TAMARIND GLOBAL

THE TAMARIND GLOBAL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

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IN TANG THIS MONTH

BALLOONING IN RAJASTHAN

BLADE HELICOPTERS

AQUASAIL INDIA

Truly Special Experience!

SKY WALTZ BALLOON SAFARI

A Skywaltz Balloon Safari is the best way to experience India from a very exclusive perspective as you drift over traditional Rajasthani villages, spectacular forts, breath-taking landscapes and hidden palaces. And the chance to interact with the friendly, vibrant local communities that make India such an energetic and vibrant country. The Skywaltz team consists of highly experienced commercial pilots from the UK, Europe, Australia, India and the USA, along with professionally trained operational staff. The equipment is sourced from the UK and Europe. Globally recognized standards of safety and international operating procedures have been implemented from the outset.

Skywaltz Balloon Safari is the first Hot Air Ballooning company in India to have been authorised by the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) to do hot air ballooning on a commercial basis. Each flight lasts for approximately 1 hour. The length of the flight can vary depending on the weather conditions. There are different sized Balloons, from 2 person Balloons up to Balloons that can carry 22 people. Sky Waltz vehicles will pick you up from your hotel or local accommodation. The exact time of your pick-up will be confirmed with you directly or with your guide / driver one day prior to your Balloon Safari. Once you arrive at the launch site, our friendly team will be there to greet & welcome you. You will then have time to enjoy some Tea, Coffee, Juice and light refreshments whilst you witness the exhilarating site of the Balloons being inflated and prepared for flight.Your Pilot will vary the altitude during the flight, flying low to offer you an exclusive sneak-peak into daily village life and its hidden treasures and then climbing high to witness the amazing patchwork of colours and contours.

JAIPUR

There are two different flight paths in Jaipur. The first flying area is just to the north of Jaipur in the area surrounding the Amber Fort & Village. The resplendent Amber Fort sprawls along the top of a natural hill outside the city of Jaipur. Historically significant and architecturally stunning, Amber Fort is a well-preserved monument from the glorious days of Rajput rule in Rajasthan. The historic hill fort rises above the town of Amer , which is a spectacular sight from a bird's eye view. The second flying area is in the untouched & spectacular area surrounding Samode Palace & Village. Located near the Samode village on the outskirts of Shekhawat, the palace is built of sandstone at the foot of the Aravalli range of hills (the foremost mountain range of north-western India) with a fortress-like setting, surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens.

