

**BANDELIER**



CLIFF HOUSES



FRIJOLES CANYON



LOWER FALLS, FRIJOLES CREEK



ANCIENT TRAILS



SHRINE OF THE STONE LIONS



RESTORED TALUS HOUSE



CEREMONIAL CAVE



TYUONYI RUIN



PAINTED CAVE



ANASAZI POT

beautiful canyon country containing many cliff and open pueblo ruins of late prehistoric period

## BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO

The demands of a large population faced with limited natural resources set the stage: From the ninth to the thirteenth centuries A.D., urban communities connected by a network of roads flourished in the Four Corners where New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah meet. Over-concentration of population, a breakdown in trade with civilizations in Mexico, and an extended drought contributed to these communities' demise. Over many decades, people moved toward the upper Rio Grande area, where their descendants live today.

Several groups settled on the canyon-slashed slopes of the Pajarito Plateau, in a striking setting characterized by tan cliffs, forested mesas, and deep gorges. The story of these people—their adaptation to their environment and their relationships with other groups—is gradually being brought to light through continuing research by archeologists, adding to our knowledge of prehistoric Southwestern cultures.

The Pajarito Plateau is of interest geologically as well as archeologically. It is constituted largely of tuff (consolidated volcanic ash) and basaltic lava ejected thousands of years ago by a great volcano. The caldera (saucer-shaped depression) created by the collapsed summit of the volcano is among the world's largest calderas; its rim forms the Jemez Mountains. Through this highland, running water has cut many steep-walled canyons down to the Rio Grande.

Bandelier National Monument, an area that is crossed

only by trails, covers nearly 50 square miles. It was named in honor of Adolph F.A. Bandelier, the distinguished Swiss-American scholar, who carried on an extensive survey of prehistoric ruins in the region and studied the Pueblo Indians around Santa Fe between 1880 and 1886. Part of his time was spent in Frijoles Canyon, and the scene of his ethnohistorical novel, *The Delight Makers*, is laid in the canyon as he pictured it in prehistoric times.

### The Ruins

The most accessible features of the monument are the ruins in Frijoles Canyon. The ancients chose well the location of their dwellings. The deep gorge, cut by a stream rising high in the mountains, is still a veritable oasis in the dry country of New Mexico. Translated, the name of this stream, "Rito de los Frijoles," means simply Bean Creek.

Cliff ruins, or talus villages, extend along the base of the northern wall of the canyon for approximately 2 miles. These houses of masonry were irregularly terraced, from 1 to 3 stories high, and had many cave rooms gouged out of the solid cliff. The cliff of compressed volcanic ash, or tuff, was worked with tools of harder stone.

Tree-ring chronology and correlations of pottery types indicate that most of Bandelier's ruins belong to the late pre-Spanish period, although a few small ruins date back to the 12th Century. The large pueblos of Tyuonyi and Tsankawi evidently were occupied until about A.D. 1550,

although their decline had probably set in before Coronado visited the region in 1540. No specific mention of Pajarito villages is made in the chronicles of Coronado's expedition.

The Frijoles inhabitants, like other early pueblo dwellers, were farmers. They grew corn, beans, and squash. They used cotton cloth, which has been found in the caves, and this suggests that they had the loom. Since the growing season on the plateau is short, however, they might have had to obtain the cotton by trade. They made pottery with decorations in black and white, color, and, later, glazed.

Exact cause of abandonment of the dwellings is unknown. For centuries the Indian farmers lived in the Pajarito canyons, built villages, honeycombed the cliffs with artificial caves, and tilled the soil of valley and mesa top. With the passing years, such influences as drought, soil-eroding flash floods, soil depletion, raiding Indians, famine, and disease—singly or in combination—forced the canyon dwellers again to seek new homes. Oral traditions link several present-day Rio Grande pueblos with the prehistoric inhabitants of the Pajarito (little bird) Plateau.

### What To See and Do

Slide programs are presented in the visitor center to provide orientation and interpretation of the area. Museum exhibits interpret the occupation of this general area from about A.D. 1200 to modern pueblo times.

In summer, members of the ranger staff conduct guided

walks and give nightly talks at the campfire circle on the archeology, ethnology, and natural history of the region.

