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LA CITÉ DE LA MER

DIVE INTO THE ADVENTURE

There is a place on dry land where the ocean unveils its mysteries, allowing you to approach its abysses.

La Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg recounts man's adventures under the sea. Under the great Art deco vault of what used to be the Transatlantic liner terminal, it has taken over this unique architectural heritage, built in 1933, figurehead of the largest artificial roadstead in the world!

Twenty-seven years ago, Bernard Cauvin, a local councillor who had worked in Cherbourg's shipyards gathered a small group of people. This handful of enthusiasts laid the foundations of the ambitious project that would culminate in La Cité de la Mer, saving the building that was threatened with demolition. Fourteen years after its official opening, still under the chairmanship of Bernard Cauvin, it is one of the most popular leisure attractions in France, through a series of themed exhibits that both inform and entertain visitors. It was no accident that the French director Jacques Perrin set up his cameras here to film the last scene of his film "Oceans", creating the Gallery of Extinct Species here.

A whole day will scarcely suffice to visit La Cité de la Mer and discover the exploits of the adventurers of the ocean depths, wonder at the wealth of underwater life in the 15 aquariums* and dive with Le Redoutable, the first French nuclear-powered submarine built in Cherbourg, and the largest submarine open to the public in the world.

The spirit of the place and Cherbourg's vocation as a transatlantic port were brought back to life. From 1870 onwards, the mighty liners left here for the Americas, including Titanic, whose only stopover on the continent was in Cherbourg, as she left for her final voyage.

La Cité de la Mer shows the adventure of the oceans on a large scale.

NEW IN 2019: 'THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE': A FRESH LOOK AT THE BLUE PLANET

Visitors experience a unique adventure over an area of 1,400 square metres, from the surface of the sea down to the ocean depths. Children and adults discover the eighteen interactive areas and seventeen aquariums (including the deepest aquarium in Europe, the 10.70-metre-deep Abyssal Aquarium), revealing the last wild region on the planet, its wealth, its promise, and its need for protection.



THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE

Jacques Perrin had a great deal of influence on the exhibition and on the decision to plunge visitors into the heart of astonishing images of the marine world. This would not have been possible without the priceless gift of several minutes from the film 'Océans'!





We are keeping the basic DNA of La Cité de la Mer -the Adventure of Men under the Sea-, but we will be casting a completely new eye over the Ocean, the last wild region on the planet, a vast blue expanse, that remains mysterious, while inspiring hope.

We were keen for visitors to be able to go from surprise to surprise in the heart of an exhibition based on emotion. Reactions go from quiet contemplation when looking at the aquariums, to marvelling at the images from the film 'Océans'. Jacques Perrin, the film's director, provided us with the images, my own special favourite in this new section. Our main aim was to increase awareness of how urgent it is to protect the Oceans, while revealing their promise and resources.

The exhibition combines history and biology with the beauty of the Ocean, before concluding with the alert given by Jacques Perrin: 'There's no backup Ocean ...'

We designed the area with a team of some forty people, including experts who, when they discovered the whole exhibition after completion, were all delighted; we are the only centre in Europe with this modern, multidisciplinary approach

But our main aim was to create something that would be attractive to families, and there again, we have been successful. There is something for everyone: school children and engineers, keen geologists, archaeologists, or freedivers, or people who are just curious. It appeals to all their senses, from touch in the touch pool with its horseshoe crabs, which I find endlessly fascinating, to taste with the digital table d'hôte. It takes at least an hour and a half to go round the new exhibition, and each member of the family will find something different to take away from it.

Bernard Cauvin, Chairman of La Cité de la Mer.







STEP BY STEP INTO THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE ...

Visitors start this new experience by entering the **'PLANET OCEAN'** area, and finding themselves face to face with a giant globe and an eight-metre-long cyclorama! A first impression that makes them completely lose their bearings, as they discover the Oceans at the heart of all humankind's history. Here there is no commentary or description, but the area tackles a new challenge: to show that Humans and Society have evolved through the conquest of the seas, and will continue to do so in the future.



