



sacatar

# RESIDENCY MANUAL



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PLEASE RETURN IT AT THE END OF YOUR RESIDENCY.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDERS...

Many of the Fellows are curious to know a bit more about how Sacatar came into being.

“Sacatar” is actually a place high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. It was there that Mitch Loch and Taylor Van Horne dreamed of founding an artist residency. Mitch, an American media artist, teacher and consultant, had extensive experience at artist residency programs and cross-cultural organizations around the world. Taylor, an American architect, had ten years’ experience living and working in Bahia. The Sacatar Canyon in California is a beautiful, remote valley at 6800 feet above sea level, but the two founders quickly realized that there are over one hundred residency programs across the United States, many of them located in equally extraordinary locations. They also realized that there were no residency programs at that time in South America. Taylor admired the resistant, fecund culture of Bahia, which fearlessly cannibalizes global influences, reinterpreting them through its own cultural expressions. He felt that Bahia had much to teach the rest of the world in this regard. The two of them therefore decided to found an arts residency program in Bahia. Starting in 1999, they sought a location that was within easy striking distance of Salvador but simultaneously outside the hubbub of the city. The island of Itaparica was their first choice, and while they looked elsewhere across the metropolitan area of Salvador, it was on the island that they found the perfect estate for the arts residency program they envisioned.

Mitch and Taylor created the Sacatar Foundation, a California 501c3 nonprofit corporation in 2000, with the explicit goal of establishing and funding the activities of the residency program in Brazil. The Instituto Sacatar, a Brazilian nonprofit, followed in 2001. Sacatar hosted its first artists that same year, in 2001.

## MANUAL FOR RESIDENTS OF THE INSTITUTO SACATAR

Rua da Alegria,10  
Itaparica, Bahia 44460-000 BRAZIL

We at the Instituto Sacatar are pleased to welcome you to our estate on the island of Itaparica. We have put together this booklet to make your stay as comfortable, productive and safe as possible. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or difficulties you may have before or during your stay in Bahia.

## BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL...

We ask that you bring a book of your work or another book of general interest as a gift for the library of the Instituto Sacatar.

## VACCINATIONS

**All foreigners entering Brazil must show proof of Covid vaccination.**

Check with the US Center for Disease Control for epidemiological updates and recommended vaccinations for travel in Brazil. Depending on where you may travel in Brazil, the CDC has specific recommendations which they update in a timely manner. LINK TO: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil>

## HEALTH INSURANCE

We recommend that you arrange adequate health insurance coverage for the duration of your stay in Brazil. Travelers' health insurance can be found online at sites such as [sevendcorners.com](http://sevendcorners.com).

## WEATHER

Bahia enjoys balmy tropical weather all year round, with fundamentally two seasons, a dry season and a rainy season. In the dry summer season (November through March) the sun is very hot, although ocean breezes usually keep the ambient temperature pleasant. The rainy season (April through August) is cooler, with sunny days interspersed with frequent showers. Temperatures vary across the year from 22 – 31 degrees Centigrade (72 - 88 degrees Fahrenheit).

## CLOTHING

Bring only the lightest of clothing. You will tend to wear as little as your modesty will allow, although public nudity is never appropriate in the local culture. In the cooler months of June and July, you may wish to bring a long-sleeve shirt or light windbreaker for the evenings. Don't forget to bring an umbrella.

Also **be sure to bring some white clothing** if you intend to attend any local Candomblé ceremonies. While not required, it is a sign of respect to wear at least a white shirt (and for men, long pants.)

## ART SUPPLIES

There are no outlets for art supplies on the island. In fact, certain materials that you consider to be common in your home country may be unavailable on our island. Art supplies in Salvador are usually imported and expensive. You should consider bringing all necessary supplies, but be aware that customs may charge a 50% tax on items you bring into the country that are jointly valued over five hundred United States dollars.

You may want to reconsider your media in light of these restrictions. Please contact the nearest Brazilian consulate for guidelines. There is no duty on art you take out of the country.

### **ELECTRICITY**

The local service is 110 volts.

Most common Brazilian electrical outlet.



We have adapters in the house, but we suggest that you bring one or two universal adapters since we do not know what type of equipment you use.

