

# SOUTHERN AFRICA

*Guided 4x4 tagalong safari*

31 Days

29 Apr - 29 May 2025

Camping Based

Guided 4x4 Adventure

Namibia | Botswana | Zimbabwe

Embarking on a guided self drive adventure through Namibia and Botswana, with a side trip to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, promises a thrilling and diverse experience. This 4x4 self drive adventure promises a mix of desert landscapes, wildlife encounters, cultural experiences and the majestic Victoria Falls, providing an unforgettable experience across Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. During the adventure the accommodation is mainly camping based with 6 nights of accommodation included. There are other opportunities to upgrade from camping to accommodation if you would like an extra night or two with more luxury throughout the 30 night adventure.



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# The Route

## Highlights Include...

**Moremi National Park:** Part of the Okavango Delta, renowned for its prolific wildlife. Witness elephants bathing, lions on the prowl, and herds of antelope navigating the lush landscapes.

**Chobe National Park:** Nestled in the pristine landscapes of Chobe, Savuti Camp beckons travelers seeking an authentic and immersive safari experience.

**Victoria Falls:** Overnight trip to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Victoria Falls.

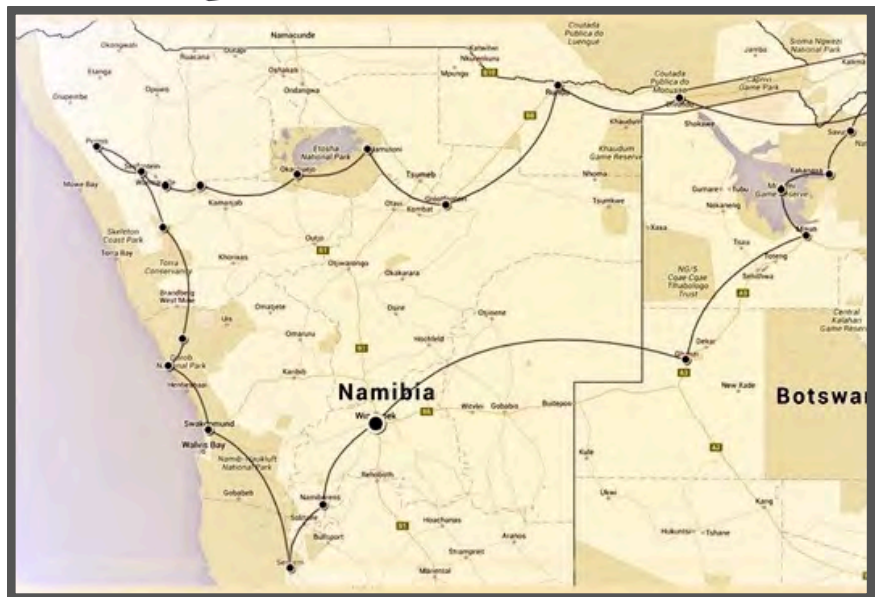
**Etosha National Park:** Renowned as one of Africa's premier safari destinations, Etosha, meaning "Great White Place," is a vast national park which is a sanctuary for an incredible array of wildlife.

**Kaokoland & Palmwag Concession:** One of the least sparsely populated places left on the planet which means when we traverse the rugged terrain, encounter unique wildlife, and visit with the Himba people we will feel like we have Kaokoland to our ourselves. The Palmwag Concession supports nearly 70% of the world's largest free roaming population of black rhinos.

**Skeleton Coast:** A desolate coastline known for its shipwrecks and seal colony at Cape Cross, one of the largest seal colonies in the world.

**Swakopmund:** A charming coastal city that blends German colonial architecture with activities like quad biking with a nature historian or searching for the "small five" in the Namib Desert.

**Sossusvlei and Deadvlei:** These iconic landscapes within the Namib-Naukluft National Park feature towering red sand dunes and a surreal white clay pan dotted with ancient dead camel thorn trees.



**Please Note:** Proposed route is approx. 5,000km.  
Guide decides on final route as per current conditions on day of travel.