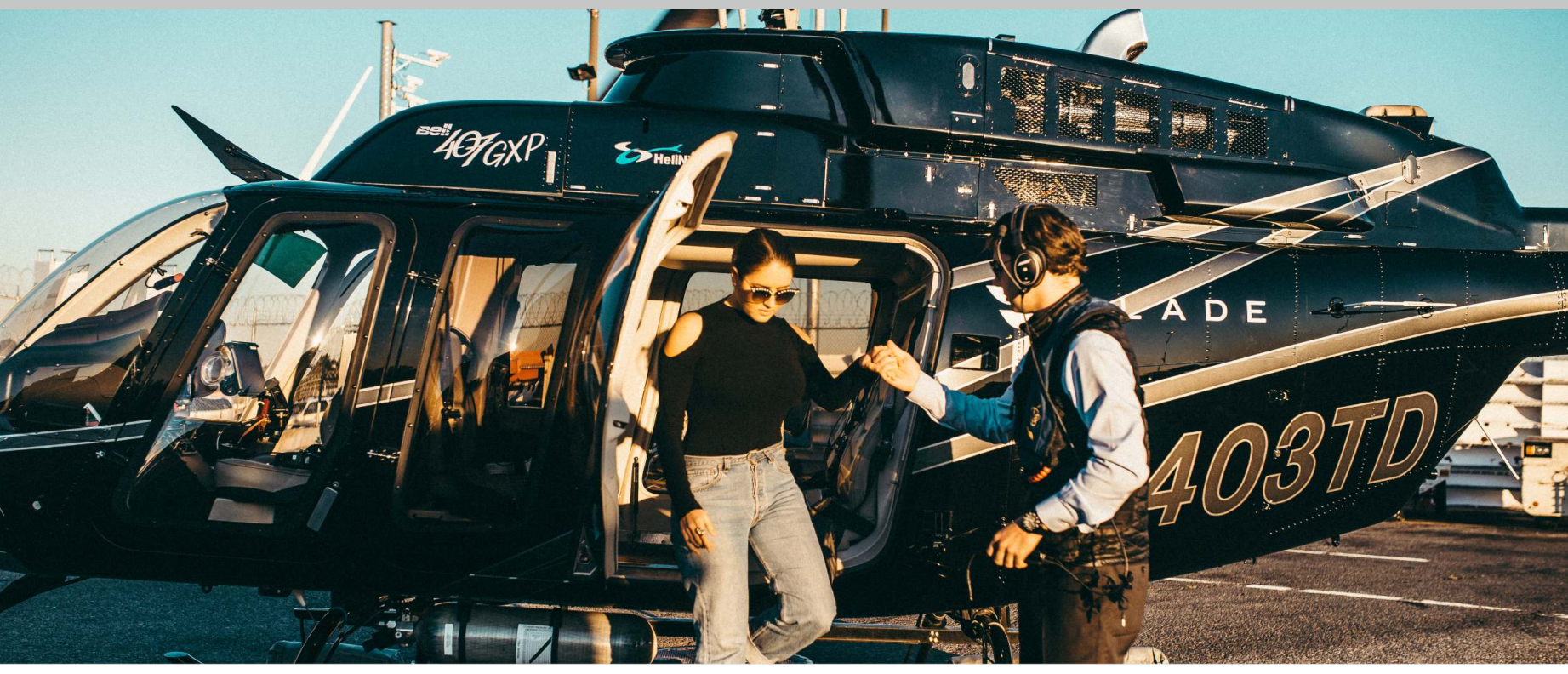
The starting point for the Balloon Safari changes each day and is dependent on the wind direction & wind speed on the day of the flight. The highly experienced Pilot's will choose the flying area on the morning of the flight according to the weather conditions.

BANDHAVGARH

If you happen to be a wildlife lover with a dash of adventurous spirit, Bandhavgarh National Park and Tiger Reserve is where your calling lies.

Now, you can have an aerial view of the free-spirited big cats roaming about in the reserve in Umaria district courtesy a Hot Air Balloon, enjoying India's first balloon wildlife safari in a in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.

BLADE HELICOPTERS



BLADE is the largest arranger of helicopter flights for civilian travel in the United States. BLADE India is an Urban Air Mobility company, formed in partnership between BLADE USA and Hunch Ventures.

BLADE India was launched in November 2019, to bring this world class experience and service to Indian consumers. BLADE's aim is to turn hours of road journeys to minutes of flights by making places more accessible. BLADE India currently offers by the seat services between Mumbai, Pune, Shirdi and Hilton Shillim. It will soon start its by the seat services in Karnataka. BLADE has partnered with various brands to ensure a smooth and seamless experience throughout. From ground connect partners Audi and AutoHangar, Finance partners ICICI and AMEX and Hospitality partners Hilton Shillim and Sun n Sand hotels, BLADE Customers can avail preferential booking rates and services with the partners.

BLADE is committed to the environment, supporting the communities it serves and advancing the future of air mobility. As part of that commitment, BLADE India is working to make aviation more accessible by preparing for the adoption of quiet, carbon neutral and cost-effective aircraft (eVTOL) that are currently being developed

The legendary BLADE customer experience begins at the BLADE Lounges. There are two lounges in Mumbai and one each in Pune and Shirdi. Each lounge offers a comfortable homely vibe, with decor that feels cosy and far away from the formal hotel or airport lounge vibe. BLADE lounges are staffed by our friendly and helpful C/X team members who will get you checked in and serve drinks and snacks.