### **TRY TO LEARN SOME PORTUGUESE**

Former Fellows always suggest that future Fellows learn at least a little Portuguese. Even a few words – what, where, how much – will ease communications. Brazil is a continental nation like the United States and very few people speak a second language. Even among the highly educated, few speak English. On the plus side, the people of Bahia are extremely patient with foreigners who try to speak Portuguese.

At the Instituto, only one staffperson speaks English. He will help you as best he can but he cannot be your personal translator. For certain projects, you may be able to find a volunteer or a paid translator at a reasonable fee.



## THE ISLAND OF ITAPARICA...

Upon your arrival on the date stated in your Residency Contract, we will pick you up at the international airport of Salvador and take you to the island the first time.



Map:  
<http://www.itaparica.ba.gov.br>

@prefeituradeitaparica

Instituto Sacatar on Google Maps:  
<https://goo.gl/maps/TMGQWbb5o8v>

## ACCESS – TRANSPORTATION

There are two types of boats that service the island:



- A passenger boat leaves Salvador from the foot of the Elevador Lacerda, behind the Mercado Modelo, every half hour during daylight hours (except, infrequently, when the tide is too low or the wind is too high.) Called the lancha, it takes about forty-five minutes to cross the bay to the island. It arrives at the town of Mar Grande.

- An auto and passenger ferry leaves Salvador from the ferry terminal adjacent to the market of São Joaquim. The ferryboat (its Portuguese name) takes about one hour to arrive at the ferry terminal at Bom Despacho on the island of Itaparica depending on the ferry and on the weather. While slower than the lancha, it is the only transportation available at night.

None of these boats arrive directly at the city of Itaparica. However, once on the island, there is a system of vans that service the entire island. The vans run a basic service from both Mar Grande and Bom Despacho to other island destinations. It takes 30-40 minutes to get from either terminal to Itaparica by van. During the day, the van service is frequent but at night service diminishes. The fare on a van will be fixed, but we advise you to ask how much you're paying before you start. The vans go to downtown Itaparica. The drivers tend to be decent people, no matter how wildly they may drive.

There are also taxis in both Mar Grande and Bom Despacho. Even if there is a taximeter, negotiate and establish a price with the driver beforehand. In the evening and on weekends fares may be higher than during the day. Most taxi drivers know the Instituto Sacatar. A cab from either terminal takes about twenty minutes to get to the Instituto Sacatar. We can provide the Fellow a list of reliable taxi drivers and their cell phone numbers.

The island is connected to the south of Bahia by a bridge. Many buses leave from the ferryboat terminal at Bom Despacho to points south.

### **CAR RENTALS**

Automobiles may be rented in Salvador. There are no car rental agencies on the island of Itaparica.

### **BANKS**

There are ATM machines that work with international bankcards at several locations on the island, including within walking distance of Sacatar. However, there is no currency exchange on the island. You should exchange U.S. dollars, euros or travelers' checks at the Banco do Brasil in Salvador or at one of the many currency exchanges in the city. There is a currency exchange on the ground floor of the airport. (The Brazilian currency, real, is pronounced 'hay-OW'; the plural reais is pronounced 'hay-ICE'.)

The Instituto Sacatar office is not equipped to cash checks for residents or to serve as a foreign currency exchange.

### **MOVIE THEATERS**

There are no movie theaters on the Island of Itaparica. The international films with the best box office receipts are exhibited in the cinemas in Salvador, always in their original language, with subtitles in Portuguese. There are several smaller cinemas in Salvador that show independent feature films and documentaries. Please contact the Administration for any further information.

## IN THE CITY OF ITAPARICA...

### MAIL SERVICE

The post office in Itaparica is located a few blocks from the Instituto. Mail service to and from Itaparica is generally dependable. However, parcels sent by regular post can take two months or more to arrive.

Our experience with FedEx, DHL and similar services has not been good. It is best not to ship things to the Instituto. Better to take what you need on your flight, even if you must pay extra, due to excess weight.

### HOSPITALS

There is a clean, minimally equipped hospital in Itaparica. Serious health problems can only be addressed in Salvador. In dire emergencies, the ambulance takes about an hour to cross to the mainland on the ferryboat. There is no helicopter or maritime ambulance service for medical emergencies.

