

SOUTH AMERICA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Machu Picchu, Amazon

INTRODUCTION

Choose this Tailor-Made itinerary or customise to create your own unique journey. Departs daily to suit your travel plans. Price based on Standard accommodation. Superior or Deluxe also available.

Begin your 21-day journey in Argentina's cosmopolitan capital, Buenos Aires, where you will have time to explore this elegant city before being swept away to the mighty and spectacular Iguazu Falls. Continue your journey to Rio de Janeiro, one of the most attractive cities in the world, before flying to Peru. Here you will travel from Lima to Puno to visit some of the islands of Lake Titicaca, before exploring Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire. Visit iconic Machu Picchu, Lost City of the Incas, and enjoy an unforgettable Amazon lodge stay before ending your trip in Chile's vibrant capital, Santiago.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Buenos Aires

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide, who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it.



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DAY 1: Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires, Argentina's elegant, historic and cosmopolitan capital, is known as the "Paris of the South" due to its European atmosphere with glamorous avenues lined with fashionable shops and Parisian-style restaurants and cafes. Located on the western shore of the estuary of the Río de la Plata, Buenos Aires has many fascinating neighbourhoods to explore including the colourful and lively La Boca, home to art galleries and tango shows; San Telmo with its restored mansions and antique stores and Recoleta, the city's most exclusive area.



DAY 2: Buenos Aires City Tour

This morning you will be collected by a local guide and a driver for a tour of Buenos Aires. The guide will take you on and off the beaten track in this lively and beautiful city. You will have a car at your disposal, but we recommend getting out and walking for some of the tour. Obviously the tour will take in the main highlights, but we would prefer to tailor the trip to your liking. It could be that you want to see more of the main sites, or it could be that you wish to stroll amongst the small local boutiques of Palermo or the Parisienne buildings of Recoleta. Duration of the tour is approximately 5 hours.



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DAY 2: El Querandi Tango Show & Dinner

This evening you will be collected from your hotel to experience a Tango Show with dinner. This is an intimate & passionate tango show, housed in a cozy wood-panelled 19th century building with a colourful history as a meeting point for poets and students in the heart of Buenos Aires's historic centre. After being abandoned in the late 1970s, the bar was restored and reopened in 1992 as El Querandí Tango Hall. The show is directed by Claudio Campos, with musical arrangements by Ado Falasca, and it smoothly charts the history of Argentina's most authentic artistic expression from its origins to the modern day. The dinner is better than many, and at just over an hour long, the show is the perfect length. The three house singers, six dancers and four musicians put on a great show. Dinner will be served from 8.30pm followed by the show commencing at 10.00pm. Please note timings are subject to change and will be confirmed directly to you. On completion of the show, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE

DAY 3: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight. This service includes a driver only.



NO IMAGE
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DAY 3: Arrival transfer in Iguazu

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office. Please note this service is with driver only. *Please note the Iguazu Tourist Tax will now be charged on check out at all Iguazu hotels. The amount is currently ARS50 (USD3.40) per person per stay. Please note this tax is subject to change without prior notice.



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DAY 3: Iguazu

The spectacular Iguazu Falls that straddle the Argentine-Brazil border, are made up of 275 individual waterfalls lining a 2.7km wide horseshoe-shaped gorge. The Falls are located where the Iguazu River cascades over the edge of the Paraná Plateau. The Falls can be viewed from both the Argentinian and the Brazilian sides, the Brazilian side offering a broader, panoramic view, with the Argentinian side offering a series of catwalks that allow you to experience the Falls from close range.



