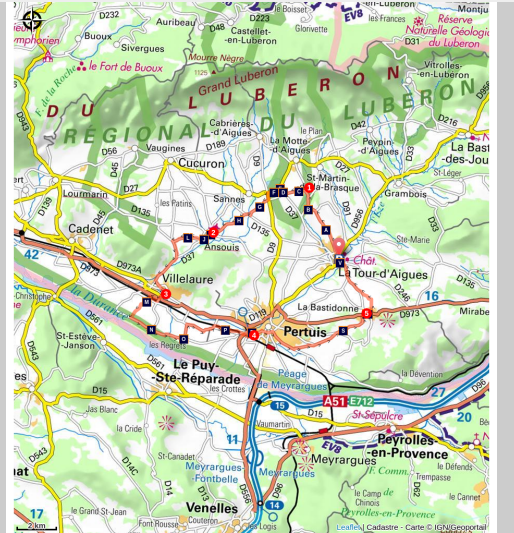


The vines at the mercy of the bike riding season

La Tour-d'Aigues



Vignes à l'automne (Nelson Valbrun - Vélo Loisir Provence)

By bike, browse the vineyard landscapes of the Luberon and learn more about the vineyards and winemaking.

I love this vineyard which shapes the landscape and its colors that change with the seasons. I admire the winemakers that maintain the vineyard throughout the year to produce a tasty wine. And as they say in Provence, "Doou bouen terradou, bouen vin" (with good soil, good wine). So take advantage of a good refreshment break in one of the many wineries of Aigues". says Mylène Maurel - Agriculture and Tourism Project manager at the Luberon RNP.

Useful information

Practice : BIKE

Duration : 3 h

Length : 38.9 km

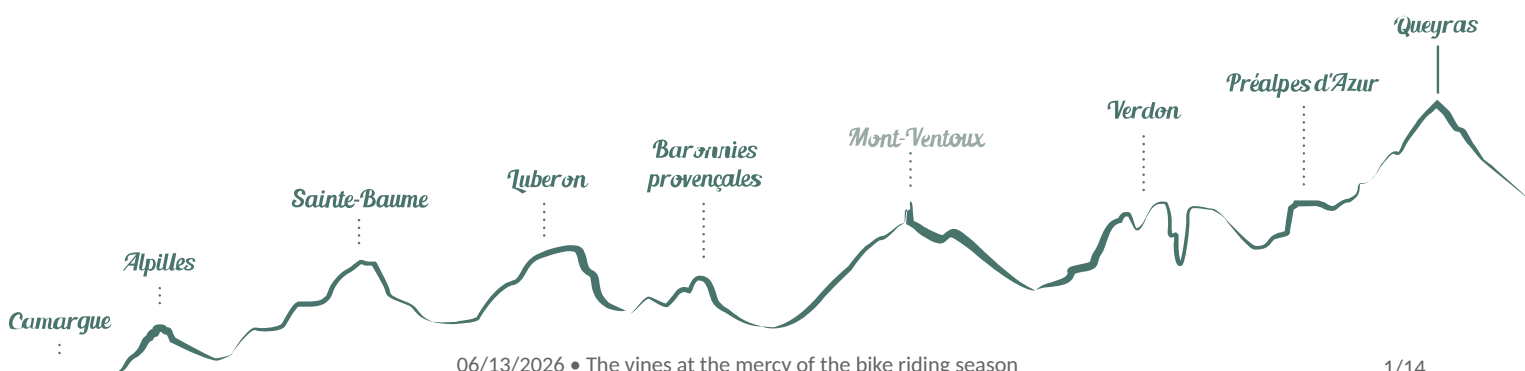
Trek ascent : 401 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Heritage and history, Local products, Waters and rivers



Accessibility : Hybrid bike



Trek

Departure : Tourist Office, Place Jean Jaurès, La Tour-d'Aigues

Arrival : La Tour-d'Aigues

Markings :  Non balisé  Vélo

With your back to the castle and the tourist office, turn right on the Boulevard de la République (D956). 180m away, go left on a pedestrian crossing (cycling sign). Pass the middle school then at the roundabout take the 2nd right (Chemin du Piedmont). Further down, reach the D120 and take a right for 800 m.

1 - Turn left on Chemin des Escabots. At the intersection, turn right on the D37. Come out the D27 and follow it to the left going along the pond. At the roundabout, turn left (D9) over 400m then turn right (D37). Reach Ansouis by the D37.