### PHARMACIES

At the moment, there are two pharmacies in the city of Itaparica. Both close at eight o'clock at night. The residency keeps a very small medical kit of its own, with aspirin, Band-Aids, etc. We recommend that you bring any prescription drugs you may require from home.

### RESTAURANTS

There are several restaurants in Itaparica, serving local, Brazilian and international cuisine. In most restaurants in Brazil, a single a la carte dish will easily serve two.

The heart of Itaparica is a shady square called the Largo da Quitanda. From there you can watch the sun set in the sea. The square is fringed with a series of inexpensive restaurants and laid-back bars. Check out the How Nice ice-cream shop, which sells ice-cream in a wide variety of tropical fruit flavors.

In the afternoons and early evenings, there are several baianas in town who prepare acarajé and abará, the popular street food of Bahia.

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

There are two historic Catholic churches in the city of Itaparica: São Lourenço (c. 1610) and Santíssimo Sacramento (c. 1794). If interested, we will give you the times of services upon arrival.

There are an ever-increasing number of evangelical churches, with blinding fluorescent lights and over-amplified music.

There are no synagogues or mosques.

There are several candomblé grounds (where the African deities called orixás are honored) and a few spiritualist houses. Around Itaparica, specifically in the neighboring town of Amoreiras, members of the local population practice an African religion of ancestor worship called the Eguns. We announce upcoming ceremonies to the artists who are interested in attending.

### **MARKETS AND SUPERMARKETS**

You can find fruits, vegetables, meat and fresh fish at the municipal market located in downtown Itaparica. There is a small supermarket at the entrance to town and several neighborhood grocery stores not far from the Instituto Sacatar. There is a large supermarket, the Bompreço (owned by Wal-Mart), near the ferryboat terminal in Bom Despacho. There you can find cheaper and a little bit more sophisticated products. There is also a supermarket called 'Todo Dia' in Mar Grande, near the lancha terminal.

### **TUTORS**

See the Administration if you are interested in taking Portuguese, capoeira (the martial art of Bahia), dance or percussion classes. While Sacatar will not pay for such classes, private tutors are quite inexpensive and easily arranged. The Fellows are welcome to band together for group classes, such as capoeira lessons on the beach. We can also indicate other services, depending on the Fellows' needs.

### **SHOP LOCALLY!**

Shop locally when possible. We hope that the Instituto Sacatar here in Itaparica can contribute in its own small way to the renaissance of this charming place. Your support of local businesses will contribute towards that goal.



## AT THE INSTITUTO SACATAR...

### WATER

The city of Itaparica is very proud of its mineral water, which emerges from an artesian spring at the edge of the ocean. We fetch our drinking water from this source, known locally as the Fonte da Bica. We prepare all foods and juices with mineral water, although brushing teeth with the tap water is not a problem.

### TELEPHONES

There is no telephone in the main residential house.

Each resident Fellow has a mailbox where we deliver messages.

Fellows are welcome to bring their cellular phones, purchase one of the local telephone companies' SIM cards and sign up for a pre-paid plan.

Cellular phones should be turned off or set to vibrator mode within the main house of the Instituto Sacatar.

The best phone number to give out to your friends and relatives to reach you at the Instituto Sacatar is ++ 55 71 3631-3410. This phone is answered twenty-four hours a day. The person answering the phone may not speak English, but he or she will be able to locate you by name. The administrative phone number of the Instituto, ++ 55 71 3631-1834, is answered only during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) in Brazil.

### COMPUTERS AND INTERNET ACCESS

We have WIFI on the property, which is functional over much but not all of the property. While generally reliable, internet service can be erratic or slow.

Fellows should bring their personal computers and headphones to use while at Sacatar. Sacatar does not have computers available for Fellows' use. Laptop computers for personal use can be brought into Brazil without paying duty. There is no place to rent computers on the island. Be sure to bring any plugs and adaptors you may need.

Sacatar does not have video monitors, projectors, speakers, or printers to lend to the Fellows. If you need a printer for your work, we recommend that you bring a small printer with you.

