



Santiago — Mendoza — Buenos Aires — Iguazu — Rio de Janeiro

Explore South America's astounding diversity through indigenous culture, dance and local folklore, set against a backdrop of the continent's huge landscapes. All washed down with a glass or two of the region's excellent wines!

- Discover the charms of Valparaiso
- Taste the wines of the Maipu Valley
- Experience tango in Buenos Aires
- Hear the roar of Iguacu Falls
- Stand before Christ the Redeemer
- Ascend Sugarloaf Mountain

TOUR MAP



WINES & WONDERS OF SOUTH AMERICA TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- · Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Wines & Wonders of South America' is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Sightseeing will involve climbing several steps, often without handrails
- Some days will be spent at altitude



Of course, our National Escorts and Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime.

These tours include:

- Walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- Evenings at leisure for independent exploration

The cost of your tour includes most meals, however on occasion you will have the opportunity for some free time around mealtimes to experience the local restaurants for yourself. At these times meals will be at your own expense. The meals which are included in your tour are clearly stated on each individual day of the itinerary below.

Our Latin America tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of this continent on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. We are sure you will have a wonderful time - prepare to be immersed in the authentic charm of the countries you will visit.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 16 days in duration including international flights.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to Reservations.

Join the tour on Day 1 in Santiago and end the tour on Day 14 in Rio de Janeiro. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to Santiago

Fly to Chile's capital city, Santiago. Upon arrival, you will be met by a Wendy Wu representative and be transferred to your hotel.

Enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure.

Please note: Early check in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservations consultant.



Destination Information

Santiago – Santiago is a vibrant and cultural city set on the plains of the Andes and home to 40% of Chile's population. Split into 32 boroughs (comunas), each area has its own distinct character, yet all the streets are alive with the energy of the city.

Day 2: Discover Santiago

Meals: B,D

Today, discover Santiago on a walking tour that will have you exploring the Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral where you will be able to admire the colonial facades, before walking down Ahumada Boulevard, the city's main commercial street.

Go on to visit Cerro Santa Lucia, the hill that was founded in 1541 and now a park with fountains and stairs leading up to a fort that offers panoramic views of the city and the towering Andes Mountains.



Conclude the day with dinner in a local restaurant.

Please note that while touring in Santiago, the size of your group might increase slightly above 18 people, as the end of our Andes to Atacama Adventure overlaps with the start of our Wines & Wonders of South America tour. Some passengers may be combining these tours on our Ultimate South America tour, while others may be travelling on one tour only.

Destination Information

Cerro Santa Lucia — Also known as Huelén Hill, located in the centre of Santiago, Cerro Santa Lucia is the remnant of a 15 million year old volcano and was used as a lookout point for the conquistadors when conquering Chile.



Day 3: Valparaiso Meals: B, L

Travel 3 hours to the coast to visit the bohemian port town of Valparaiso. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Valparaiso is a unique and delightful tangle, draped over a series of hills.

Funiculars connect the industrial seafront with the cerros (hill) neighborhoods, each a maze of colourful, artfully dilapidated mansions and enchanting street art.



Pay a visit to the La Sebastiana Museum before heading on to the Casablanca Valley. Here, in one of Chile's premier wine regions, you'll visit a winery where you'll be served an indulgent lunch and enjoy a tasting session amid the vineyards.

Return to Santiago this afternoon.

Destination Information

Valparaíso — Overlooked by an imperious hillside and set on a wide bay, Valparaiso is considered to be the most captivating and unique city in Chile. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, the colourful houses are dotted across the hillside in a haphazard, disorganised fashion and the main method of getting up and down through the city is on the city's old funicular lifts.

Casablanca Valley – Renown for its wine production, the Casablanca Valley offers some of the best flavours in Chile. Sitting between the coastal mountains and the Pacific, the fertile valley is best characterized by it production of white wine varieties, including Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

Day 4: Santiago to Mendoza

Meals: B

Today bid adios to Chile and hola to Argentina!

Transfer to the airport for your flight over the breathtaking Andes Mountains to the city of Mendoza. Your flight today will be approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes long.



Destination Information

Andes Mountains — Consisting of a series of extremely high plateaus and surrounded some of the highest peaks in the Western Hemisphere, most of which are volcanic, the Andes Mountains remains a central hub for biodiversity and is home to an astronomical range of wildlife. Much crop has also originated from the Andes Mountains, including potatoes, tomatoes and coca leaves.