It's now time to go underwater, in the 'WILD ENCOUNTERS' area where in passing visitors get their first glimpse from above of the 10.70-metre-deep Abyssal Aquarium. The mirror effect on the ceiling gives visitors the impression that they are submerged below the surface of the water - quite an experience! Five great 3-metre-high panels of video images, set over interactive touch tables showing freedivers, dolphins, sharks, sperm whales and underwater scenes - up-to-date technology, invented by imaginative pioneers from Captain Cousteau to Jacques Perrin. The display includes the words of the experts involved in devising the exhibition: The freediver Laurent Marie, and the oceanographer François Sarano. Children can play and make discoveries, doing a large circular jigsaw puzzle, playing a game giving them a Donald Duck voice (helium effect), or performing a test to see how long they can hold their breath!





After observing or even listening to large marine animals, visitors are given the chance to understand **THE INVISIBLE WORLD OF PLANKTON**. Plankton's wide range of forms and colours, and above all its capacity to produce over 50 per cent of the oxygen on the Earth, will surprise visitors. It is a microscopic organism studied by the Tara Océan foundation and the fascinating Pierre Mollo. The filmed interviews show the vital role plankton plays for humanity, while younger visitors can have fun looking at photos through the giant magnifying glasses. On the screen, set on the glass along the side of the Abyssal Aquarium, visitors can make more discoveries by plunging into a drop of water from the 350,000 litres in the pool, which also contains 1,000 tropical fish. An amazing virtual reality system.



In the heart of the five cylindrical aquariums filling the next area, are **THE SPECIES FROM THE DAWN OF TIME**, whose ancestors survived Earth's five great extinction crises. Jellyfish, sea horses, nautiluses, arthropods and moray eels have adapted and survived cataclysms, while dinosaurs disappeared. That is exactly what the large backlit panels emphasise, for these animals are still around, even though they originated over 400 million years ago!

The descent into the ocean depths continues, as visitors hasten down the steps. Opposite the staircase are projected extremely large-format images never before shown in public - in particular images from the film Océans: a shower of gannets, a giant octopus, dolphins racing against each other ... The atmosphere becomes darker and darker, and the whole family will feast their ears and eyes, as they go down to **THE LANDSCAPES OF THE OCEAN DEPTHS.**

Visitors find themselves in front of life-size (15 metres and 6 metres!) images of a whale and a giant squid, before coming into the centre of a unique scene - like an explorer gazing on a seemingly inhospitable area for the first time. And yet the video-mapping devices projecting images onto cold coral, or onto a hydrothermal spring (or 'black smoker') reveal the diversity of life underwater, that is possible in the absence of light - veritable oases. There are interviews with the actual pioneers who have been going down in incredible submersibles since the 1960s and discovering these landscapes, and who describe their expeditions: Don Walsh (from the USA), Anatoly Sagalevich (Russia), Auguste Piccard (Switzerland), James Cameron (Canada), Henri-Germain Delauze (France) ... Their craft can be seen in the Great Hall of Men and Machines in the Entrance Hall.



These contemporary adventures are also illustrated by **UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY**, in which the French underwater research body (DRASSM - Département des Recherches Archéologiques Subaquatiques et Sous-

Marines) is closely involved. France has the second-largest maritime territory in the world, plenty to keep explorers occupied! Their team, led by Michel L'Hour, in conjunction with Stanford University, invented Ocean One. A video shows the humanoid robot, on the wreck of the eighteenth-century ship La Lune. This strange 'diver' is capable of interpreting the sense of touch, and can thus replace archaeologists in impenetrable depths! All the family are fascinated by the archaeologists who have discovered wrecks and treasure. Some wrecks and their histories are shown in little popup sketches (dioramas): CSS Alabama (a confederate ship sunk off Cherbourg), Saint-Exupéry's aeroplane, the lighthouse of Alexandria, the Brunei junk or the naval ship le Léopoldville that was sunk on Christmas Eve in 1944.



La Cité de la Mer gives a new angle on the Abyssal Aquarium, the deepest aquarium in Europe. Visitors enter the **JULES VERNE SALOON**, that has a magnificent view over the water column that is almost 11 metres high and contains nearly 1,000 fish. This area gives families a time of repose, a place of contemplation, based on Twenty thousand leagues under the sea, with the book's illustrations appearing and disappearing around the glass walls with their eight-metre-high bronze-coloured silkscreen prints - a magnificent, poetic play of light! Visitors can also listen to extracts from the book, read by actors who take on the roles of Professor Aronnax and Captain Nemo.





