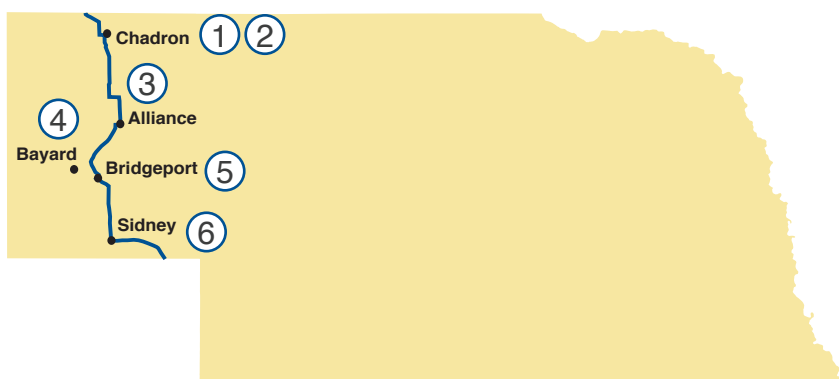


385 - Gold Rush Byway

This section of U.S. Highway 385 has played a very important role in Nebraska's history. During the Black Hills gold rush in the 1870s, gold was transported along this route to the railroad station in Sidney. The byway also passes through areas steeped in pioneer, literary, and military history.

Historical Happenings

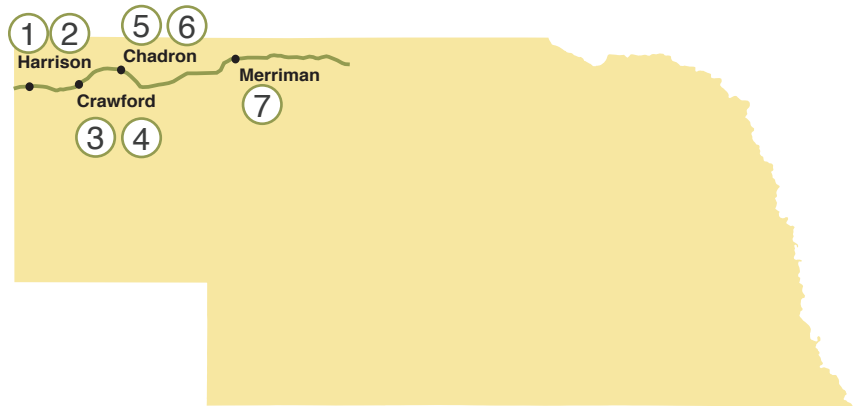


- ① At the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, a well-known author from the area is memorialized along with her archives. Sandoz made an impact on literature with such works as *Old Jules*, *Cheyenne Autumn*, and *Crazy Horse*, and she was recognized as an expert on Native American culture.
- ② The Chadron area was popular with fur traders before homesteaders began settling in Nebraska. The Bordeaux Trading Post, now home to the Museum of the Fur Trade, was in operation from 1840 to 1872. The primary people this post traded with were the Brule Sioux Indians.
- ③ During World War II, Alliance was home to a military airbase. But as the war effort slowed, so did the necessity for the base. It was officially deactivated in October of 1945. The Sallows Military Museum in Alliance features artifacts from the airbase.
- ④ One of the most famous landmarks of the western migration, Chimney Rock is a sandstone spire outside Bayard. Many pioneers wrote about seeing this formation in their journals.
- ⑤ Courthouse and Jail Rocks rise above the prairie near Bridgeport. They served as natural landmarks to the emigrants making their way west.
- ⑥ Sidney was one end of the Sidney–Deadwood Trail, a trail connecting the railroad to the Black Hills. Gold shipments frequently made their way along this path to be loaded on the train in Sidney.

Bridges to Buttes Byway

Stretching from the city of Valentine to the Wyoming border along U.S. Highway 20, this byway winds through a plethora of important settings throughout history. You'll find prehistoric treasures, locales rich with military and Native American heritage, and reminders of the early pioneering and ranching days.