Blade has partnered with the best in the industry to offer you premium snacks and beverages while you wait at the Lounge. Treat yourself to refreshing tea from Tea Monk , premium snacks, and rejuvenate before you take off. Your entertainment continues in-flight too. iPads pre-loaded with music by Jio Saavn and your pilot will ensure to guide you through all the beautiful spots enroute make for a memorable journey.

Post landing, the latest Mercedes and BMW models await you to drop you off to your desired destination if you choice

The protocols for hygeine have been implemented with Safety & Sanitation measures as per the GOI and WHO guidelines. They also follow industry leading health and safety protocols designed by FlyBLADE US in conjunction with their medical advisor, Dr.Andrew Bazos.

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AQUASAIL

Sailing is one of the most exciting and versatile activities possible. However, not enough people know about the fascinating world of leisure sailing or how to become a part of it. Welcome to the beautiful world of boats with Aquasail, the pioneer of leisure sailing in India. Creating leisure and corporate sailing opportunities, Aquasail curates safe and relevant sailing experiences. The fleet of 80 boats represent some of the world's best brands. These include sailing yachts, keel boats, dinghies and catamarans, kayaks and windsurfers. Aquasail has 3 beautiful sailing lounges for your convenience at Iconic Mumbai, Magical Mandwa & Sundrenched Goa.

Their world class sailing experiences include – Discover Sailing for those who wish to try or explore, SAILebrations for special occasions, family sailing picnics, sailing flotillas and more. The Aquasail Yachting Academy offers certificate courses and camps in sailing and windsurfing for kids and adults. Tamarind can organise corporate sailing events for team building, leadership, networking, R&R and more.

MUMBAI

Discover the joy of sailing in the Mumbai Harbour on world class Beneteau boats. Have a wonderful day out on the sea with friends and family. Sailing is also a wonderful date idea for a couple. Situated at Gateway of India, Aquasail's fleet of world class sports yatchs and cruising yatchs provide a wonderful experience against the backdrop of the Iconic Gateway and the Taj Mahal Hotel. Avail of their sailing Centre built to a Nautical theme with a lounge and shower facility.

MANDWA

Aquasail has a world class fleet of beach dinghies, windsurfers, kayaks and more, providing a fun beach experience just a short ferry ride away from Mumbai's bustling city center. It is simple, rustic and comfortable equipped with shower and dining facilities.

GOA

Situated in the Grand Hyatt, this five star sailing center is built to international standards and is fully equipped with a training room and shower facility. It boasts of a fleet of the world's best dinghies, kayaks, windsurfers and kite – surfing equipment.

TRAVEL NEWS

3 Indian Low Cost Carriers in APAC's Top 5

Three low-cost Indian carriers – Indigo, Spice Jet and Go Air – feature in the top five list on the January 2021 Leader board for Safe Travel Score among Asia Pacific Airlines. Air India features in the top 10 full-service airlines. Even as countries inoculate their population with COVID-19 vaccines, resumption of air travel services, particularly international, is still expected to be gradual in 2021. Over the last year, airlines have implemented various initiatives to safeguard passengers and crew in the 'new normal'. Launched during the pandemic, Safe Travel Barometer is a travel technology solution provider whose tool enables the industry to monitor and benchmark traveller experience and COVID-19 health and safety protocols of more than 2,000 suppliers across 10 industry categories.
Virendra Jain, Co-founder and CEO, Safe Travel Barometer, states, "Despite the regional diversity, Asian carriers continue to introduce a slew of measures in conjunction with airports and destinations to enact air corridors. These are trying times for the airline industry, where regulations and compliance pertaining to travellers' health play a central role. We believe that health will emerge as the fourth standard of travel, much like passports, visas and security. This will fundamentally alter how airlines and travellers comply with destination regulations."