## STUDIOS

We have separate studio spaces for every Fellow, distinct from his or her bedroom suite. Most of the studios are simple rooms that can easily be adapted for other disciplines. There are five studios clustered around the coconut grove facing the ocean. Two of these studios are open-air, designed primarily for visual artists, with ample wall space, work sinks and private internal gardens. The wind and the birds can enter these studios freely. A third studio, reserved primarily for writers, is raised on stilts, offering panoramic ocean views. There are two additional studios, one for dance / theater artists and the other for musicians. The dance studio has a sprung wooden floor. The music studio is not soundproof or acoustically isolated. It is simply located at the furthest corner of the property, where musicians are less likely to disturb the other Fellows. There are two additional studios in the main residential house. One measures 6.00 x 8.00 meters, and the other 3.50 x 5.00 meters. The ceilings in each are 3.60 meters high. Only the smaller studio has a sink.

- Music stands, a wide assortment of percussion instruments and a full-size electric piano are available for resident musicians. A separate manual lists the available equipment. Please check with Administration for details.
- Fellows are free to also work in a woodworking studio, shared with the maintenance staff, that has basic hand tools, a primitive circular saw, etc. Also, artists can check out basic hand tools. See Administration for details.
- We have no darkroom, so non-digital photographers are limited in the work they can finalize at Sacatar. We do have a small refrigerator specifically for the storage of film stock. We can recommend photo laboratories in Salvador.
- There is no kiln on site. With careful planning, work can be realized in Maragogipinho, a village two hours away where there are over seventy wood-fired ceramic workshops. Similarly, there is a more modest wood-fired kiln on the island which is available on occasion.

Artists who work with members of the of the community tend to do so off-site, so as not to disturb the other residents. However, sometimes special events and/or their rehearsals are staged at Sacatar, with the consent of the other artists in residence.

Please realize that with five to eight resident artists in the house, we cannot guarantee the absolute tranquility that you may desire. The artists must respect the needs of each other. Also birds sing, waves break on the beach at high tide, and the neighborhood dogs bark at strangers who pass on the street. While for most of the



year, the atmosphere is quiet and serene, during the high tourist season (December-February), we have no control over the people who rent houses in the neighborhood. Some of these renters party long and loud, with no regard whatsoever for the neighbors. Festivals in Brazil, which occur primarily from December through February, also tend to be loud. Sometimes, a festival taking place a few kilometers away can sound like it is happening across the street. We have limited control over the ambient sounds. If you are easily distracted by ambient noise, we suggest you bring earplugs or sound-isolating headsets with you.

### **TELEVISION**

There is no television or DVD player at the Instituto Sacatar.

### **AIR CONDITIONING**

Only the Administration Building has air-conditioning, and very few other places on the island have it.

### **BICYCLES AND KAYAKS**

There are four bicycles and two kayaks for the Fellows' use.

### **ANIMALS**

While you cannot bring your pets, please know that there are dogs that live at the Instituto Sacatar. We try to keep them out of the house, but the house has many doors...

Five aloof peacocks nobly strut around the gardens. Ocean crabs sometimes wander freely into the house. There are various types of lizards, both inside and outside the house. There are flies, mosquitoes, beetles, bugs, termites and ants, but seldom in insufferable numbers. Many birds make the gardens of Sacatar their home. Monkeys are best seen early in the morning and late in the afternoon, when you can hear their screeches and spot them fairly easily. At dusk, bats fly out of the darker trees and sometimes into the house. Very rarely a snake slithers out of the forests surrounding the property. In the rainy season, frogs abound but can be very difficult to find. The ocean is full of crabs and mollusks. Schools of flying fish flash in the calm waters.

At Sacatar you must be willing to live intimately with many other species.

### **CLEANING**

We ask that you keep your room relatively neat. The staff will clean the bathrooms and wash the floors once a week. Every day, a staff member will empty the toilet paper basket in your room. However, the staff will not make your bed on a daily basis nor

straighten up your room for you. Someone is always available to change a light bulb or attend to some other matter, upon your request. Please talk to the Administration to arrange for help.

As in the rest of Brazil, our sewage system chokes on toilet paper. Please put toilet paper in the basket by your toilet. Separate plastic bags are provided for the disposal of sanitary napkins.

### LINENS

The staff provides clean towels and changes your sheets every Monday.

There are specific towels for use on the beach. Please don't utilize other towels for this purpose.