After the Jules Verne Saloon comes THE NAUTILUS'S KITCHEN, given a Normandy twist! Budding Chefs it's time to don your aprons! Visitors can use the large digital table to create a '100%-oceanic' meal. They select the ingredients as they pass by on the table, taking into account their origin (90% must come from Normandy) and the season. The aim is to create an environmentally responsible recipe, and the most gifted chefs can even create a recipe devised by one of the Michelin-starred chefs from Normandy restaurants who have also taken up the challenge! Each recipe can then be sent in by e-mail. Just nearby, visitors are drawn in by strange marine aromas. There is another challenge for them: to recognise the smells – this will probably result in an attack of the giggles! And to find out more about the resources to be found in the sea off the Normandy coast, a multimedia kiosk provides plentiful information about the people in Normandy whose work involves the sea. There is a new aquarium with a Normandy vegetable garden - from the sea!

Step by step, visitors then discover several aquariums on the theme of **THE PROMISES OF THE OCEAN**. Stonefish, common jellyfish, red lionfish ... all these individuals have something in common: they are useful to humanity: health, cosmetics, biomimicry, textiles ... Some of the solutions that the ocean provides us with are shown on a 12-metre-long interactive frieze that visitors, including children, can use at the same time. They use their hands to select a species that moves and shows what benefit(s) it can provide. This information is the fruit of research carried out by numerous laboratories, some of which are in Normandy. The interactive kiosk dedicated to this work is frequently updated.

Children are delighted to discover a new touch pool, divided into two parts – on one side are houndsharks and ray, and on the other horseshoe crabs. This prehistoric

animal is now a protected species. Its blue blood is used to detect bacterial contamination in medicine and vaccines, or for detecting certain cancers.

Our adventures in 'the Ocean of the Future' are almost over. Before the visit draws to an end, visitors have a final look under the Abyssal Aquarium and discover panels with brief descriptions of the main threats to the ocean, with the words of Jacques Perrin: 'There's no backup Ocean, and mankind must understand that before it's too late.' This warning is supposed to make each visitor reflect, and then take action in the future to protect the blue planet. The Sea holds the future of the Earth.

The final display: Three large screens surround visitors with a marvellous spectacle. These images are shown next to a large aquarium designed like a garden planted with fluorescent coral, like the fourth screen of the display.

The spectacle jogs the visitors into remembering that Oceans are the origin of life and hold all the keys to the future of humanity, as long as we manage them as something that belongs to everyone

AND WHAT OCEAN DO YOU WANT FOR THE FUTURE?



Ce parcours a été réalisé avec le concours financier de :











THE TRANSATLANTIC HARBOUR



Officially opened on 30th July 1933, this splendour of the Art deco era, designed by the architect Levavasseur, became the largest liner terminal in the world, and the second most extensive building in France after Versailles.

This shows the importance of transatlantic travel. At one time, up to seven trains were arriving from Paris every day with passengers ready to sail to the Americas.

From the end of the nineteenth century onwards, countless men and women left from Cherbourg to try their luck in the New World. Between 1900 and 1914 there was a second wave of emigration, with most of the migrants coming from central Europe. As well as being driven into exile for financial reasons, they often had political or religious motivations. But they all had the same dream: to find a better life. Most were obscure, but some, including Charlie Chaplin, Richard Burton or Elizabeth Taylor, were some of the most glamorous stars of the time.

In the transatlantic hall where customs and embarkation formalities were performed, they encountered the elegant



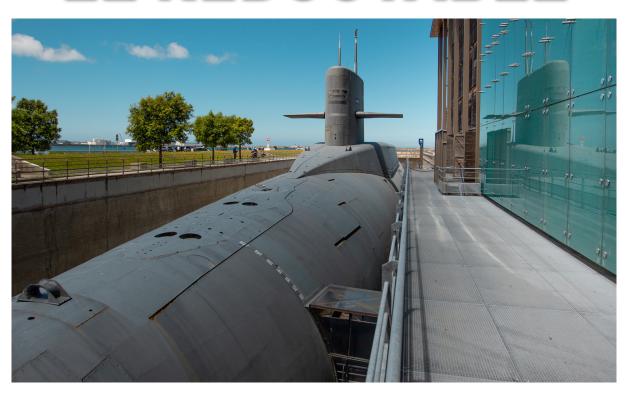
surroundings that they would also find on board the liners. This can still be seen in the Transatlantic Terminal Concourse which has been completely preserved, with its shops, post office and cafés that only seem to have closed yesterday.