Srinagar has started beautification of Valley to boost Tourism

In an attempt to attract more tourists to Jammu and Kashmir, the Srinagar administration has started making the Valley more beautiful under the Smart City project. As a part of it, dazzling paintings are being painted on flyover pillars above the Jehangir Chowk, showcasing the culture and picturesque scenes from around the Valley. According to Rizwan Khurshid, Project Coordinator of the Srinagar Smart City project, the images of tourist spots will draw the attention of new visitors and give tourism a boost. "This project is for the city and these scenes are a part of pedestrian movement in the bustling city. These paintings are also likely to attract tourists to other places around the Union Territory," said Khurshid. Local residents have also lauded the move, saying it will help in boosting tourism.

Tourism body urges Goa government to allow chartered flights from 'safe' places

While suspension of international commercial passenger flight services have been extended till March 31, tourism body in Goa suggests government to form travel bubbles with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, other CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries, the UK, Poland and Finland.
Ahead of the Goa Assembly's budget session, an apex tourism body here has urged the Pramod Sawant government to allow chartered flights in the state from "safe destinations" to boost tourism. The Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG), in a memorandum to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday, said various trade bodies have suggested to form travel bubbles with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, other CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries, the UK, Poland and Finland for these commercial flights.
The budget session of the Goa Assembly will be held between March 24 and April 16. Sawant will present the budget on March 24, a senior official from the state legislature department said last week. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation last week extended the suspension of international commercial passenger flight services till March 31. Scheduled international flight operations were suspended from March 23 last year in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

Spiritual Tourism - search of spiritual solace in India

From quaint ashrams reverberating with Vedic chants to Sufi shrines with magical and divine qawwalis, India offers a healing balm to the worn out soul. When it comes to spiritual tourism, how can we forget actor Julia Robert's tryst with finding meaning at an ashram in India. "Happiness is the consequence of personal effort. You fight for it, strive for it, insist upon it, and sometimes even travel around the world looking for it. A multi-cultural and religiously plural society, India has often been called the spiritual capital of the world. A land of mystics and yogis, people travel from across the world seeking answers on human existence and consciousness. "For centuries, travellers have turned to India for their share of self-discovery and spiritual wisdom. Healing therapies, counselling, meditation, yoga, retreats in India offer a healthy alternative to a regular holiday break. It helps harmonize your body and mental wellbeing getting your natural rhythms back on track," says Shiv Sadhika Maa Viswaroopa, Astrologer. This year, start on a pilgrimage of your own, explore and create spiritual assets. Some of the destinations to explore for Spiritual Tourism in India are:

Varanasi – The Ghats of Varanasi have healing and purifying properties. It is a place where one always feel a surge of positive energy that bubbles inside while walking around the Ghats and the evening Aarti is mesmerizing

Bodhgaya, Bihar - Located at the site where Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment, the Mahabodhi Temple is also a UNESCO World heritage site. Surrounded by uniquely designed monasteries, this place tops the bucket list of any world traveller. Dotted with history and spiritual background, Gaya finds an important place in the religious books for Hindus.