Day 5: Mendoza Meals: B, D

This morning, explore the city on a walking tour and see how the city was restored after a devasting earthquake in 1861. Pass by the magnificent landmarks and must-see attractions.

This afternoon is at leisure, we highly recommend that you find a peaceful spot to sit outside and try some malbec, the wine for which this region is best known.



Destination Information

Mendoza — Famed for its many red wines such as Malbecs, Mendoza is the gateway to Argentina's best bodegas (wineries). The region that surrounds Greater Mendoza is the largest wine-producing area in South America, whilst Mendoza alone, accounts for two-thirds of the entire wine production in Argentina.

Day 6: Maipu Valley

Meals: B, L

Head just outside of the city to Maipu, the heart of one of Argentina's most important and oldest wine growing regions.

From here you'll visit some of the region's most prominent wineries, tasting some wonderful wines, including Argentina's most famous red, Malbec, as well as enjoying a delicious lunch.



Destination Information

Maipu Valley — Home to some of Mendoza's top-quality and high end producers of red wine, including Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir. Maipu Valley sits on the southern outskirts of Mendoza City and is dominated by flat vineyards with high altitudes.

Day 7: Mendoza to Buenos Aires

Meals: B

Today fly approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes to Argentina's flamboyant capital, Buenos Aires.

Upon arrival you will be transferred to your hotel.

Enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure, immersing yourself in the city's vibrant energy.





Buenos Aires - The Paris of South America, Buenos Aires is a romantic and lively city. The culture of the city is extremely diverse and the asado (barbecue) restaurants are second to none. Most importantly of all, Buenos Aires is the home of Tango and performers can be seen dancing in restaurants, bars or even on the streets.

Day 8: Buenos Aires

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, enjoy the irresistible combination of Latin flair and European elegance on a Buenos Aires city tour.

Your tour will last approximately 5 hours.

Visit the vibrant districts of La Boca, San Telmo, Puerto Madero, Palermo and Recoleta. This evening, sit down for dinner and an exciting tango show.



Destination Information

La Boca — A buzzing barrio of Buenos Aires packed with colourful shacks built from Zinc, La Boca is a popular area to see street artists and tango dancers. La Boca is also home to the world-famous Boca Juniors Football Club, who play at the intimidating La Bombonera stadium.

San Telmo — One of the oldest neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires filled with cobbled streets, cafes, restaurants, antique stores and the 19th century Central Market.

Recoleta — An affluent area of Buenos Aires and home to lavish former palaces, Paris-style townhouses and the famous Recoleta Cemetery.

Puerto Madero — Deemed as one of the most exclusive neighbourhoods in the city, Puerto Madero is home to upscale steakhouses, hotels and an ecological Reserve that you can explore by foot or on bike.

Day 9: Estancia Experience in Buenos Aires

Meals: B, L

Spend the day just outside the city on the vast, fertile grasslands known as the pampas, on a traditional estancia (ranch).

Here you'll get some insight into the life of folk heroes, the gaucho and after a typical Argentinian asado lunch, there will be a fun folklore show.





Pampas — The Pampas remain as the lush and fertile flatlands that surround the city of Buenos Aires. The open grassland has played an important part in Argentina's economy and is also home to up-and-coming vineyards in all of Argentina. Much of Argentine folklore also centres around the gaucho figure who continue to work on the estancias today.

Day 10: Buenos Aires to Iguazu

Meals: B, D

Say farewell to Buenos Aires and transfer 30 minutes to the airport to board your plane over to Puerto Iguazu, the town closest to the incredible wonder that is Iguazu (or Iguacu in Brazil) Falls.

Your flight is just under two hours, and a transfer will take you from the airport to your hotel.

You have the rest of the day at leisure.



Destination Information

Puerto Iguazu — Located along the borders of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina, Puerto Iguazu is where the cultures of the 3 nations come together. The Iguazu National Park homes 275 waterfalls as well as the famous 270 feet tall Iguazu Falls, all surrounded by a plethora of wildlife and unparalleled views.

Day 11: Iguazu Falls (Argentina)

Meals: B, L, D

Today, transfer 25 minutes to the falls. You will wander along the Argentinian side of Iguazu, which offers a fantastic overview of the whole of the falls and showcases its power and magnificence. Don't miss the viewpoint of one of the falls' most impressive sights, the Garganta del Diablo.