"Our Lady of the Queens", as it was known affectionately before the war, was going to suffer a sad fate. Scuttled by the Germans in 1944, the Transatlantic liner terminal lost its 67-metre-high campanile.

This vestige of the Art deco period was rebuilt, but passenger numbers never reached the same level as before the war. The advent of commercial aviation spelt the end for Transatlantic liners. By the end of the nineteen seventies, the terminal had been completely abandoned. Miraculously, it escaped destruction by becoming a classified building in 1989, and took on a new lease of life thanks to Bernard Cauvin and his group of enthusiasts. The Transatlantic liner terminal's future was assured, when, on 29th April 2002, La Cité de la Mer was opened. It has since had over 4,000,000 visitors.

LE REDOUTABLE



THE LARGEST SUBMARINE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN THE WORLD!

A tour of the submarine will take you down into the bowels of the ship, which is 128 metres (420 feet) long and 10.60 metres (nearly 25 feet) in diameter. You'll be surprised by the narrow passageways, but will be able to imagine how the two 135-man crews spent their time during their 70-day patrols, when there were always crew members on duty 24 hours a day.

From the engine rooms to the bunks, not to mention the operating theatre and the operations navigation control room or "OPs room" with the familiar shape of the periscopes, you're completely submerged in Le Redoutable. After spending 35 minutes visiting the submarine, you're all set to go back to the harbour basin.

A SUBMARINE OF EXCEPTION

Try your hand at being a submariner as you board *Le Redoutable*. Once you have gone through the massive door, armed with your audio guide, you're inside the submarine *Le Redoutable*. This jewel of the French

navy, the first in a set of six SSBNs (Submersible Ships, Ballistic, Nuclear-powered), was launched in Cherbourg on 29 March 1967 by General de Gaulle.

WALKING UNDER THE GIANT

After going down into the basin made to take the Giant that epitomises the French navy, you will see the submarine in another light ... It's so enormous it will take your breath away... There are lively information panels along the way, explaining how we managed to get the

128-metre-long Redoutable into a space that is only 136 metres long, how a nuclear-powered submarine works, what the crew do with their household waste, ... and who are known by French submariners as "golden ears"?

MORE INFO ABOUT LE REDOUTABLE NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE

The French submarine, Le Redoutable, spent 90,000 hours underwater and covered 1,270,000 kilometres, 32 times the circumference of the Earth! Have you ever dream of dining on board Le Redoutable, in Cherbourg?

You can make that dream come true. La Cité de la Mer organises corporate events, giving you the chance to entertain your clients in an original setting, on board the submarine, for an exceptional dinner...

TITANIC, RETURN TO CHERBOURG



CHERBOURG, A PORT FOR MIGRATION, A GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

With transatlantic activity in full swing up until 1933, the theme of European emigration to the New World was at the heart of the project for the new exhibition which has been set up in the old Passenger Terminal, one of the last places in Europe still bearing witness to the heritage of this great era. The new section of the complex, over 2,500 square metres in area, was opened to the public early in 2012.

Over a period of a hundred years (1869-1969), around 4 million persons came through Cherbourg, some leaving Europe for the Americas, others crossing the Atlantic to arrive in Europe, though most of them were emigrants.

The first part of the exhibition is dedicated to this period and is housed in the impressive former Baggage Hall.

There is an interactive video display, where visitors are able to share the emotion of emigrants, going back in time to feel the atmosphere of the era and meeting the passengers embarking on liners in Cherbourg. A unique heritage is on show for visitors.

The exhibition is dedicated to the memory of some of the main museums on the theme of emigration such as Ellis Island. Sets of clothing and linen, papers, religious items, but also glimpses into the hopes of the emigrants, as well as the poverty they had experienced, pass before our eyes in the slides projected onto our first "dynamic wall". The second screen (same digital device) takes visitors by the hand to board the Titanic by showing them the names of the 281 passengers who boarded the ship at Cherbourg. The crossing can commence...