Historical Happenings



- ① The soil in the northwest corner of Nebraska is rich with fossils. South of Harrison, the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument has been deemed one of the most complete Miocene mammal sites in the world.
- ② Warbonnet Battlefield near Harrison was grounds for an 1876 encounter that took place between a group of Native Americans and the 5th U.S. Cavalry. In this conflict, Yellow Hair (Hand), a famous Cheyenne warrior, was killed by Buffalo Bill Cody.
- ③ Now a state park near Crawford, Fort Robinson was an important military outpost from the days of the Indian Wars through World War II. The fort has served many purposes including the Red Cloud Indian Agency, a cavalry remount station, a K-9 training center, and a WWII POW camp. It is also where Sioux Chief Crazy Horse died.
- ④ A bit of mystery surrounds Hudson-Meng Research and Education Center near Crawford. It is the site where 600 buffalo died around 10,000 years ago. Scientists are still uncovering pieces of the puzzle and can't quite decide how these animals died, but many arrowheads have been uncovered amid the bones.
- ⑤ At the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, a well-known author from the area is memorialized along with her archives. Sandoz made an impact on literature with such works as *Old Jules*, *Cheyenne Autumn*, and *Crazy Horse*, and she was recognized as an expert on Native American culture.
- ⑥ The Chadron area was popular with fur traders before homesteaders began settling in Nebraska. The Bordeaux Trading Post, now home to the Museum of the Fur Trade, was in operation from 1840 to 1872. The primary people this post traded with were the Brule Sioux Indians.
- ⑦ The ranching lifestyle is common in this area, and it has been that way for a long time. The Arthur Bowring Sandhills Ranch State Historical Park, which features Arthur and Eve Bowring's turn-of-the-century ranch near Merriman, serves as a reminder of this longstanding tradition.

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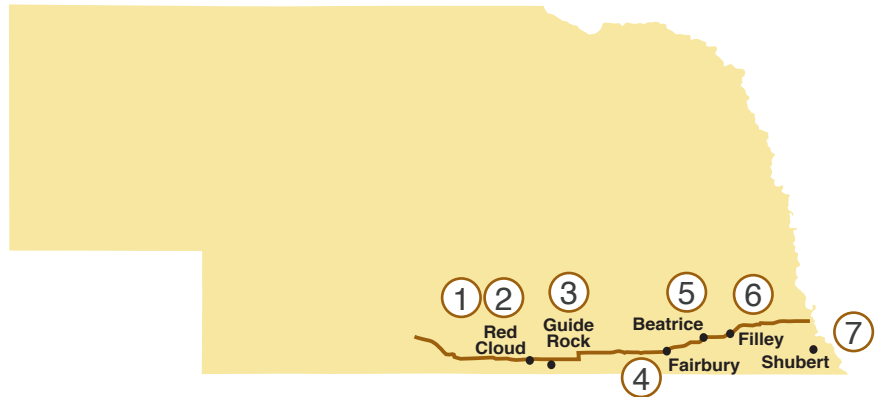


Heritage Highway

As its name suggests, this byway traveling along U.S. Highway 136 is packed with history, mostly of the pioneering nature. Emigrants came in droves through this area in search of a better life. And thanks to the Homestead Act of 1862, many stayed to stake a claim.

Historical Happenings

- ① On the National Register of Historic Places, Red Cloud's Starke Round Barn is the largest round barn in Nebraska and one of the largest in the country. It measures 130 feet in diameter and was built in 1902–03 with three levels: the first for animals, the second for machinery, and the third for hay.
- ② Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather spent much of her youth on the prairie near Red Cloud. Many reminders of the beloved pioneer life she wrote about can still be found there today, including her childhood home and the 608-acre Willa Cather Memorial Prairie.
- ③ The Pike-Pawnee Village marks the spot near Guide Rock where Lieutenant Zebulon Pike came upon a village of Pawnees. This village was home to the last Spanish flag flying over the Louisiana Purchase, and Pike was sent to persuade them to replace it with an American flag.