DAY 4: Iguazu Falls - Argentinean Side

Early morning pick up from your hotel for your full day of exploring the Argentine side of the falls. This tour always starts early in order to beat the crowds and get the first train to the Devil's Throat. There are walkways over the islands which take you to a balcony over the falls and the most spectacular view of the entire Devil's Gorge. You will then have plenty of time to walk the 800 metres of paths on the upper circuit. These new suspended walkways are detached from the jungle surface so as to protect the fauna by preventing disruption of the natural trails. From this circuit you have a higher sight of the falls, providing you with a magnificent panoramic view. It takes around one hour to cover the upper circuit. The lower circuit contains 600 metres of walkways, also detached from the jungle floor, and has great views from below and around the falls. Once you have finished all the circuits, return to the visitor centre where your vehicles will be waiting to transfer you back to your hotel. Please note there is some degree of difficulty as the path includes many stairs, particularly on the lower circuit. National Park fee is included.



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DAY 5: Iguazu Brazilian Falls and Transfer to Airport

After checking out, you will be collected from your hotel for your tour of the Brazilian Falls and transfer to the airport. See the falls from the Brazilian side of the border. After arriving at the visitor centre, we board buses for a tour of the park. Equipped with panoramic windows, the buses are designed to maximize your views of the falls, while the walkways and steps allow you to get up close to the spray. Views of the Floriania Falls, the Devil's Gorge Canyon and the Iguazu River are spectacular and are guaranteed to impress. National park fee included. After the tour you will be transferred to the airport in time to check in for your flight. This is a small group tour and transfer.



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DAY 5: Arrival Transfer in Rio de Janeiro

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please note this service is with a driver only. Please note, once you arrival at your hotel you will receive a welcome pack, which will provide you with all the useful information you will need about your trip in Brazil.



DAY 5: Rio de Janeiro

Known as the "Cidade Maravilhosa", or Marvellous City, Rio never fails to amaze with its sandy beaches, carefree lifestyle and unparalleled natural beauty. As the capital of Brazil until 1960, Rio is today one of the most culturally and economically prominent cities in the country, receiving more tourists than any other part of Brazil.



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DAY 6: Corcovado & Sugarloaf with Lunch

After an early pick up from your hotel, this tour makes its way to the bottom of Corcovado Hill, where we ascend the mountain by vehicle. Climbing 4km through the Tijuca Forest, the world's largest urban National Park, we will arrive at the statue of Christ the Redeemer. After taking in the panoramic views, continue to the Maracana Stadium. We also pass the Sambadrome and the Metropolitan Cathedral, before passing through the bohemian neighbourhood of Lapa and its famous arches en-route to Copacabana. Enjoy a traditional Brazilian BBQ lunch (beverages not included) before visiting the famous Sugarloaf Mountain with views across the entire city. After descending the mountain, you will be dropped off at your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



DAY 7: Rio de Janeiro - Free Day

Today is a free day for you to relax on one of Rio's famous beaches such as Ipanema or Copacabana, or explore the city further at your leisure.



DAY 8: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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DAY 8: Arrival transfer in Lima

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide, who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office.



DAY 8: Lima

Lima, the capital of Peru, sits on the country's arid Pacific coast. Founded in 1535, its colonial centre is well preserved, but today Lima is a bustling metropolis and one of South America's largest cities. The city is home to the various museums including the Museo Larco that houses a collection of pre-Columbian art and the Museo de la Nación, tracing the history of Peru's ancient civilizations. Lima is known as the "gastronomical capital of the Americas", encompassing specialties from ceviche and traditional coastal cooking to refined global fare. It even boasts several of the top restaurants in the world.



DAY 9: Lima - City Tour

Today you will be collected from your hotel for your tour of Lima, the Colonial 'City of Kings'. On the city tour you will visit a number of well-known sites including the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, Santo Domingo Convent and the Plaza de Armas. This is a chance to appreciate Lima's magnificent Colonial architecture as well as vignettes of its pre-Colombian past. On completion of this tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



DAY 10: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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DAY 10: Transfer Juliaca Airport to Puno via Sillustani Ro

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please note this service is with a driver only. Enroute to your hotel, visit the pre-Inca burial ground of Sillustani. You will have time to wander through the remarkable tombs built from volcanic stone. Known as Chullpas, these funerary towers reach heights of up to 12 metres. Overlooking the beautiful Lake Umayo, Sillustani is considered to be one of the most important necropolises in the world. On completion of the tour you will be taken to your hotel.