# The Itinerary

1

## Windhoek

Arrive in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel. The international airport is 40 km east of Windhoek. Afternoon briefing followed by a welcome dinner at the famous "Joe's Beer House".  
Dinner & accommodation included



2

## Windhoek

Transfer to collect our 4x4s and purchase provisions for the road. Your car will be fully camping equipped. There could be time to explore Windhoek, which is a cosmopolitan city with an abundance of restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and accommodation. City centre sights include: the Alte Feste (Old Fortress) museum; Christuskirche (Christ Church), consecrated in 1910; and the massive Independence Memorial Museum.  
Breakfast, dinner & accommodation included



3

## Windhoek to Ghanzi

We cross the border into Botswana and camp in the small town of Ghanzi situated in the Kalahari Desert. Breakfast included, camping, accommodation upgrade available



4

## Ghanzi to Maun

Maun is the starting point for explorations into the Okavango Delta. There is time for an optional "doors off" helicopter ride over this UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's largest inland deltas. We will meet up with our local wildlife guide who will travel with the group for the next 5 days with an open safari vehicle as we explore the Okavango Delta. No meals included, camping, accommodation upgrade available





5

## Maun to Moremi

The game viewing starts today. We will stay for two nights nestled in the wilderness of Moremi enjoying the game viewing experience with our expert guide. No meals included, camping



6

## Moremi

Game viewing activities in the morning and afternoon. Moremi is located within the Okavango Delta in Botswana, and is renowned for its diverse ecosystems, making it a prime destination for wildlife enthusiasts. Some of the wildlife species you are have a good chance to encounter during a safari include: lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, impala, giraffe, wild dog, hippo, crocodiles and many colourful birds.

No meals included, camping



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## Moremi to Khwai

Khwai is renowned for its diverse ecosystems, rich wildlife, and the convergence of the Khwai River and Moremi National Park. This region offers a unique blend of riverine forests, open savannahs, and mopane woodlands, creating an ideal habitat for a variety of wildlife.

No meals included, camping



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## Khwai to Chobe (Savuti)

Today we enter the Chobe National Park and Savuti campsite which is in prime game viewing territory. Savuti is known for having one of the highest concentrations of elephants in Africa. It is also known for its large prides of lions. The open landscapes provide excellent visibility, and you may witness these apex predators hunting, resting, or interacting with their pride.

No meals included, camping



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## Chobe (Savuti)

Day of game viewing in the Chobe National Park. Game you might encounter include: elephants, lions, leopards, buffalos, giraffes, zebras, and various antelope species such as impalas and kudus.

No meals included, camping



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## Chobe to Kasane

We say farewell to our Botswana wildlife guide and we continue our journey to the Chobe River and the bustling tourist town of Kasane. Get ready for an epic sunset over this magnificent river. Our campsite borders the Chobe National Park, it is on the river and it is not uncommon to see some game like monkeys, warthogs and small buck wandering through. No meals included, camping, accommodation upgrade available



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## Kasane to Victoria Falls

We leave our cars in Kasane and transfer to Victoria Falls "the smoke that thunders". Enjoy lunch, high tea or a drink at the famous colonial style Vic Falls Hotel. Many optional activities which include helicopter flights, river cruises and walking along the paths opposite the falls. There are many places in this vibrant town to enjoy lunch or dinner. Accommodation is included tonight close to the falls. Optional upgrades to the famous Victoria Falls hotel available. No meals included, accommodation included



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## Victoria Falls to Kasane

It's back to Botswana and an afternoon sunset cruise on the Chobe River. A sunset cruise offers a serene and unforgettable experience, allowing you to witness the beauty of the African wilderness as the sun dips below the horizon. Breakfast included, camping, accommodation upgrade available



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## Kasane to Divundu

We leave Botswana and cross back into Namibia. We will spend the next two nights along the grassy banks of the Kavango River in the captivating Caprivi Strip. The treehouse upgrade is a popular one here but get in early! No meals included, camping, accommodation upgrade available



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## Divundu

Free day for optional activities or relax in camp or take a dip in the "hippo pool". There are optional river activities, walks and bird watching available. No meals included, camping, accommodation upgrade available





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## Dirundu to Grashoek

We continue along the Caprivi Strip before heading to Grashoek, a remote village located in the heart of Namibia's rugged landscape, where the San people have lived for generations, preserving their traditional way of life amidst the challenges of modernity. The Bushman Village at Grashoek serves as a living museum, providing visitors with an authentic insight into the customs, beliefs, and daily rituals of this ancient culture. We will camp in their campsite and enjoy some activities with the San villagers.

No meals included, camping, village visit included



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## Grashoek to Onguma

Next stop is Onguma Nature Reserve, is next to Fisher's Pan on the eastern border of Etosha National Park. It is an opportunity to experience Africa's beauty and diversity at its best. The more than 34,000 hectare reserve is home to black rhino, various antelope, giraffe, zebra, lion, cheetah, leopard and over 300 bird species.