- ④ What was once a road ranch along the Oregon Trail is now Rock Creek Station State Historical Park outside Fairbury. In addition to providing goods to emigrants, the site bore witness to the beginning of Wild Bill Hickok's infamous gunslinging career and also served as a Pony Express station.
- ⑤ Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice marks the first 160-acre claim entered under the Homestead Act of 1862. The homestead was claimed by Daniel Freeman.
- ⑥ The Elijah Filley Stone Barn stands tall on the Nebraska prairie near the village of Filley. This three-story barn was constructed out of stone in order to withstand the grasshopper plague of the early 1870s and is now on the National Register of Historic Places.
- ⑦ Evidence of the long Native American presence in the Shubert area can be found at Indian Cave State Park. Ancient Native American petroglyphs are still visible in the park's cave.

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Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway

Along this stretch of U.S. Highway 75, the history is shaped around the influential and inspirational people who came through the region before us. Native Americans, famous explorers, military men, and even poets left their mark along the banks of the Missouri River.

Historical Happenings

- ① Forced to give up their homeland in Wisconsin, the members of the Winnebago Tribe settled on a portion of the Omaha Indian Reservation. The two tribes have coexisted peacefully, and they both still celebrate their heritage in northeast Nebraska.
- ② The daughter of an Omaha Chief, Dr. Susan LaFleshe Picotte became the first Native American woman to practice modern medicine in the United States. After receiving her medical education and training in Philadelphia, she returned to Walthill and helped build the Dr. Susan Picotte Memorial Hospital to serve the Omaha Indian Reservation.
- ③ John G. Neihardt, Nebraska Poet Laureate, lived with his family for a time in Bancroft. It was there that he got to know Native Americans from the Omaha Indian Reservation who inspired many of his works. His study can still be seen at the John G. Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft.
- ④ Back in 1865, the steamboat *Bertrand* made its way up the Missouri River, bound for the Montana Territory. Near present-day Blair, the vessel hit a snag and sank in 10 minutes. Fortunately, no lives were lost. Artifacts from the shipwreck are on display at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge.
- ⑤ The Lewis and Clark expedition passed through the region as it followed the Missouri River. While here, they met with Native American leaders at a place they called Council Bluff. Later Lewis and Clark recommended the location for a military fort. Fort Atkinson was built on that site (near what is now the town of Fort Calhoun) and became the first American military post west of the Missouri River.



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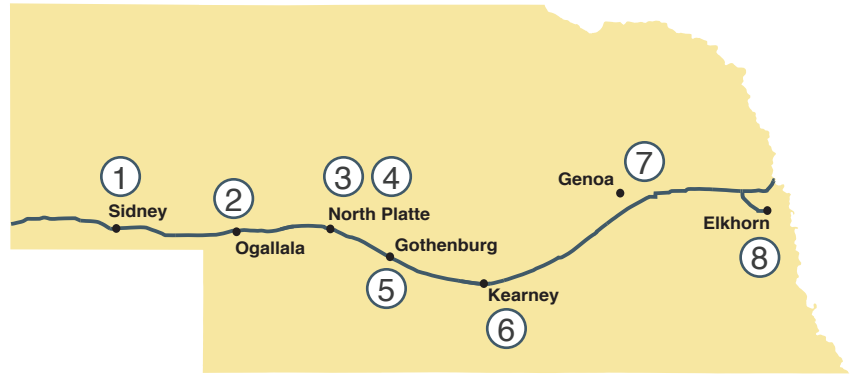


Lincoln Highway Scenic & Historic Byway

This byway, spanning the state along U.S. Highway 30, has formed its history from the need to get somewhere. Yes, transportation has been the common theme, whether it involved a covered wagon, education, postal mail, railroad cars, or even an automobile.

Historical Happenings

- ① Sidney was one end of the Sidney–Deadwood Trail, a trail connecting the railroad to the Black Hills. Gold shipments frequently made their way along this path to be loaded on the train in Sidney.
- ② Ogallala was situated at the end of the Texas Trail—the route cattle drivers followed when moving their herds from Texas to the railroad in Nebraska. The influx of so many cowboys made Ogallala a “rough and tumble” town, complete with dance hall girls, gambling, and its fair share of main street shoot-outs. The old cemetery, known as Boot Hill, still bears the markers of those who met an unfortunate end there.
- ③ From 1941 to 1946, more than six million World War II servicemen and women traveled by railroad through North Platte. To show their support, the townspeople started up the North Platte Canteen. Volunteers met the troops at the train station and provided coffee, sandwiches, and baked goods—and were given plenty of gratitude in return.