"EMIGRATION AT THE HEART OF YOUR HISTORY"

Interactive attractions have been added to the Baggage Hall, giving further insight into emigration. Historical reality is preserved, and visitors can identify with the enormous numbers of people who crossed the Atlantic to leave Europe. 8 touch-screen tablets and two giant projections of the faces of men, women and children make visiting the exhibition a really moving experience.

First two interactive tablets: "Could you have become an American citizen?" These interactive tablets confront

the visitor with the extremely strict questionnaires that candidates for emigration had to fill in when they arrived in Ellis Island, running the risk of being sent back. An experience for you, before you watch the film "In the footsteps of emigrants".

The six following interactive tablets: "Was one of your ancestors an emigrant?" The answer to the question is in the genealogy data base into which they can enter their name.

RELIVE THE TRAGIC VOYAGE OF THE TITANIC, 109 YEARS ON



On 10th April 1912, the Titanic made her first stopover in Cherbourg, with the port's tenders taking 281 passengers on board. It was to be the last stop-over in mainland Europe for this giant of the seas...

The second part of the exhibition, located downstairs from the Baggage Hall is dedicated to the Titanic. Visitors will relive the liner's construction as well as the atmosphere of working and living on board, from the passengers' perspective but also from the crew's viewpoint.

Visitors go down along the hull of the Titanic: a film is projected onto a giant 24-metre screen before their eyes. Quite something! There are three different scenarios: the four days of this unique crossing, the collision with the iceberg and the ship going down. The public will walk alongside a recreated part of the ship's hull, before going on board. This is achieved using multimedia slides: along the 1st-class, 2nd-class and 3rd-class corridors, then up to the bridge; visitors will then visit an area dedicated to the enquiry that took place after the catastrophe... an extremely moving experience. The most up to date cinematic and audiovisual techniques are used.

This new bilingual exhibition (French or English) lasting

over an hour will stimulate the public's curiosity and help visitors see the legend that was Titanic in a new light. The designer has not forgotten the fans of historical investigation and deep-sea mystery. The last room in the exhibition is dedicated to research, using contemporary documents and tabloid headlines reporting the catastrophe. 1,490 dead... We also devote space to the search for the wreck of the Titanic, which was finally located in 1987 by a combined French and American team, at a depth of 3,800 metres.

We have worked in conjunction with the historians, technicians and scientists of the Association Française du Titanic, and the complete visit is based on the actual testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the disaster.



NEW: FROM APRIL 2020 'TITANIC ARTEFACTS AND STORIES...'

From April onwards, in conjunction with the American companies E/M Group & RMS Titanic Inc, some 60 objects brought up from the field of debris surrounding the wreck of the ship at a depth of 3,800 metres, will be included in the exhibition 'Titanic artefacts and stories ...'.

THE GREAT GALLERY OF MEN AND MACHINES



A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF MANNED CRAFT, EPITOMIZING DEEP-SEA DIVING...

This unique collection is on display in the entrance hall of the Transatlantic liners' Terminal. As soon as you arrive, you will be plunged into the epic journeys of the oceanauts who went down thousands of metres in these wonderful machines!

The manned chamber is the common element found in all the machines, enabling explorers to dive down to the

ocean depths in complete safety. One of the aims of the Great Hall and the Men celebrated by La Cité de la Mer is to help you feel for yourselves exactly how it felt on board the machines when they were underwater.

Technical explanations are provided, together with the story of each machine: maximum submergence depth, diameter of the manned chamber, crew size, type of vessel, number of dives...

MANNED SUBMARINES IN THE GREAT HALL

15 submarines (French, American, Russian and Japanese) have taken over the main entrance hall. These are the vessels that have enabled the pioneers exploring the ocean depths to go deeper and deeper. Just think that we know less about the sea bed than about the surface of the moon!

Archimède and its new manned chamber showing the size of the observation post in this machine that took men down to a depth of 9,545 metres (31,315 feet) in 1962.

The Beebe & Barton bathysphere : a full-scale model, 1.45 metres in diameter! These two crazy explorers went

down to 900 metres in 1934, with only a cable connecting them to the surface!