No meals included, camping, accommodation upgrades available



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## Onguma to Etosha

We will enter Etosha National Park from the Namutoni Gate then travel at your own pace to the Okaukueje Waterhole. Along the way we may see a variety of wildlife including: lion, giraffe, elephant, white and black rhino, and a multitude of plains game.

No meals included, camping, accommodation upgrades available



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## Etosha

Day at your leisure. Venture out on your own game viewing at your own pace, take a dip in the resort pool or relax by the waterhole where the game wanders in and out throughout the day.

No meals included, camping, accommodation upgrades available



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## Etosha to Khowarib

We drive the remaining western part of Etosha to the Galton Gate. Then we enter the remote Khowarib Schlucht, also known as Khowarib Gorge, carved over millennia by the meandering Khowarib River, this geological marvel offers visitors a glimpse into the raw beauty and ancient history of the Namibian wilderness. Get ready for some fun bulldust driving today!

No meals included, camping



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## *Khovarib to Hoanib*

Time allowing, we will stop in at the Sesfontein Fort, a relic of the days when Namibia was a German Colony called South West Africa. We then enter the remote Hoanib Riverbed which is fed by occasional rainfall and underground springs which sustains a delicate ecosystem with wildlife, including desert-adapted elephants, lions, giraffe and oryx.

No meals included, camping



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## *Hoanib to Puros*

A highlight of today is our 4x4 drive along the Hoarusib which usually has many water crossings as we make our way through the canyon to the remote village of Puros. With a local guide we will visit a remote Himba village. The Himba are very distinctive appearance, characterised by their intricate hairstyles, unique clothing, and use of ochre paste as a form of body adornment. Women often braid their hair into elaborate styles, incorporating intricate patterns and adorned with jewellery made from shells, beads, and metal. Both men and women apply a mixture of ochre, butterfat, and herbs to their skin and hair, giving them a reddish-brown hue and protecting them from the harsh desert sun.

No meals included, camping, Himba village visit included



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## *Puros to Crowther's Trail*

Time to head south keeping our eyes open for Black Rhino that live in this inhospitable environment. Tonight we will enjoy the desert in a bush camp where we are likely to have the campsite all to ourselves to enjoy the stary skies as we sit around the campfire.

No meals included, camping



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## *Crowthers to Palmwag*

We drive through the Palmwag concession and end the day Palmwag Lodge located among tall Makalani palm trees on the banks of the seasonal Uniab River. The availability of water often lures elephants closer to the lodge. Palmwag manages the concession area around the lodge, a vast nature park of 5,500 km<sup>2</sup> which boasts the largest predator populations outside Etosha National Park and most of the world's free-roaming Black rhino. There are also healthy numbers of the legendary desert-adapted elephant as well as mountain zebra, giraffe, springbok, kudu and more. Afternoon to enjoy a dip in the pool and a sunset drink at the lodge bar.

No meals included, camping, accommodation upgrades available





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## *Palmwag to Ugab*

More remote trails today and our campsite will be somewhere near the Ugab River which originates in the heart of the Brandberg Mountain Range and flows westward towards the Atlantic Ocean. It traverses rugged terrain, cutting through deep canyons and rocky gorges before reaching its eventual destination on the Skeleton Coast.

No meals included, camping



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## *Ugab to Swakopmund*

On our way to the Skeleton Coast we will cross through the Messum Crater which was formed by the impact of a meteorite or asteroid millions of years ago. It is estimated to be around 130 million years old, dating back to the Early Cretaceous period. Its diameter is 22km making it one of the larger impact craters on Earth.

Time permitting we can visit the Cape Cross seal colony. Cape Cross, is an historic area that was landed on by the Portuguese in 1486, and they erected a stone cross here in honour of the Portuguese King.

The Skeleton Coast is known for its hauntingly beautiful and desolate landscapes, as well as its collection of shipwrecks scattered along its shores. These shipwrecks are a testament to the treacherous conditions and navigational challenges posed by this unforgiving coastline. We will stop in to see one of the wrecks as we travel parallel to the coast towards our final destination of Swakopmund where we will camp for the first of our 3 nights here.

No meals included, camping



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## *Swakopmund*

The mix of Namibian influences with picturesque buildings from the German colonial era, palm-lined streets and seaside promenades, the laid-back holiday atmosphere plus the cool sea breeze make Swakopmund one of the most attractive places in the country. It's the perfect place for a rest day. The next two nights we will have a break from camping and stay in a B&B.

No meals included, accommodation included





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## Swakopmund

Free day.