### LAUNDRY

You may place clothes to be washed in the plastic bags we provide, with your name and the number of pieces of laundry clearly marked, every Thursday to be laundered on Friday. We will provide you labels to help you mark your clothes. Sacatar is not responsible for damage to any clothing. For garments that require special care, we recommend that you wash them by hand yourself.

### MEALS

Breakfast is served buffet style from 8:00 until 10:00. Early (or late) risers can help themselves in the kitchen.

Lunch is served, Mondays through Saturdays, at 12:00 p.m. and removed at 2:30 p.m. Please join the other residents for lunch. Latecomers can serve themselves after 2:30 p.m. in the kitchen.

Fruit and juices are available during the afternoon.

Dinner is a light buffet served from six o'clock on. Occasionally, this meal is left prepared in the kitchen and the Fellows serve themselves when they wish.

There is no meal service on Saturday evening or all day on Sundays or on municipal, state or federal holidays. Sometimes the Fellows pitch in for a weekend barbecue. You may participate in the preparation of meals, particularly on the weekends when the kitchen is yours. If you wish, you can teach the cook a favorite dish.

If you plan to miss a meal, please let the Administration know in advance.

We serve beer, wine and local liquors upon occasion, but not daily.

Please let us know of any allergies or dietary preferences you may have before your arrival. While the Instituto will strive to accommodate all residents' dietary requirements and restrictions, we cannot guarantee our ability to please everyone. Our cook gladly accommodates vegetarians and/or people with specific food allergies or dietary needs or requests. Just let us know.

### RECYCLING

We work with local partners to expand recycling on the island, with limited success. We try to serve as a model to a local populace hesitant to embrace change. Therefore, we ask you to separate your trash. We compost all organic refuse on site. We separate paper from plastic, metal, and glass. While we burn some paper documents on site, we also bundle paper for recycling. Approximately once a month, our local partners fetch the recyclable items: paper, plastic, glass, and metal. Separately, we take used batteries to recycle in Salvador. We try to send as little trash as possible to the overtaxed landfill near Baiacu on the island. We count on your collaboration.

### LIBRARY

There is a small library at Sacatar with a diverse selection of books. This library is the result of our request that Fellows bring books of their authorship or of general interest. Unlike in most libraries, in this one the books are numbered and arranged in the order received and by size. We will provide you with an electronic spreadsheet which can be searched by number, author, title or category. You can also search under 'Brasiliana' or 'works by former Fellows.' We do an inventory of the library before and after each group.

### GUESTS

The Instituto Sacatar is not open to the public. Spouses, partners and/or friends are not allowed to stay with residents, unless both are accepted as Fellows. You must let the Administration know when you are expecting guests and you should have them visit primarily in your studio space and primarily between the hours of 10 and 6, to maintain the tranquility of the estate for the other Fellows. No guests are allowed after ten o'clock in the evening. In addition to maintaining the tranquility of the site, this is a security issue. While most of the local population is honorable and friendly, there are some people with bad intentions who befriend foreigners.

Management will consider exceptions case by case.

Sometimes there is an evening function of the Foundation, a party or celebration. Other times, with the approval of the other Fellows, a Fellow may host a small work group or rehearsal on site. We may occasionally invite individuals or small groups for lunch or for tours of the property. In each of these cases, we will do our best to let the Fellows know in advance.

Please respect the privacy and security of the other Fellows.

### SMOKING

We request that you not smoke inside the house, within the interior courtyard or in the studios. You may smoke in the gardens and on the exterior verandahs. Please be respectful of non-smokers. Very few people in Bahia smokes.

Marijuana and other psychotropics are illegal in Brazil. Do not consume them on the property.

### WARNINGS

We continue to maintain periodic protocols associated with the waning covid epidemic. Covid testing is easily available on the island. If a Fellow or staff member falls sick, we will coordinate their isolation to the degree possible.

The mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and zika inhabits the island. Outbreaks of these diseases, particularly dengue, occur at irregular intervals. These illnesses can be life threatening for the very old and very young. Even for the healthy, symptoms are like those of a severe flu that persists for several days. Check with [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) for updates on any outbreaks in Brazil. In addition, we will advise all residents and accepted applicants of any outbreak we become aware of.