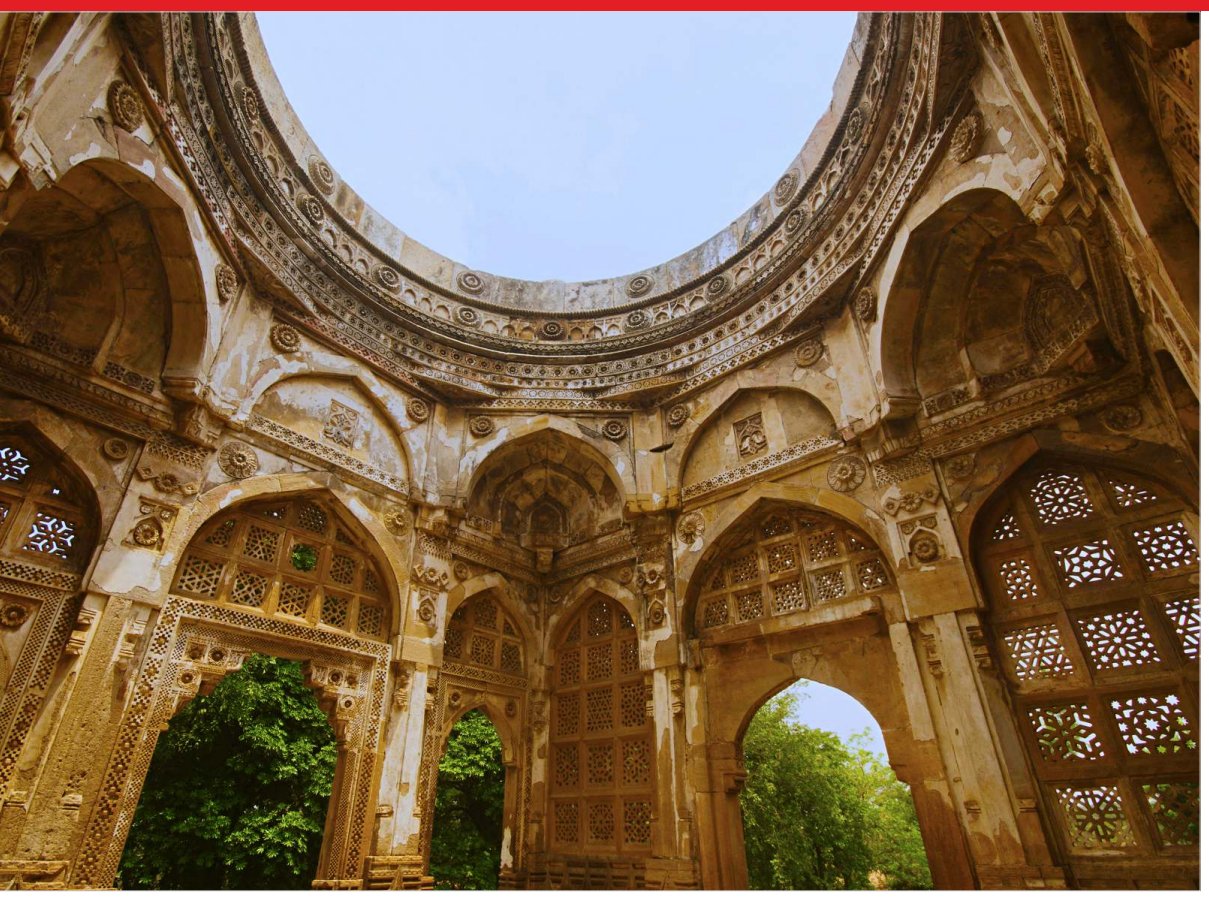
Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah, New Delhi -This place awakens the soul and helps heal spiritually. "Every traveller's experience at the Sufi shrine is soul enriching. Sufi traditions include practices such as music, qawwali and other forms of poetry of love, and relations. The music is bound to give ruhaani sukoon to all," says Sufi Ajmal Nizami, Custodian Dargah Nizamuddin Aulia

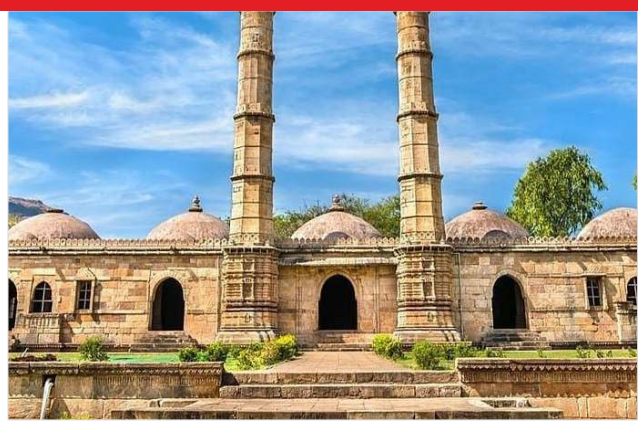
Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu - "Tiruvannamalai attracts spiritual seekers to its Sri Ramana Ashram and Hindu pilgrims who walk around holy Mount Arunachala and pray at Arunachaleswar Temple, where Lord Shiva is worshiped as the element of fire," says Manu Rishi Guptha, CEO, Niraamaya Wellness Retreats