- ④ Buffalo Bill Cody made his home on Scout's Rest Ranch near North Platte. He organized the nation's very first rodeo in North Platte and used the ranch as the home base for his internationally popular traveling Wild West Show. Many famous performers even visited his home in Nebraska.
- ⑤ One of the stops for the Pony Express was in Gothenburg. The actual Pony Express station was moved from its original location to the town's Emen Park, where it still stands.
- ⑥ Fort Kearny was a military post built during the great western migration to protect emigrants as they made their way along the Oregon Trail. The fort was originally built near present-day Nebraska City but was later relocated to its present site outside Kearney.
- ⑦ The Genoa Indian School was opened in 1884 as a boarding school for Native American children. Students came from many different states to learn a vocation in addition to reading, writing, and arithmetic.
- ⑧ The Lincoln Highway was the first transcontinental highway in the United States, and it ran right through Nebraska. Original brick pavers from the 1920s still pave one section of the historic road just outside Elkhorn.

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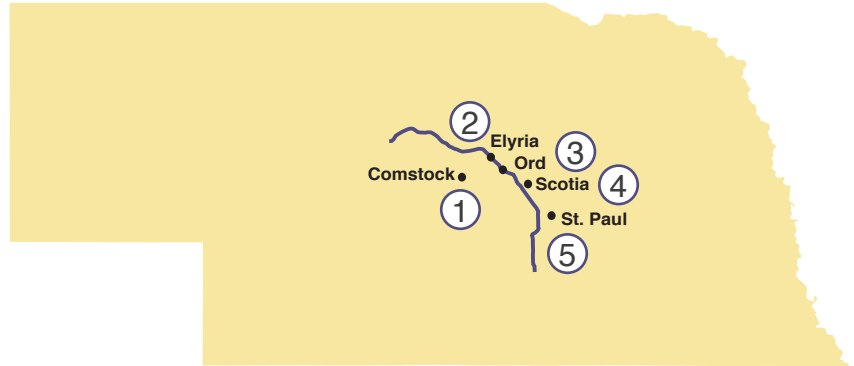
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Loup Rivers Scenic Byway

The byway following Nebraska Highways 11 and 91 has a very diverse past, but none of these stories happened by coincidence. The history here was carved out of sheer will, determination, and (oddly enough) the Sears and Roebuck catalog.

Historical Happenings



- ① The Dowse Sod House was built back in 1900 when trees were scarce and sod bricks were all homesteaders had to build shelter. The original house still stands near Comstock and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- ② Fort Hartsuff, located near Elyria, served as a buffer between the pioneers and Native Americans from 1874 to 1881. It also provided supplies to help the settlers through the drought and the grasshopper plague. Today, the fort has been restored and is open to the public.
- ③ Evelyn Sharp was a famous pilot from Ord. She learned to fly when she was only 14 and had a commercial pilot's license by the time she was 18. During World War II, Sharp was eager to help with the war effort. Since women weren't allowed to fly in combat, she helped transport new planes to military bases. Sharp is memorialized at the Evelyn Sharp Airfield in her hometown.
- ④ More than a century ago, mining commenced at Happy Jack Chalk Mine near Scotia. The miners were excavating diatomite—a chalky, soft rock initially used as a building material. To mine the diatomite, workers used pages out of the Sears and Roebuck catalog to act as dynamite casing. This mine is one of only two known underground diatomite mines in the United States, and it's the only one still open to the public.
- ⑤ Born in Elba, Grover Cleveland Alexander made his mark on the world playing America's favorite pastime. He was considered one of the best pitchers in Major League Baseball history and was elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1938. After retiring from the game, Alexander returned to Nebraska and lived out the remaining years of his life in St. Paul. To honor him—and the other great major leaguers who have come from Nebraska—the community of St. Paul opened the Museum of Nebraska Major League Baseball.