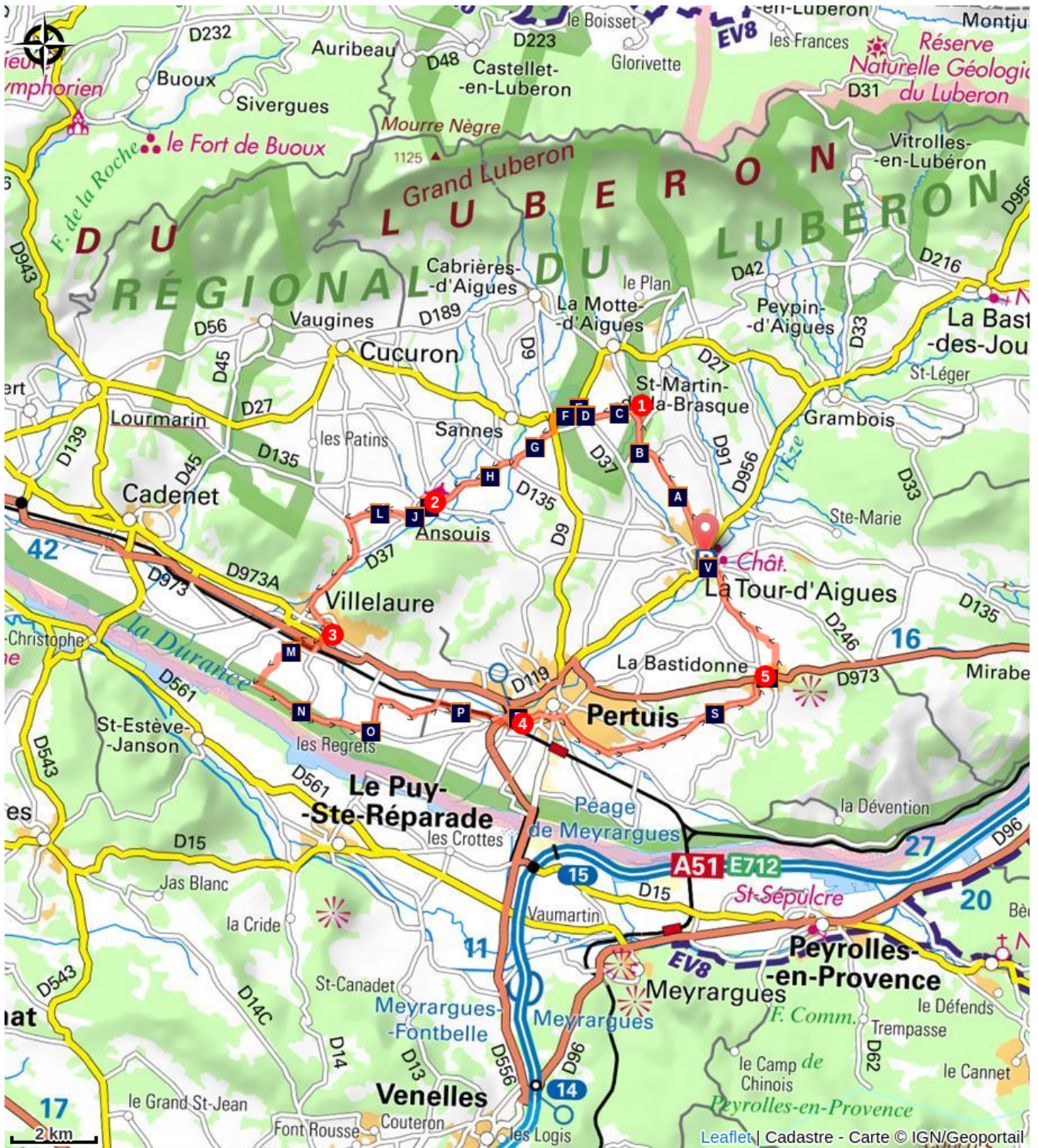
2- At the roundabout, take a left onto the Boulevard des Platanes. Continue straight up until the Place des Hôtes and go down the Rue du Vieux Moulin. At the stop sign, turn left on the D37 for 300m. After the curve, go right up the paved track. Continue straight for 2km and come out on the D182. Follow it to the left then follow the Route d'Ansouis (D37) to Villelaure. 300m after the village entry sign, turn left on the Cours du Luberon. At the next intersection, continue for 70m and turn left on the Rue de Séguret. At the end of the road, turn right.


3 - At the stop sign, go straight across on the Avenue Jean Moulin. At the roundabout, follow across the marking "Le pays d'Aigues à vélo" (bike arrows with red dots) to Pertuis.