There are many optional activities which include quadbikes in the dunes with a nature historian, seeking out the "small five" in the desert, visiting the local museums or strolling the streets.

Specialist shops sell hand-made leather work, art & crafts, hand-woven carpets and wall hangings, hand-embroidered bed and table linen and other items proudly made in Namibia. Superb jewellery, designed and crafted with local gemstones by master goldsmiths, are another special feature of Swakopmund.

Breakfast included & accommodation included



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## Swakopmund to Sesriem

Travelling south we cross the Tropic of Capricorn on our way to Sesriem Canyon. This deep chasm carved through the rocks by water is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges. The canyon's name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather (ses riem – six thongs tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.)

Breakfast included, camping



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## Sesriem to Namibgreus

Sossusvlei is a famous and iconic destination located within the Namib-Naukluft National Park. It is renowned for its mesmerising and otherworldly landscapes, characterised by towering red sand dunes, vast salt pans, and unique desert vegetation. These are the largest free standing dunes in the world with "big Daddy" the largest at 305m. These dunes get their striking red colour from the iron oxide in the sand. It is the most visited place in Namibia and you will understand why when you visit. It is a 65km drive from our campsite at Sesriem which we will do first thing in the morning.

After lunch we will make our way up an incredible climb up the Spreetshoogte Pass climbing 1,000m in just 4km. What a view from the top! Then it is onto our final campsite at Namibgreus. The showers and toilets here are "under the stars" built into the rocky outcrops and fired by a "donkey" wood heater.

No meals included, camping





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## Namibgreys to Windhoek

Its just a short drive back to Windhoek where we will drop off the 4x4s pack up and enjoy a farewell dinner. Dinner & accommodation included

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## Depart

Transfer to airport for departure flights. Breakfast included



Itinerary is subject to change. The final route may change due to weather, road conditions, decisions by authorities or the local guide.

## Pre & Post Tour Accommodation...

If you'd like arrive a day or two early to acclimatise and get over a long flight or stay longer, we can arrange additional nights in the same hotel. Prices to be advised closer to the date.







## Prices, Dates...

### Prices...

**AUD14,295\* per person**

- Prices are based on 2 people per 4x4 on a double/twin share basis
- 3rd & 4th passenger: we can provide pricing if you have more than 2 people per 4x4
- Solo seats may be available on this tour in the guide car at the same price listed above

\*Prices assume a minimum of 5 vehicles and a maximum of 7 vehicles (plus support vehicles). 2025 pricing only, 2026 pricing will be available in early 2025 approximately in April. Prices are subject to exchange rate fluctuations – please see booking form for all terms and conditions. If we do not have the 5 vehicle minimum the tour can still operate with a small group supplement.

### Inclusions...

Arrival and departure transfers, vehicle hire (Toyota Hilux Manual or similar), paper maps, rooftop or ground tent, bedding, linen, towels, fridge, water tank, cooking and camping equipment, spare tyre, vehicle insurance (standard), cross border fees for vehicle, two way radio in vehicle, Botswana National Park entry fees, Botswana guide in National Parks, Palmwag Reserve park entry fees, National Park entry fees at Sossusvlei, fire wood, camping (24 nights) and guest houses/hotels (6 nights), meals as per itinerary, support vehicle escort and staff.

### Exclusions...

Airfares return to Namibia (approx. AUD2,500-3,000 from Australia economy fare), fuel (approx. AUD1,800 per car), meals other than listed on itinerary (estimate AUD725 per person), cross border fees/taxes approx. AUD30 per person, Zimbabwe Visa USD30 per person, Victoria Falls park entry approx. USD35 per person, entry to Etosha Park approx. AUD40 per person, any accommodation upgrades chosen, any vehicle upgrades chosen, optional activities, vehicle excess which depends on the vehicle category (most commonly ZAR20,000 / Approx AUD1,800 to ZAR30,000 / Approx AUD2,700), meals other than listed on itinerary, local tips, travel insurance (medical evacuation insurance highly recommended), visas (if required), vaccinations (if required), any other items of a personal nature and local tips.

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# Other Information

## Accommodation & Campsites...

Mostly camping. You must have camping experience to join the trip. Some in organized camp sites with facilities, some bush camping. We do stay in some guest houses on the way and you can upgrade to a lodge at some locations at an additional cost.

In campsites with organized facilities these may be quite basic e.g. "long drop" toilet and bush showers which have hot water after the fire gets the water warm. When we bush camp we have a couple of toilet tents that can be set up. Each vehicle gets a "magic toilet" a small pop up loo that can be used in the tent if needed.