New quarantine rule on Chennai-Mumbai air route likely to affect leisure travel

Recently, the Tamil Nadu state government extended the state-wide lockdown till March 31, and has listed out the advisories that have been issued by the Centre. As per the order, the district administration will be enforcing strict measures to manage the spread of COVID-19. Also, as per the new quarantine restriction order for travellers from Maharashtra, which require them to undergo isolation for seven days, leisure and business traffic between Mumbai and Chennai is already affected. It is the third busiest route from the city. Tamil Nadu has announced that passengers arriving from Mumbai will have to undergo home quarantine for seven days. Likewise, those arriving in Karnataka, Delhi, and West Bengal will have to provide COVID-19 negative certificates. Referring to the current rules and regulations, an airlines official mentioned that it is likely that there will be a dip in the number of passengers, as those travelling for leisure might not consider flying to Chennai because of the quarantine rules. Reportedly, no large scale cancellation of tickets has been recorded yet. Around 12 flights operate in Mumbai-Chennai-Mumbai sector, which is also one of the high-revenue earning sectors for airlines. Further, the Chennai-Mumbai route had also been one of the top routes as several international travellers used to fly via Mumbai.

FOCUS ON HISTORY - CHAMPANER-PAVAGADH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK





A UNESCO Heritage site, Champaner and Pavagadh are often clubbed together as one of the most engaging historical attractions of Gujarat. Pavagadh stands on top of the hill that looks over the sprawl of monuments at the base in Champaner. The duo makes a rich heritage site dotted with forts, mosques, monuments, tombs, arches, temples, step-wells and fortresses from 8th to 14th century. Today, throngs of pilgrims ascend Pavagadh to worship at the important Kalikamata Temple, dedicated to the goddess Kali, who sits atop the summit. Champaner is the only unchanged Islamic-Mughal city over the centuries, offering an authentic flavour of architecture of the era. Juxtaposed to this is the Kalika Mata Temple on the Pavagadh Hill, where thousands congregate during Navratris.

At the heart of Champaner, is the Citadel, whose most impressive features are its 16th-century monumental mosques (no longer used for worship), with their beautiful blending of Islamic and Hindu architecture. The huge Jami Masjid, just outside the Citadel's east gate, boasts of a wonderful carved entrance porch that leads into a lovely courtyard surrounded by a pillared corridor. The prayer hall has two tall central minarets, further superb stone carving, multiple domes, finely latticed windows and seven mihrabs (prayer niches) along the back wall.

Other beautiful mosques include the Saher ki Masjid, behind the ticket office inside the Citadel, which was probably the private royal mosque, and the Kevda Masjid, 300m north of the Citadel and about 600m west of the Jami Masjid. Here you can climb narrow stairs to the roof, and higher up the minarets, to spot other mosques even further out into the countryside – Nagina Masjid, 500m north, with no minarets but exquisite geometric carving, particularly on the tomb next to it, and Lila Gumbaj ki Masjid, 800m east, on a high platform and with a fluted central dome. The twin minarets resembling factory chimneys, about 1 km west, adorn the Brick Minar ki Masjid, a rare brick tomb.

Brief History: Pavagadh became the capital of the Chauhan Rajputs around 1300, but in 1484 was taken by the Gujarat Sultan Mahmud Begada, after a 20-month siege; the Rajputs committed jauhar (ritual mass suicide) in the face of defeat. Following his capture of Pavagadh, Sultan Mahmud Begada turned Champaner, at the base of the hill, into a splendid new capital. But its glory was brief: when it was captured by Mughal emperor Humayun in 1535, the Gujarati capital reverted to Ahmedabad, and Champaner fell into ruin.

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