DAY 10: Puno

Puno lies on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. It is the largest city in the Southern Altiplano and an important agricultural and livestock (llamas and alpaca) region. It sits at an altitude of over 3,800 metres and is a picturesque hillside city and a melting pot of the Aymara and Quechua culture.



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DAY 11: Titicaca Uncovered

Early this morning you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the port to board a fully equipped speedboat with on board service to visit various islands on Lake Titicaca. First stop is Taquile Island where you will explore a scenic and less touristy area. Enjoy time on a pristine sandy beach to relax and feel the serenity of Lake Titicaca. We then hike along a pre-Inca trail with spectacular landscapes of the island, visiting families of weavers to learn about their textile art and symbolism. In 2005, "Taquile and its Textile Art" were proclaimed "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO. After three hours on Taquile, board the speedboat for a short journey to the community of Santa Maria-Llachon, on the tip of the Capachica Peninsula. This is a picturesque off the beaten track destination. We are welcomed by the small Quechua speaking community and introduced to an intensive cultural experience, observing the traditions of the community and participating in an ancient ceremony to learn about their magical world. Experience the preparation of "Pachamanca", a traditional way of cooking meat, fish and potatoes using underground ovens, and one of the main dishes of Peruvian cuisine. Enjoy these delicacies in a small, but scenic restaurant (included in tour price). For the more adventurous there is an optional kayak along the coast of Llachon. After lunch we leave Santa Maria and arrive at a remote area of the National Reserve of Lake Titicaca to explore Uros Ccapi. These are considered to be the last authentic floating islands, less commercial and little visited. The Uros are descendants of one of the oldest cultures in South America. There are optional tours in reed boats before we depart back to Puno. On arrival at the port, you will be transferred to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour. Please note there is a minimum number of passengers requested to operate this tour from December to March, if the required number of passengers is not reached we will offer you a similar alternative. Please also note that between the months of January and March the ceremony of "Pachamama" will be subject to weather conditions.



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DAY 12: Transfer from Puno hotel to bus or train station

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to either the bus or train station for your journey from Puno to Cusco.



DAY 12: Puno to Cusco

The spectacular journey from Puno to Cusco takes you across the Altiplano and you will travel accompanied by an English-speaking guide. The drive takes you through sleepy Andean villages and past spectacular snowcapped mountains, sheer cliffs and rampaging rivers. Stops along the way include the atmospheric towns of Pucara and Andahuaylillas and the pre-Inca ruin of Raqchi. Lunch is included and you will arrive in the famous city of Cusco in the early evening. The journey will take approximately 10 hours.



DAY 12: Arrival transfer in Cusco


On arrival at Cusco bus or train station, you will be met by a representative who will be holding a sign with your name on it, to transfer you to your hotel.



DAY 12: Cusco

Cusco, set at an altitude of 3,400 metres in the Peruvian Andes, was once the capital of the Inca Empire. It is known for its Spanish colonial architecture and Incan remains. Narrow, cobblestoned streets lined by Inca walls stretch out from the main plaza in every direction. Many of the colonial buildings were built on top of Incan foundations and the stonework is unparalleled in its precision and beauty.



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DAY 13: Cusco - City Tour

You will be collected from your hotel for a sightseeing tour through Cusco, the heart of the Inca Empire. Visit the fascinating Qorikancha Temple of the Sun, the 12-Angled Rock and the Cathedral, built on the ruins of an Inca Palace. From here head to the archaeological remains located around the city, including the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, Qenqo (giant rock), the ancient site of Puca Pucara and finally the Water Temple of Tambomachay. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Included in your tour price is the BTG (Tourist Ticket of Cusco). Please note this is a small group tour.