We ask that you not come to Sacatar if you are pregnant. In 2015 the mosquito-borne zika virus arrived in Latin America and has been linked to microcephalia in fetal development. This mosquito is active in the daytime, not at night.

There are other mosquitoes on the island, many of them active at night. All beds have mosquito netting. You can purchase insect repellent locally. If you prefer an "organic" repellent, bring it with you.

The sun in Bahia is strong. We suggest you use sunblock liberally. Sunblock is readily available in the local shops.

Women should be aware that our stretch of beach has very little foot traffic. Use discretion to avoid unwanted advances from strangers.

If you go for a long walk along the beach, carry any equipment – cameras, video recorders, etc. -- in a nondescript satchel.

Walking barefoot on the beach is not a problem, but avoid going barefoot on sandy soil away from the beach. There are two types of parasites. The bicho do pé forms a black stud that must be cut out, somewhat like a splinter. The bicho geográfico leaves thin red tracks as it wanders beneath the skin and is rather difficult to get rid of.

And watch out for falling coconuts!

### SECURITY

The estate here is so beautiful, it seems impossible that a burglary could occur. However, we had such a theft occur in January 2006, when a thief stole a cell phone from a Fellow's bedroom during lunchtime. (We have since replaced the beachside fence.) Brazilian thieves sometimes operate with moving vans and have stripped houses elsewhere in Itaparica! To discourage thefts, there is a security guard or staff member on site at all times.

At night and on the weekends the security guard cannot keep an eye on every window and door, so we ask your cooperation in maintaining the house secure. Whenever you leave the property, be sure to secure the windows of your room. If you are the last Fellow to go to sleep, be sure that all the doors and windows of the house are locked. If you and the other Fellows leave the property on a Saturday or Sunday, be sure the house is fully secured before you do so.

We will make arrangements each week for one Fellow, preferably a volunteer, to confirm each night that the doors and windows are properly shuttered. We will review this task with each volunteer/assignee. We appreciate your help and support in managing this detail of communal life.

You may sleep with window(s) open if you lock into place the window grill(s) you will find in your room. In addition, we provide fans and mosquito nets in each room to make sleeping at night comfortable.

Personal objects should not be left on the pier at the beach, even while swimming. The beach, though secluded, is public; sandals and once a camera have suddenly disappeared.

Unfortunately, there is some use of crack cocaine on the island, and with it some petty crime. When you go into town, particularly at night, be alert. Take only enough money

for your immediate necessities: cash for dinner and a few beers. Be prudent. While we know who some of these few young thieves are, the police must catch them in the act in order to arrest them.

The city is concerned and wants to maintain proper street lighting to discourage such crime. Please report to the Administration any dark stretches of town, so we can call it in. Some lights seem always to be burnt out, but no street should be dark.

One of the staff members or the security guard will open the gate to the street or to the beach upon request. Upon returning to Sacatar, there is a rope at each gate that you can pull to ring a bell to call someone to let you in.

### UPON DEPARTURE...

Please note that the transportation to the international airport of Salvador will be at your own expense if you opt to travel on a different date than the departure date stated in your Residency Contract.

### GRATUITIES

Our support staff is very hardworking and dedicated. If they have contributed to the ease and pleasure of your stay, we suggest you leave a gratuity with us to divide among them equally. While well paid by island standards, they will greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and your gift makes their lives easier.

### DONATIONS

The Instituto Sacatar and its funding institution the Sacatar Foundation, a US-based 501(c)3 non-profit, gratefully accept donations from alumni. If you wish, please leave us an example of your work for our collection. Financial gifts help us to better provide for future artists.

### CREDITS

We ask that you credit the Instituto Sacatar for any work that you develop during your Fellowship or as a result of your experience in Bahia and that you include our logo in all printed matter, film credits or electronic media. We will gladly provide you with the image of our logo via e-mail. You can also download it under PRESS at [sacatar.org](http://sacatar.org).

Please tag all Sacatar related posts on social media networks with @sacatarbrazil and include the hashtag #sacatarbrazil. **Thank you.**





## QUESTIONS?

Please do not hesitate to contact us at: e-mail: [info@sacatar.org](mailto:info@sacatar.org)

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