4- Leaving the VC15 of Eze, turn right over the bridge and up the boulevard Jules Ferry (D973). At the roundabout, continue to the right on the Boulevard Victor Hugo and continue straight for 600m on the D973 (marking "Le pays d'Aigues à vélo"). Turn right on Rue Léon Arnoux over 1.5km. At the exit sign of the village, turn left onto the VC12 of Condamines and reach La Bastidonne.

5- Take the Rue des Ferrages to the right. Climb left onto Rue du Pasquier and turn right. At the Y, go left for 600m on the Chemin des Paroites then go left on the Chemin de Pouspeire. At the give-way, reach the D165 to the right. Come out on the D135 and head left to the Tour-d'Aigues. Cross the Eze river and switch to the right onto Rue Sous le Château. Work your way up the ramparts, turn right twice on Rue des Remparts and under the porch to reach the Place Jean Jaurès and the castle.

On your path...



- | | |
|--|---|
|  The European Roller, the blue bird (A) |  Pié Mont and Paléo-Eze (B) |
|  2,000 years of history of grapevines (C) |  Life is sweet in the shade of plane trees ... (D) |
|  The source of Mirail (E) |  Etang de la Bonde (F) |
|  AOC Luberon, recognised know-how (G) |  The cycle of the vine (H) |
|  Place Saint-Elzéar (I) |  Ansois, movie set (J) |

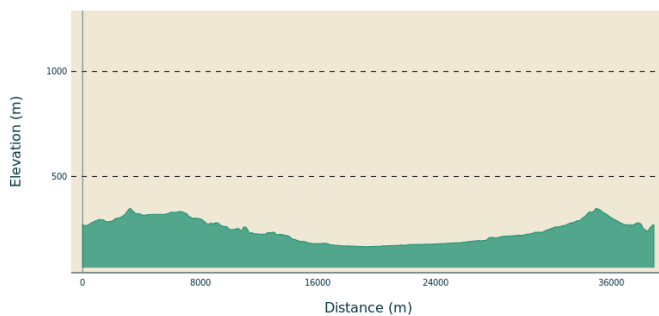
-  Fruity notes... (K)
-  The agricultural plain of Villelaure (M)
-  The "Pomme de terre de Pertuis" brand (O)
-  The Eze, a torrential river (Q)
-  Ecole-Mairie (S)
-  The beaver lives in the Eze river! (U)
-  The different grape varieties (L)
-  The Durance, a Provençal queen (N)
-  Canal of the southern Luberon (P)
-  One way to use the wind! (R)
-  In the streets of Ferrages (T)
-  The castle of the Tour-d'Aigues (V)

All useful information

AdVICES

This route follows streets opened to public traffic; so under all circumstances, it is therefore essential to respect the highway code. Wearing a helmet is highly recommended, for children as well as for adults!

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 166 m
Max elevation 348 m

Access

At 30km North of Aix-en-Provence, through the A51, D973 and D956.

Advised parking

Many car parks in the center of La Tour d'Aigues.

Source

OTI Luberon Sud Tourisme



Vélo Loisir Provence



Information desks

House of the Luberon Regional Nature Park



60, place Jean Jaurès, 84400 Apt

accueil@parcduluberon.fr

Tel : +33 (0)4 90 04 42 00

<https://www.parcduluberon.fr/>

OTI Luberon Sud Tourisme

128 chemins des vieilles vignes (siège administratif), 84240 La Tour d'Aigues

contact.tourisme@cotelub.fr

Tel : 07 82 62 43 54

<https://www.sud-luberon-tourisme.fr/>

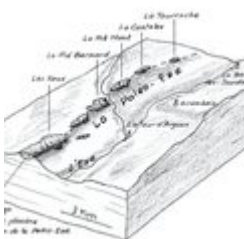
On your path...



The European Roller, the blue bird (A)

Easy to spot thanks to its intense blue color, it can be seen on utility poles. It enjoys this vantage point in an open and sunny area to locate and dive down on its prey (large insects and lizards). It nests in tree cavities and leaves to spend winter in Africa when prey becomes rare, before returning in the spring.

Attribution : ©DR-A. Rocha France



Pié Mont and Paléo-Eze (B)

Between Pertuis and Peypin-d'Aigues, in several places, you can see an accumulation of pebbles, pieces of rock torn from the mountains and slowly worn, rounded by their transport in a stream, a river. These pebbles correspond to the former course of a stream, a paleo-Eze flowing there, parallel to the current Eze but shifted 3 km to the east. We can also notice this ancient fossil valley across the landscape forming hills.