DAY 14: Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes

Travel from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu in this comfortable train, and let your feet have rest. Enjoy an authentic Andean experience, while relaxing in modern and comfortable interior design illuminated by Latin American music. Comfortable seats with tables in front to share the journey with friends. *Due to limited space for luggage storage on trains, luggage restrictions apply: one bag or backpack (carry-on luggage) with a maximum weight of 5.0 kg/11 lb, measuring no more than 62 linear inches/157 linear cm (height + length + width)



DAY 14: Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes

Travel from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu in this comfortable train, and let your feet have rest. Enjoy an authentic Andean experience, while relaxing in modern and comfortable interior design illuminated by Latin American music. Comfortable seats with tables in front to share the journey with friends. *Due to limited space for luggage storage on trains, luggage restrictions apply: one bag or backpack (carry-on luggage) with a maximum weight of 5.0 kg/11 lb, measuring no more than 62 linear inches/157 linear cm (height + length + width)



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DAY 15: Machu Picchu Guided Tour

Machu Picchu is a 15th century Inca site, located 2,430 metres above sea level on a mountain ridge above the Sacred Valley. It is the most famous of all Inca sites, but it was not until 1911 that it was brought to the world's attention by the American historian Hiram Bingham. The Incas abandoned the city just prior to Spanish colonisation, the city was never pillaged and as a result the ruins are still in fantastic condition. With its location on a dramatic ridgeline surrounded by sheer cliffs and the Urubamba River on three sides, the city of Machu Picchu is a remarkable place to visit. Machu Picchu was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 and in 2007 it was voted one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. The tour starts with a bus ride from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu. You will be astonished at your first view of Machu Picchu, a stunning display of ancient architecture with incredible surroundings. Enjoy a guided shared tour of the ruins and monuments such as the Main Square, the Circular Tower, the Sacred Solar Clock, the Royal Quarters, the Temple of the Three Windows and the Cemeteries. Return by bus to Aguas Calientes village. Please be aware that your tour of Machu Picchu does not include an entry permit to Huayna Picchu (the iconic hill behind the Machu Picchu ruins). If you want to climb Huayna Picchu then you need to pre-book your permit with at least 3 months in advance. Please contact your travel specialist if you would like to do this.



DAY 15: 360 Machu Picchu Train: Mapi - Ollanta PM

This afternoon travel by train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo. *Due to limited space for luggage storage on trains, luggage restrictions apply: one bag or backpack (carry-on luggage) with a maximum weight of 5.0 kg/11 lb, measuring no more than 62 linear inches/157 linear cm (height + length + width)



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DAY 15: Private Transfer Ollantaytambo - Cusco

Transfer from Ollantaytambo train station in the Sacred Valley to Cusco.



DAY 16: Depart Cusco

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



DAY 16: Puerto Maldonado - Refugio Amazonas

On arrival at Puerto Maldonado Airport, you will be met by a representative of Refugio Amazonas to begin the journey to Refugio. Enroute we will stop at the local office so that you can repack your luggage and only take what is required for the next four days. The rest will be stored securely in the office. Continue by road and a two and a half hour boat journey to Refugio Amazonas, located in a 200-hectare private reserve. The boat ride from the Tambopata River Port to Refugio Amazonas takes us past the Infierno Community and the Tambopata National Reserve checkpoint and into the buffer zone of this 1.3 million hectare conservation unit. A boxed lunch is provided to eat along the way. On arrival to the lodge, you will be welcomed and given a brief orientation. After dinner at the lodge there is the option to join a night walk when most of the animals are active but sometimes difficult to see. The frogs are easier to see with their fascinating shapes and colours and fascinating sounds. Note: Please ensure your arrival flight is no later than 13:05