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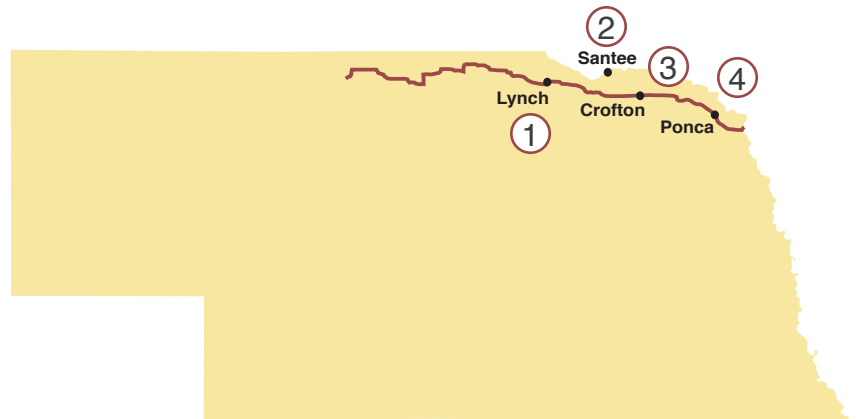


Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway

There are plenty of legends about the infamous outlaws such as Jesse James, Doc Middleton, and James Jameson who made their hideouts along this stretch of Nebraska Highway 12. But more important are the factual accounts of the impact of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Native American tribes in the region.

Historical Happenings

- ① Near Lynch the rock formation known as Old Baldy served as a natural landmark for riverboats along the Missouri River. It also marked the first prairie dog sighting for Lewis and Clark.
- ② The Santee Sioux were a Native American tribe originally from Minnesota. After being forced from their homeland by the U.S. government, the tribe was relocated to an area of South Dakota called Crow Creek. Hundreds of Santee died during the first few months in South Dakota, so they were again relocated. This time they settled in northeast Nebraska on what is now the Santee Indian Reservation.



- ③ Private George Shannon was the youngest member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. While in the northeast corner of present-day Nebraska, Shannon became separated from his party and was lost for 16 days. After searching fruitlessly for his group, Shannon gave up and sat down along the Missouri River bank in hopes of rescue from another boat. What he didn't realize was that he had actually passed the expedition party. Lewis and Clark found him as they made their way up the river.
- ④ The Ponca Tribe originally made their home along the banks of the Niobrara River in northeast Nebraska. In 1868, the U.S. government gave that land to the Sioux, and the Ponca people were forced to move. Standing Bear attempted to return to fulfill his son's dying wish to be buried on the Niobrara riverbank, but he was arrested. The famous chief then sued the government and was allowed to bury his son. A year later, the courts decided that the original Ponca lands were wrongly taken from the tribe.

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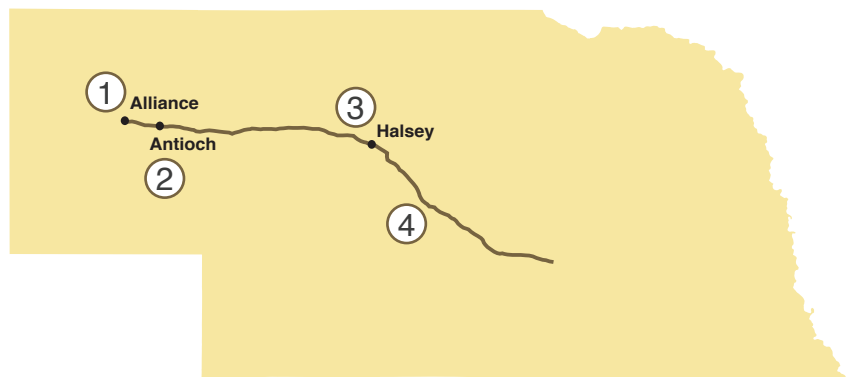


Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway

The rolling grass-covered sand dunes of Nebraska Highway 2 may not have seemed ideal at first, but the sandhills have presented a variety of opportunity for those who settled here. As a result, uses of the land throughout history have been numerous.