## Vehicles...

The standard vehicles are fully camping equipped. The base model used in pricing is a manual Toyota Hilux with roof top tent or ground tent. Various upgrades are available.



◆ DAY



5 Seater

◆ NIGHT



Sleeps 2 persons in 1 rooftop tents

## Driving Ability & Conditions...

The skills required are a driver's license and some 4x4 experience or rough gravel track driving recommended. The route is planned largely avoiding main roads with extensive travel off road and on rarely used tracks, trails and in river beds.

## Activity Level...

This trip is not physically demanding as any walking activity is usually optional. There are walks available from 1-2km to longer and a trekking pole is recommended if you have some difficulty on rough terrain or stairs.





## Convoy Size...

The minimum number of 4x4s in our convoy is 5, unless a small group surcharge is added, and the maximum is 7. This excludes support vehicles. Most vehicles tend to have just two guests, however, up to four can be accommodated. The convoy does travel together for most of the journey, so you need to be willing to be flexible to fit in with the determined start time each day, stops for breaks etc. We try to allow breaks for photos, toilet stops, sightseeing, activities, wildlife viewing, lunch, morning and afternoon tea. In some places part of the day may be "free" where we will give a certain meeting point to regroup.

## Food & Drinks...

Excellent variety! Plan your own meals and do your own shopping to stock your vehicle. You will have all your own cooking equipment, fridge etc in your vehicle so you can be self-sufficient.

## Weather...

The weather will typically range from cool to cold at night, 7-10 degrees C and from 20-35 degrees C during the day depending on the location.

## Guide & Support Team...

You will have a Self Drive Adventures escort for the entire journey. In Botswana you will be joined by a local expert wildlife guide with their safari vehicle so you can focus on enjoying the wildlife experience. The decision of Self Drive Adventures is final on all matters likely to affect the safety or well-being of any person participating in the trip.

## Amenities & Toilet Breaks...

Most of the campsites have flushing toilets and showers. There are only 5 nights where there are no amenities. The longest we are without access to amenities is 2 nights. There will be times when a toilet is not available during the day and we will stop for a "bush toilet" where there may be cover of trees or bushes for privacy.

## Wildlife...

The wildlife ("game") will be in pockets along the route. The main game viewing areas are Moremi National Park, Khwai Conservancy, Chobe National Park and Etosha National Park.

## Flights...

Before booking flights and other arrangements it is your responsibility to confirm with us that we have the minimum number of cars required for this adventure to depart.

## Risks & Health...

By participating you acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous, and participation involves a degree of personal risk. There are no mandatory vaccinations, however, you should discuss the risks with your doctor before agreeing to join this trip.





# FAN MAIL

*Best holiday of my life!*



Although I love travelling overseas, Africa was not really on my bucket list as I prefer to travel independently and not on a 'tour'. As a member of the Landrover Club of the A.C.T., I have done a lot of four wheel driving and camping across Australia but never imagined that I could have the same experience in Africa. I was hooked when Linda and Mike did a presentation at our club meeting and I found out that (a) I could drive my own four wheel drive in a small convoy just as we do in Australia and (b) I could camp in the bush and experience the African scenery. My interest in the African wildlife was only a secondary consideration then. I was blown away by the magic of the whole trip (31 day Botswana and Namibia) and had probably the best holiday I have ever had in my life. The company was wonderful, the driving exciting and varied, the desert scenery breathtaking, the visits to bush villages and schools educational and eye-opening and the camping and varied camp sites wonderful. The Hilux utes and the camping gear provided were very functional and comfortable. However, the wildlife experience was just amazing. I never imagined that I would be so up front and personal with hundreds of elephants, lions, hippos, giraffes, zebras, warthogs, hyenas, wildebeest, rhinos, cape buffalo, impala, kudu, lechway, oryx, springbok and hartebeest, to name a few of the animals we encountered. Mike, Linda and Dave were wonderful hosts and support, and we also had the company of local guide Chris in his safari truck to lead us to the waterholes and rivers of Moremi Game Reserve, Khawai and Chobe National Park. The overnight stay at Victoria Falls was a once in a lifetime experience as was quad biking on the dunes at Swakopmund, cruising on the Chobe river at Ngopi, flying over the Okavango delta and driving through Etosha Wildlife Reserve. I have recommended a Self Drive Adventure to other club members and friends, many of whom have 'signed up'. I am off to Iceland with Mike and Linda in July and will be back to Africa first chance I get!

Sue Alexander, ACT Australia



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