Take the Ecological Jungle Train, a 15-minute journey, which takes you to the most impressive observation point – the Devil's Throat.



This afternoon, take a unique opportunity to learn about the indigenous culture of the Mbororé Aldea people, who open the doors to their community to share fascinating stories of their ancestors, rituals, myths, and legends. Sightseeing today will be a full day with around six hours on foot.



Iguazu Falls - The incredible Iguazu Falls spans the border of Argentina and Brazil and features hundreds of rushing cascades, set in a lush rainforest scene. The region was declared a world heritage site and received the status of one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature in 2011.

Day 12: Rio de Janeiro

Meals: B

This morning you'll cross the border to visit the Brazilian side of the falls. Wander the paths and catwalks to numerous smaller cascades that dance their way along gullies and through lush greenery.

Bid farewell to the falls before hopping on a plane for a 2 hour flight to Brazil's 'Cidade Maravilhosa', Rio de Janeiro.



Upon arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. The rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Destination Information

Rio de Janeiro – Founded in 1565, the city became the capital of the Portuguese Empire from 1815-1822 after the royal family fled their homeland following the conquests of Napoleon. Nowadays, this city is famous for its beaches, lush scenery and samba fueled nightlife. Rio is also home to Christ the Redeemer and the impressive Sugar Loaf Mountain, both of which you will experience on this tour.

Day 13: Rio de Janeiro

Meals: B, L, D

Climb onboard a jeep to venture to some of Rio's many wonders! Drive about 20 minutes to Cosme Velho Street, then in Paineras station transfer into a van to ascend the Corcovado, on the peak of which Christ the Redeemer watches over the city. On the way you will pass through the lush vegetation of the Tijuca Forest. You can take the steps at the final stage to Christ the Redeemer; however, there is an escalator if you prefer.



Enjoy a delicious Brazilian barbecue lunch before

continuing to Aterro do Flamengo, transfer about 20 minutes to the neighbourhood of Urca where you will ascend to the heights of Sugarloaf Mountain by cable car. The first cable car will take you 215 metres high. From there, board the second cable car which will lead you to breath taking views at the top of the Sugar Loaf Mountain, 395 metres high. Take in the incredible sights of the Guanabara Bay and its islands, Rio-Nitero Bridge and Corcovado.

This evening, meet up with the group for a farewell dinner at a vibrant Brazilian steakhouse.



Corcovado — Originally known as Pinaculo da Tentacao, or Pinnacle of Temptation, Corcovado mountain is a 710m granite peak overlooking Rio, and is easily one of Brazil's most iconic landmarks. It is surrounded by the Tijuca Forest and is home to Christ the Redeemer.

Sugar Loaf Mountain — Known as Pao de Acucar in Portuguese, Sugarloaf Mountain sits at the entrance of Guanabara Bay and is named for its unusual shape as it resembles a traditional form of sugar widely used two centuries ago. Your cable car journey will take you to the summit of the mountain, where you will take in the magnificent views from a height 395 metres. This is an awe-inspiring site, and one that is popular not just with locals and tourists but rock climbers also, as the mountain is one of the largest and most popular urban rock-climbing destinations in the world, featuring over 270 different routes to the top.

Day 14-16: Depart Rio de Janeiro

Meals: B

Today, fly out of Rio de Janeiro for Australia, arriving home two days later.

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.





TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Australian passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter **Argentina**. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to Australia.

Australian passport holders currently require a visa to enter **Chile** and **Brazil**. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. To stay up to date with the latest visa requirements, visit https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

ALTITIUDE:

On this tour you will be spending several nights at altitude, and this will be marked on your day by day itinerary. At these sort of altitudes, Altitude Sickness is a risk. Symptoms may include dizziness, fatigue, nausea and shortness of breath. It is recommended that travellers utilize their first day in high-altitude destinations to acclimatise. To help you acclimatise we have designed our tours to be at a slower pace with more convenient stops and more free time, during the first few days. Staying hydrated, eating light meals and following a very light schedule will all help. We recommend that any symptoms that are unusual should be brought to the attention of your guide. Your guide will be extremely well-trained in dealing with its effects — taking it easy and taking some time to acclimatise are the best ways to prevent and combat it. Serious cases, meaning that you must descend immediately, are rare. We have adapted the itinerary to make sure that your time at these heights is as relaxed and easy as possible.

