bodrum Airport.



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