Historical Happenings

- ① During World War II, Alliance was home to a military airbase. But as the war effort slowed, so did the necessity for the base. It was officially deactivated in October of 1945. The Sallows Military Museum in Alliance features artifacts from the airbase.
- ② Prior to World War I, potash was imported from Germany and used for fertilizer. During the war, however, the need for domestic potash led five Nebraska companies to begin extracting it from alkali lakes in the sandhills. The business was unfortunately short-lived, and all the Nebraska potash plants were closed by the end of 1920. Plant ruins can still be seen in the Antioch area.



- ③ Dr. Charles Bessey was a nationally known botany and horticulture professor at the University of Nebraska. He had a dream of developing a forested area in the sandhills of Nebraska near what is now Halsey. The professor set to work in 1903, starting a nursery to produce seedling trees that would be hand-planted. From those seedlings grew the largest hand-planted forest in the world, now part of the Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest. And the Bessey Nursery is still in operation today.
- ④ The life's work of Solomon Butcher was to capture the true story of the homesteaders who struggled to make a home on the Great Plains. Many of his now-famous collection of photographs were taken in Custer County, where Butcher lived for most of his life.

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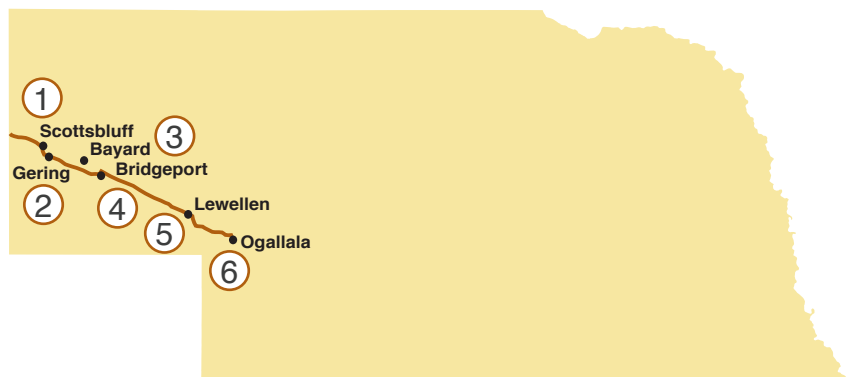


Western Trails Scenic & Historic Byway

This byway follows more than just U.S. Highway 26 and Nebraska Highway 92. It traces the path of emigrants along the Oregon and California Trails and pursues stories of trial and tribulation tied to the western migration—mixed with a bit of Wild West lore.

Historical Happenings

- ① Scotts Bluff National Monument was another large landmark that guided travelers. The bluff is named after Hiram Scott, a fur trading company employee who died there.
- ② West of Gering, Robidoux Pass was the area in the bluffs that appeared lower and less craggy, so travelers including trappers, emigrants, and missionaries would take this path when crossing the rough terrain. Seeing an opportunity, the Robidoux family built a trading post near this crossing.
- ③ Courthouse and Jail Rocks rise above the prairie near Bridgeport. They served as natural landmarks to the emigrants making their way west.



- ④ One of the most famous landmarks of the western migration, Chimney Rock is a sandstone spire outside Bayard. Many pioneers wrote about seeing this formation in their journals.
- ⑤ Ash Hollow, near present-day Lewellen, was a popular stop for travelers along the Oregon Trail. It offered a pure water source, wood, and a grassy area for livestock. Wagon ruts are still visible, and the grave of Rachel Pattison (one of many pioneers who died along the trail) tells the story of her time on the trail. The area is now a state historical park.
- ⑥ Ogallala was situated at the end of the Texas Trail—the route cattle drivers followed when moving their herds from Texas to the railroad in Nebraska. The influx of so many cowboys made Ogallala a “rough and tumble” town, complete with dance hall girls, gambling, and its fair share of main street shoot-outs. The old cemetery, known as Boot Hill, still bears the markers of those who met an unfortunate end there.

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