There are no specific factors, such as age or fitness, that can cause you to suffer from Altitude Sickness. It can affect anyone at any time and symptoms may vary. In some instances, a short spell on oxygen can help enormously. All the hotels that we have selected to use on our programmes provide oxygen free of charge, please ask to use this. There is medication - such as Diamox, and the local Peruvian version, Soroche pills - that can help treat and prevent symptoms. Consult a doctor before taking any of these medications, before engaging in strenuous activity at high altitude, and regarding any necessary vaccinations in plenty of time before travelling.



EATING IN SOUTH AMERICA:

South American cuisine is some of the most eclectic in the world, and each country has its own regional specialties worth sampling.

Argentinian food incorporates many European influences predominantly from Italy and Spain. The Argentinian barbecue (asado) with steak and ribs is widely recognised as the country's national dish; however, in Patagonia lamb, goat and seafood are popular. Empanadas, stuffed pastry parcels, are a traditional snack and Dulce de leche (similar to caramel) features heavily in desserts throughout the country. Lunch is usually seen as the main meal of the day in Argentina with dinner being a lighter dish.

Brazilian food is strongly influenced by European and African cuisines, whilst there is not a single national cuisine there is an assortment of regional traditional dishes. In Rio and Sao Paulo the Brazilian Feijoada is the traditional dish, being a stew made from meat and black beans. In Northern Brazil Cassava (a root vegetable) features heavily in meals. Popular dishes throughout the country include rice and beans, served with meat and salad, fresh tropical fruit is a common dessert. Typical snacks include Pao de Queijo (cheese bread), Coxinha which is a chicken croquette, and Kibe which is a bulgar wheat and beef croquette.

Whilst we strongly recommend trying as many local dishes as possible, Argentina and Brazil also have a wide range of international foods available.

Drinking bottled water and eating well-cooked food is strongly recommended. It's much safer to stick to bottled, treated or boiled water. Ice, along with salads or fruits washed in tap water should likewise be avoided.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines. All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals, or waiter-assisted buffets. Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.



ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to rainforest lodges. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between Australia and South America. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours, for city short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers between destinations. Roads in Chile have generally been improved over recent years, but please be aware traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy, but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Within South America flights are often changed multiple times before departure, both timings and flight numbers. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information, however your local guide will confirm this in destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible, however due to limited schedules some flights may require an early departure or late arrival.

SOUVENIRS:

There are plenty of interesting bits and pieces to buy as souvenirs in all the visited destinations, such as handicrafts and artworks. In Argentina and Brazil, there are indigenous textiles, handicrafts, leather and artworks. There will be some opportunities during your tour to pick up souvenirs.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by National Escorts. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.



TIPPING POLICY:

Local tipping is customary in Latin America; however, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page and will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in US Dollars and will be collected by your National Escort on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. As this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour. Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South America is no exception. We will provide suggested tipping amounts with your final documents for your convenience; however, tipping is entirely at your own discretion.

PACKING LIST AND CLIMATE:

On this tour, you will be travelling through various regions of South America with quite diverse climates. It is recommended to bring lots of layers including the following: T-Shirts made of breathable materials, hiking trousers (with the option to turn into shorts), a fleece jacket for colder parts and the evenings, a waterproof jacket as shell layer or a light rain jacket, a scarf and hat and warm socks. Whilst in Argentina and the Brazil coastal area of Rio, it is recommended to bring lots of layers including the items mentioned above. We recommend packing a light fleece jacket for those colder afternoons in Buenos Aires. A small backpack that fits into your main hand luggage to carry your daily essentials should also be taken.

Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each, a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.



PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Latin America. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

EXCHANGING CASH:

The unit of currency in Chile is the Chilean Peso (CLP), in Argentina it is the Argentinian Peso (ARS) and in Brazil it is the Brazilian Real (BRL). US Dollars can be easily exchanged provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Try and keep some small notes and coins on you, as on street stalls and in small shops they may not have the change to break up a high denomination note. If you decide to use US dollars, make sure they are in a good state (not ripped etc) or they will not be accepted. ATMs are common across Latin America and we recommend using an ATM inside a bank where possible. Please note, currently there are restrictions on how much cash you can withdraw from ATMs in Argentina. Most major credit cards are widely accepted across the continent; please bear in mind the charges of your provider. Debit cards are also widely accepted but may have a limit to the amount of cash you can withdraw, so consult your bank about this before travelling

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour at an additional cost. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.



AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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