The main Frijoles Canyon ruins are visited by a loop trail laid out to exhibit a complete sample of the ruins of the Bandelier area; the circuit takes about an hour. A guide booklet describing the ruins is available.

### Tsankawi Section

The detached Tsankawi section of the monument is 11 miles north of Frijoles Canyon on N. Mex. 4. This large unexcavated ruin, situated on a high mesa, provides sweeping views of the Rio Grande valley, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the east, and the Jemez Mountains to the west.

A 2-mile self-guiding trail leads from the highway on a circular route through the ruin, following an ancient Indian trail for part of its way (walking time: about 1½ hours). In some places the old trail has been worn into the soft volcanic rock to a depth as great as 18 inches by the countless treading feet of the people who used it centuries ago. Along the trail are cave structures and many interesting petroglyphs, or rock carvings.

### A Reminder

All objects in the monument—Indian artifacts, wildflowers, trees, and rocks—must be left in place and undisturbed so that others, too, may enjoy them. This protection is a matter of Federal law, and violators will be prosecuted.

It is also a matter of good citizenship and consideration for others. The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 prohibits the destruction or removal of objects of antiquity, and provides for fines of up to \$100,000. If every visitor were to remove even a tiny fragment of pottery from the unexcavated Tsankawi section, for example, soon there would be none left. Archeologists need all those fragments in order to reconstruct the whole story of the prehistoric past, so please leave things untouched for future study.

### About Your Visit

Bandelier National Monument is 46 miles west of Santa Fe, New Mexico. From Santa Fe, travel north on U.S. 285 to Pojoaque, then west on N. Mex. 502 and south on N. Mex. 4. Approach may also be made through the beautiful Jemez country from Albuquerque; inquire about road conditions before attempting the trip in bad weather.

From May into September, temperatures range from the low 50's at night to the high 80's in the daytime. The relative humidity is generally low. Thunderstorms, usually of short duration, are frequent in July and August.

*Juniper Campground*, on the mesa above Frijoles Canyon near the entrance station, has campsites (containing tent spaces, tables, fireplaces and a dump station), toilets, and water taps. No utility hookups are provided. A lunch area is in Frijoles Canyon near the visitor center.

Reservations for group camping at *Ponderosa Campground* should be made in advance with the superintendent who can be reached at 505-672-3861.

A curio store and a snackbar, which stocks a limited variety of camping supplies, are open during summer months. Overnight lodgings are available in nearby towns.