But there is also a host of other fascinating vessels: actual submarines and models of submarines: Globule, Nautile, Alvin, Fulton's Nautilus, Total Sub, Cyana, Tourelle Galeazzi, Mir and Deepsea Challenger, the 8 metres model of James Cameron's submarine.

Two news submarines machines arrived last year: Remora 600 and 2000 of Comex company. The eye of SeaOrbiter arrived in the great hall is the first part of the construction of the vessel. The original idea and design of SeaOrbiter are created by the world-renowned French architect Jacques Rougerie.

EXPLORERS OF THE ABYSS

On October 12th 2017, the elite in deepsea exploration (American, Canadian, Chinese, French, Japanese, Russian) unveiled the Wall of Fame «Explorers of the Abyss» in the heart of the Great Gallery of Men and Machines.

From left to right:

Daniel Reyss (FR), Masahiko Ida (Japan), Xin Wu (China), Weicheng Cui (Chine), Don Walsh (USA), Bernard Cauvin, Yvan Tchernomordik (FR), Alexandra Oppenheim-Delauze (FR), Anatoly Sagalevich (Russia), Philippe De Guillebon (FR), Jean Jarry (FR).



WALKING INTO THE DEPHTS



After visiting the aquarium, it's time for YOU to be the hero...

Our virtual adventure "Walking into the Depths" will whisk you off for a voyage through the depths of the ocean. We guarantee that you'll be thrilled by this sensational attraction!

La Cité de la Mer exhibition centre asked Captain Glass, a worthy successor to Jules Verne's' Captain Nemo, to take you right down to the bottom of the ocean on board the Hadalys, the latest in virtual simulators and underwater exploration capsules.

The Captain and his crew will keep an eye on you and help you out, while you go down to the inhospitable world of the ocean depths, just as they were when they were discovered scarcely fifty years ago by the first deep-sea explorers. There, before your very eyes, will be revealed countless seascapes, as strange as they are beautiful, a world bathed in a strange darkness where little-known species of amazing underwater animals live.

TRAINING FOR BUDDING HEROES

But, before you can go into this strange land, you have to go on the training course. So off you go to Hadale 31, the secret underwater base in our centre. Captain Glass and his staff will teach you the rudiments. Your senses will become accustomed to the conditions you will encounter as you go down to the depths of the ocean. And now you're ready to go back to the Hadalys and be the star of this virtual adventure taking place 10,000 metres under the sea.

You'll never forget your trip to this enchanted world, or your visit to our aquarium.

Take a souvenir of the adventure home with you!

Experience an extraordinary adventure and go home with a souvenir photo* of your epic journey under the sea!

*Prices are available in the centre



PRATICAL INFORMATION

PHOTO LIBRARY







The Transatlantic Harbour on 27th june 1944 ©Nara_Bibliotheque Jacques Prevert









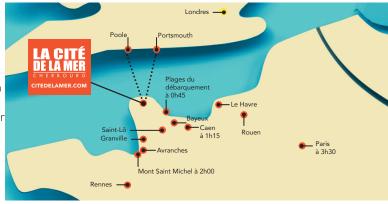
RATES AND HOURS

INDIVIDUAL RATES 2020

Children from 5 to 17 inclusive : € 14 / Adults: € 19 Under 5 years*: no admission charge**

OPENING TIMES:

Open throughout the year from 10am to 6pm In July and August: 9:30am to 7pm Please note that tickets sales stop an hour and a half before the centre closes.



* Free for children under 5 accompanied by an adult buying a ticket

**Please note that, for safety reasons, children under five are not allowed to visit Le Redoutable submarine. Free for children under 5 accompanied by an adult buying a ticket.

When there is a cruise ship in the harbour, the Emigration area is closed to the public.

To make the most of your visit, we advise you to arrive in La Cité de la Mer during the morning. Your tour around our complex will be all the most pleasurable. Your tickét is valid for the whole day. You can leave the complex, have your lunch, and come back to carry on your tour at leisure. We hope to see you soon in La Cité de la Mer.

Peak periods: When there are a lot of visitors in the complex, the "Walking into the Depths" attraction will be accessible as places become available. It is therefore advisable to arrive as soon as the centre opens, to be sure of having place

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