Attribution : extrait de « De la Durance aux monts de Vaucluse » G. Bronner, Ed. Jeanne Laffitte



2,000 years of history of grapevines (C)

Contrary to popular belief, grape growing began here in the ancient times! Greek settlers brought the first vine stocks, but the Romans, great wine lovers, really developed viticulture in the Luberon and the Pays d'Aigues. In the Middle Ages, the members of the church among which great monasteries and Avignon popes were involved in promoting the work of the vine. The Luberon gained recognition in the 20th century as a quality local area for wine production.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



Life is sweet in the shade of plane trees ... (D)

Aigues rests on the Luberon to the north and opens up onto the Durance valley to the south. This landscape with a gently rolling basin is energized by the alternating forests and vineyards. The villages of Aigues are located away from flood-prone areas, mostly on cliffs or hills and facing south. The valley, rich in building heritage (farmhouses, domains), highlighted by remarkable trees, is under increasing pressure from the living area of Aix en Provence.

Attribution : ©Françoise Delville - PNR Luberon



The source of Mirail (E)

Use of the source of Mirail, upstream of the Motte-d'Aigues, dates back to the Middle Ages. Its unexpected presence in the middle of arid land has been the subject of rivalry and lust amongst the riparians of the Aigues. Source of drinking water, it quenches many small streams, direct tributaries on the right bank of the Durance, like Eze. Today it mostly feeds into the pond Bonde and therefore is used for irrigation by the network of the Canal of Provence Company.

Attribution : ©Aline Salvaudon - PNR Luberon



Etang de la Bonde (F)

The pond was created in the 15th century by Lord Fouquet d'Agoult, Baron of Sault, who decided to create a water reserve for the castle of La Tour d'Aigues, and then has an aqueduct made. The lake thus formed was for a long time the supply point for an irrigation network that supplied the valley of Aigues, contributing to the expansion of agriculture and the growth of the territory. Today, the pond is still used for irrigation and is a popular place for swimming.

Attribution : ©Aline Salvaudon - PNR Luberon



AOC Luberon, recognised know-how (G)

The AOC Luberon, created in 1988, is the result of recognized and proven know-how which is between very ancient traditions, carefully passed down from generation to generation, and the latest advances in technology and oenology. The appellation produces the three colors of wine: red, pink and white. All the AOC is nestled in the heart of the Luberon Regional Park and represents 3,220ha, and produces about 20 million bottles per year.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



The cycle of the vine (H)

In winter, the vine enters a sleep-like state. In spring, vegetative buds begin to develop – this is the period of growth for branches and leaves. In July, the leaves continue to grow and the flowers give grapes. In August, green grapes grow and mature, they turn either red or yellow. In the fall, grapes are harvested during the grape harvesting. Late in the season, the leaves will turn red, dry and fall.

Attribution : ©Françoise Delville - PNR Luberon



Place Saint-Elzéar (I)

Named Elzéar Sabran who was born in Provence in 1285 and was married to Delphine (Dauphine) sign, which was destined to take orders. They lived their married life in asceticism and virginity. Elzéar died September 27, 1325 and was canonized April 15, 1369. Delphine made vows of poverty and ended his life in Apt in the greatest destitution. The Church blessed and proclaimed the popular will, Ste. Ansouis always celebrates in September the Saints.

Attribution : ©Commune d'Ansouis



Ansouis, movie set (J)

The church of Ansouis has been featured in two cult films of Claude Berri, "Jean de Florette" and "Manon of the Spring" (1986). The scenes of preaching to the Christmas Mass and Manon wedding were all shot in the church. The scenes outside the church happen in Vaugines, at 7 km from Ansouis.

Attribution : ©DR - AlloCiné & Unifrance



Fruity notes... (K)

Red wines are fruity and delicious, with aromas of blackcurrants, blackberries, raspberries... Some vintages provide spicy notes but without losing the freshness that characterizes AOC Luberon. Rosé wines are marked on the palate by aromas of typical red fruit (strawberry, gooseberry) or more exotic notes. White wines offer a beautiful aromatic palette ranging from grapefruit to peach for fruity flavors, and from honey to toast for more complex wines.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



The different grape varieties (L)

The wines of the AOC Luberon must be produced from the blending of several grape varieties. Most blendings, obtained by mixing different varieties or vintages, of red and rosé wines are produced from Syrah and Grenache, which is a symbol of the Rhone Valley. But also grape varieties of Mourvèdre, Carignan, Cinsault,... Some white grape varieties are used during the blending processes. The grape varieties of Grenache Blanc, Clairette Blanche, Bourboulenc,... allow to obtain white wines.