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DAY 17: Refugio Amazonas

Refugio Amazonas have a set of activities where you can choose from onsite, allowing you to create your own personalised experience deep in the Amazon. Below are suggested options you may like to choose from through-out your stay. After breakfast venture out onto the lake by canoe or catamaran, looking for wildlife such as hoatzin, caiman, horned screamers, macaws and otters that are sometimes seen in the area. Back on land, a 30 minute walk from the lodge takes you to the 25 metre scaffolding canopy tower, complete with staircase running through the middle and providing safe access to the platforms above. The tower has been built on high ground to give views of the primary rainforest extending out towards the Tambopata National Reserve. Enjoy excellent views across the canopy and look for toucans, macaws and raptors. After lunch you will visit a farm to learn about local agriculture and Amazonian crops before an ethnobotanical tour to learn about the medicinal uses of the various plants and trees of the region. In the evening, Refugio Amazonas staff offer lectures covering topics such as conservation threats, opportunities and projects in the Tambopata National Reserve.



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DAY 18: Refugio Amazonas

Refugio Amazonas have a set of activities where you can choose from onsite, allowing you to create your own personalised experience deep in the Amazon. Below are suggested options you may like to choose from through-out your stay. Witness the audio and visual spectacle of a clay lick, watching vibrant coloured macaws, parrots and parakeets feast on clay. Species such as dusky-headed and cobalt-winged parakeets are often seen and with luck we may also see mealy and yellow-crowned Amazons, blue-headed pionus, severe macaw and orange-cheeked (Barraband`s) parrots. After lunch, take a short hike from the lodge brings us to a beautiful Brazil nut forest that has been harvested for decades. Here you can learn about the whole process of the rainforest's only sustainably harvested product, from collection through transportation to drying. In the afternoon, there will be a visit to a peccary clay lick, this time to see mammals. Wild rain forest pigs show up in herds of up to twenty to eat clay, alongside deer, guan and parakeets.



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DAY 19: Refugio Amazonas – Puerto Maldonado

After breakfast, return to Puerto Maldonado for your departure flight. Depending on airline schedules, this may require a dawn departure. Please note: Depending on airline schedules, this may require a dawn departure. We recommend flight LA2074 departing at 13:35 *Schedule of activities are subject to change without notice



DAY 19: Arrive Lima

This evening stay at Lima's premier airport hotel Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel which is connected by a walkway to the terminal. Remainder of the day at leisure.



DAY 20: Depart Lima

Please make your way to the terminal for your departure flight. Please note check in time is 3 hours prior to scheduled departure time.



DAY 20: Arrival transfer in Santiago

On arrival at Santiago Airport, please make your way through Customs and Immigration and only exit from the green doors marked 'Meeting Point'. Our representative will be holding a sign with your name on it and waiting for you outside this exit. Please only make contact with our representative. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay.



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DAY 20: Santiago de Chile

Santiago, Chile’s capital and largest city, lies in a valley surrounded by the snow-capped mountains of the Andes and the Chilean Coastal Range. Founded in 1541, Santiago has been Chile’s capital since colonial times. It is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city and although it features many colonial buildings, it has grown into a modern metropolis and the cultural centre of the country.



DAY 21: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight. This service includes a Spanish speaking driver only.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel and lodge accommodation
Inclusions	<p>INCLUSIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private airport transfers Internal flights as part of this itinerary* Accommodation with breakfast daily Sightseeing with local English speaking guides as detailed in itinerary Other meals where stated <p>EXCLUSIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International flights Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages Personal expenses Gratuities for tour guides and drivers Any items not mentioned as included
Difficulty Rating	3 Light Adventure (High altitude in some areas)
Single Surcharge	Available on request. Contact us for more details.

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Notes	All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. This is a Tailor-Made itinerary which can be customised to create your own unique journey. Contact us to discuss your travel plans.
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

On this trip you will stay at the eco-friendly lodge Refugio Amazonas, a proud partner of Wired Amazon, a citizen science program. They ensure that travellers have as little impact on the wildlife as possible and minimize disturbance and also encourage the education and visitation of protection and conservation services, specifically associate with the Amazon. While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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