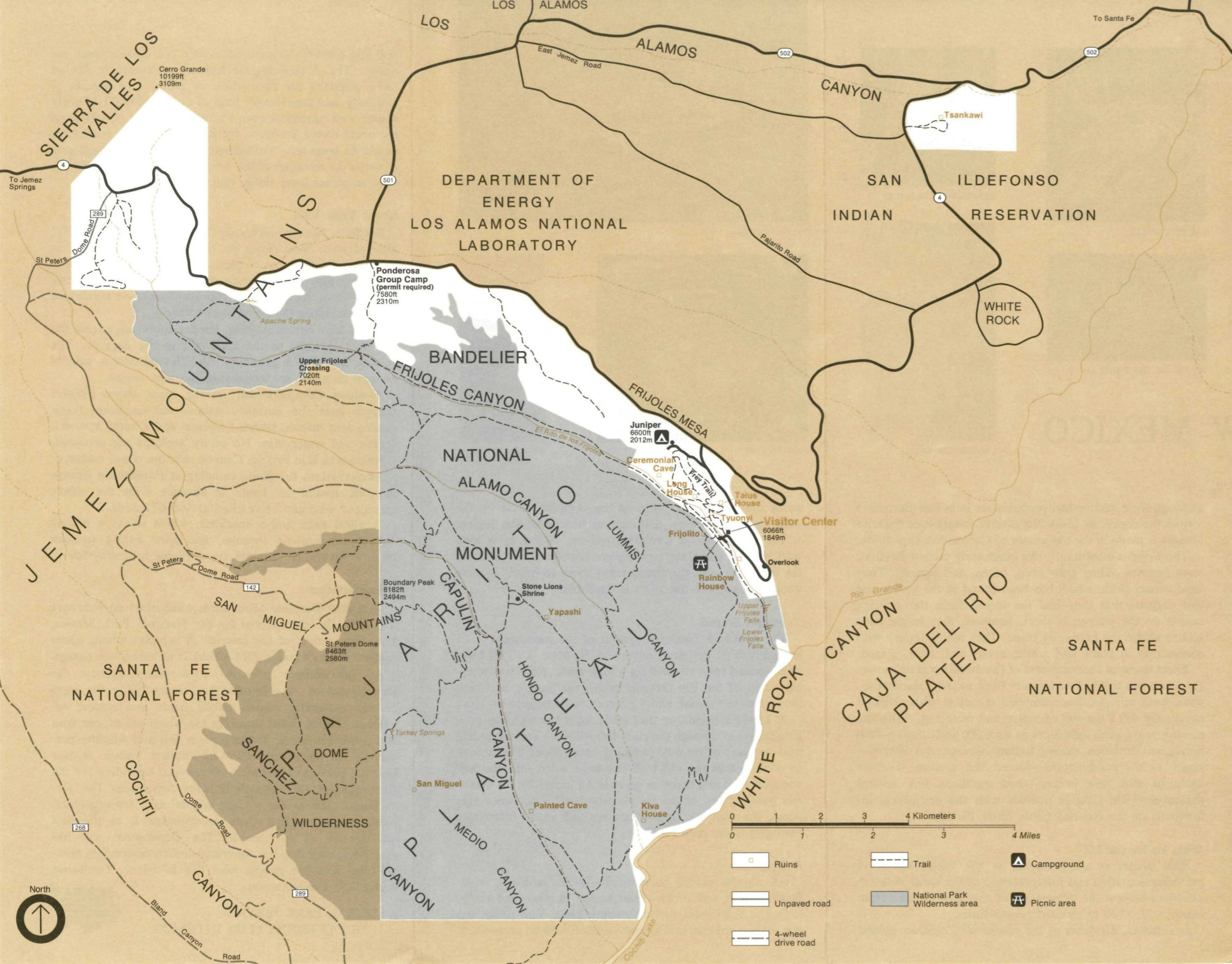
### Administration

Bandelier National Monument, established on February 11, 1916, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Los Alamos, NM 87544, is in immediate charge.

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR





**THE BACK COUNTRY**

Ninety percent of Bandelier National Monument is virtually undisturbed wild land. This rugged and scenic land is accessible by more than 70 miles of maintained trails, leading to such features as the gorges of Alamo Canyon, the Stone Lions Shrine, Painted Cave, the pueblo ruins of San Miguel and Yapashi, and White Rock Canyon of the Rio Grande. Especially popular are the walks from Upper Frijoles Crossing—upstream to Apache Spring or downstream to park headquarters. The upper Frijoles section is a densely forested area, where you can experience the inspiration that comes with solitude.

Most of the Bandelier back country is a designated Wilderness area. Wilderness permits are required for back country trips, and may be obtained free of charge at the visitor center prior to your departure. Permits are for your safety and may prevent a needless search.

Remember that the back country is a fragile environment; use a portable stove, pack out all trash, and be careful with sanitation. No pets are allowed outside developed areas.