Attribution : Hervé Vincent



The agricultural plain of Villelaure (M)

The plain constitutes more than half the area of the town (1,275ha) which has long been neglected by fear of floods. In the 18th century, it was conquered on the river by building dams in order to control the Durance. A fruit and vegetable agriculture has developed there. 600km of canals allow each plot of land to be irrigated and drained. A mill, a factory (beetroot refinery), a power plant bear witness to the past use of the driving force of the water.

Attribution : ©Stéphane Legal - PNR Luberon



The Durance, a Provençal queen (N)

Taking its source at Mount Genève in the Hautes-Alpes, the Durance continues its course in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence to then establish the border between Bouches-du-Rhône and Vaucluse. The various hydroelectric constructions (like the huge dam of Serre-Ponçon) have significantly reduced its flow and its natural environment. The challenge today is to reconcile the production of electricity from renewable energy and the protection of the ecosystems of the stream.

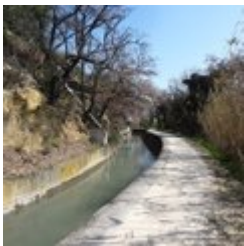
Attribution : ©Jérôme Brichard - PNR Luberon



The "Pomme de terre de Pertuis" brand (O)

Legend has it that the potato was brought to the region in the late 18th century by a peasant from Tour d'Aigues named Job le rouge, back from Napoleonic expeditions. Before World War II, there were about 2000 ha, which helped feed many inhabitants of Marseille during the occupation. The yellow-fleshed potato is sold unwashed to promote conservation and the most cultivated varieties are the Mona lisa and the Samba.

Attribution : ©DR



Canal of the southern Luberon (P)

Completed in 1862, it is used to irrigate the plain of the Durance. It takes its water from the Durance upstream Pertuis, near La Loubière, and runs along the hills until Cadenet then Lauris. It supplies about 3200ha of land. You will also see the passing in a siphon under the Eze river, where it also discharges, if needed.

Attribution : ©Emilie Auray - PNR Luberon



The Eze, a torrential river (Q)

This river which takes its source upstream of Bastide des Jourdans at about 20km, often dry in the summer, is however torrential and can experience flash floods after severe thunderstorms. The Eze is the natural drain of all the rain fallen upstream in Aigues. This is what happened in September 1993. The fire station that you see from the bridge was blocked!

Attribution : ©DR-Guy-Marie Gautier



One way to use the wind! (R)

Water-pumpers convert wind force into mechanical energy to make a water pump work. The rotating blades of the water-pumpers create a vertical movement of the pump in the water, thus activating the suction mechanism. Water can be pumped when the wind blows at 11km/h. In such a dry and windy region, no wonder that farmers of the Luberon wanted to take advantage of the Mistral and its average speed of 50km/h to irrigate their farmland!

Attribution : ©Séverine Besson - Luberon Sud Tourisme



Ecole-Mairie (S)

In 1833, a law making primary education compulsory. But how to pay the teacher, the house and rent a room for the class? In 1844, the council purchased a house that will house the school and the town hall, the premises are very old. In 1883, the Bastidonne offers her children a sewing school. It is curious that the teachers are paid 900 F to 1200 F year, while teachers receive only 700 F to 900 F ...

Attribution : ©DR



In the streets of Ferrages (T)

"Ferrages" can refer to the whereabouts of the blacksmith and most likely here in "wet field" devoted to forage. At the time, the village was limited to heights and all wastewater flowed down the village, creating a wet field. This street has always been an absolute must. The horses could also relax in a barn that was in the current location of the town hall.

Attribution : ©Damien Rosso - Drozphoto



The beaver lives in the Eze river! (U)

Protected since 1909, the European beaver lives in the Eze river further downstream since several years. 80cm long and 20 to 30kg, this nocturnal and aquatic mammal is a lumberjack, carpenter, joiner, miner and vegetarian, all together! With the construction of dams in drought, it contributes to the maintenance of plant and animal species related to the presence of water.

Attribution : ©DR-Per Harald Olsen



The castle of the Tour-d'Aigues (V)

From the 14th century, the castle transferred out of the medieval settlement on the present site. A castle was built in the 15th century around the first dungeon. But during the 16th century, the castle and gardens were extensively reworked and expanded to become one of the finest Renaissance buildings in Provence. It was unfortunately looted and burned during the Revolution. The few remains were gradually restored since the 19th century, but nevertheless testify to this rich history.

Attribution : ©Alain Hocquel - VPA



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