**Trails of Bandelier: Suggested Walks and Overnight Trips**

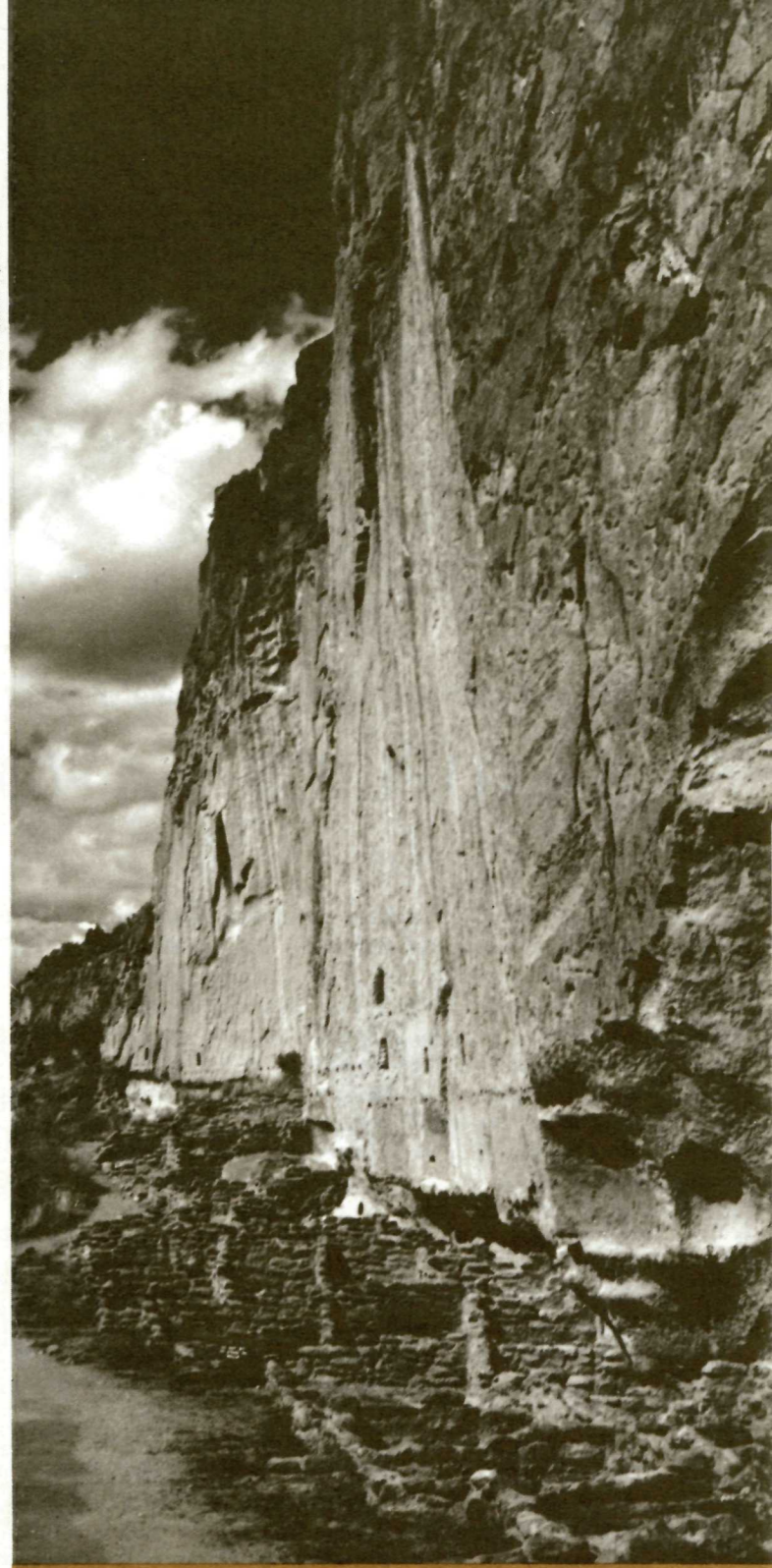
DEPARTURE POINT AND DESTINATION	ROUND TRIP DISTANCE (MILES)	ESTIMATED TIME
<i>From headquarters area to:</i>		
Main Ruins Area	1.5	45 minutes
Ceremonial Cave	2	1 hour
Lower Waterfall	3	2.5 hours
Campground (via Frey Trail)	4	2 hours
Rio Grande	5.5	4 hours
Stone Lions Shrine	12	8 hours
Stone Lions-Painted Cave-Rio Grande	20	2 days

**SAFETY**

This is an archeological area preserved in as natural a condition as possible, and these conditions can be hazardous. Please remain alert, be cautious, and use your common sense.

**Caution:** Distance figures in the trail map table do not reflect the energy and endurance required for the longer trips. Since trails lead into and out of deep, steep-walled canyons of the rough and broken country, and the altitude (about 7,000 feet) throws an additional burden upon the heart and lungs, you must be in good physical condition.

GPO: 1989-242-342/0001Y Reprint 1989



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