

Cape Town to Windhoek

13 days | Cape Town to Windhoek



ACCOMMODATED OVERLAND TOUR: Starting in the beautiful city of Cape Town travel through winelands and stunning scenery before crossing the border into Namibia. Discover the pristine Skeleton Coast, visit incredible sand dunes in the Namib Desert and spot wildlife, from lions to leopards, in Etosha National Park. Finish your incredible adventure in the vibrant Namibian capital of Windhoek.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- **South Africa:** Cape Town - extend your stay to explore the city.
- **Namibia:** Fish River canyon. Namib Naukluft National Park - Sossusvlei & Dune 45. Etosha National Park, Namibia's finest wildlife sanctuary. Swakopmund, a charming colonial coastal town. Spitzkoppe and Windhoek.

What's Included

- Guided walk of Spitzkoppe
- Arrival transfer from Cape Town Airport on day 1
- 12 nights 2 - 3* hotels & permanent tents

- 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 5 dinners
- Services of 3 person crew (leader, driver, cook)
- A fully equipped overland truck for transportation and game drives
- Transfer to Sossusvlei for Desert Walk
- Park Entry & Game drive - Etosha NP
- All road taxes and tolls

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Optional activities - Check our Trip Notes for optional activities available on this tour

Local Payment

\$490pp, paid in USD

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cape Town

Welcome to South Africa. Upon arrival into Cape Town Airport you'll be met and transferred to our accommodation. A pre departure meeting will be held this afternoon at 5pm. **Overnight - Cape Town**

Day 2 : Cederberg



Cape Town - Cederberg. Departing Cape Town we make our way around the towering Table Mountain and head northwards. Our journey takes us through the wheat growing region, which is often referred to as the bread basket of South Africa. Next we cross the Piketberg Pass and along the Olifants River, an area rich in fruit growing. Later we have the option to sample some of the fantastic wines produced in this region and the vineyard we visit has stunning views across the Cederberg Mountains.

Optional Activity: Cederberg wine tasting

Overnight - Cederberg (B, L, D)

Day 3 : Orange River

Cederberg - Orange River. This morning we travel further north, through the region known as Namaqualand. Each spring this area is awash with colour as the Namaqua wildflowers bloom across the region. After a short stop in the mining town of Springbok

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we continue through the barren desert landscape of the Richtersveld before reaching the Orange (Gariiep) River, which acts as a natural border between South Africa and Namibia. Our accommodation for the evening is situated on the South African side of the river with beautiful views. **Overnight - Orange River** (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Fish River Canyon



Orange River - Fish River Canyon. Enjoy a morning at leisure. After lunch we cross the border into Namibia and make our way to Fish River Canyon, the second largest canyon in the world. Formed by tectonic activity and erosion it measures 161km in length, 2km in width and roughly 550m in depth. Following the eastern rim we'll get the chance to stop at a number of vantage points for breathtaking views across the canyon.

Optional Activity: Canoeing on Orange River

Overnight - Grunau (B, L)

Day 5 : Sesriem



Fish River Canyon - Sesriem. It's an early start today as we make our way north through the Namib-Naukluft desert, one of the oldest in the world. With a sea of towering sand dunes, some of which are reputed to be the highest in the world, it's an incredible part of the world. Our base for the next two nights is the

Sossuvlei area, a great place to explore the region from. **Overnight - Sesriem** (B, L)

Day 6 : Namibia's Sand Dunes

Today we further explore the amazing Namib-Naukluft National Park. We have the opportunity to climb Dune 45, so named because it's at the 45th kilometre on the road that connects Sesriem gate and Sossuvlei. This impressive dune stands at around 80 metres at its highest point and is made up of 5 million-year-old sand. Later today you'll have the opportunity to join one of the desert shuttles that heads a further 5km into the desert, reaching Sossuvlei, characterised by salt pans surrounded by imposing red sand dunes. **Overnight - Sesriem** (B, L)

Days 7-8 : Swakopmund

Sesriem - Swakopmund. After breakfast we head north-west in the direction of the Atlantic Ocean and the town of Walvis Bay before continuing to the seaside town of Swakopmund. During our journey we'll cross the Tropic of Capricorn.

On day 8 you have some free time to explore this beautiful colonial town or partake in some of the optional adrenaline activities on offer here. Founded in 1892 by the Germans, Swakopmund still holds a lot of colonial charm with the added excitement of various adventurous pursuits. Optional excursions include sky diving, quad biking, sand boarding, scenic desert flights, dolphin cruises, fishing trips, golf, horse riding and more. **Overnight - Swakopmund** (B:2, L:1)

Day 9 : Brandberg

Swakopmund - Brandberg. We make an early departure from Swakopmund this morning and head through Spitzkoppe, often referred to as the 'Matterhorn of Namibia'. This 1728m-high rock formation is one of Namibia's most recognised landmarks. We'll explore this area, visiting the rock paintings that have been discovered in the area. We end the day at our accommodation in Brandberg. **Overnight - Brandberg** (B, L, D)

Days 10-11 : Etosha National Park

Brandberg - Etosha National Park. On day 10 we depart for Etosha National Park. Covering over 22,000 square kilometres, Etosha is Namibia's most significant and impressive national park.

On day 11 we explore Etosha National Park further. Located around the Etosha Pan, the national park is home to a huge variety of animal and birdlife. The network of unpaved roads give us a fantastic opportunity to get deep into the remotest parts of the park. This afternoon we explore the southern area of Etosha, with a thriving Oryx and Springbok population to be seen. This evening we return to our accommodation just outside the national park where you might wish to have a quick dip in the pool or enjoy a sundowner before dinner. **Overnight - Etosha National Park** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 12 : Etosha National Park

Today we make our way through the park heading northwards, en route we'll see many different fascinating animals. Moving to a different part of the park shows the change in vegetation and how this affects the wildlife. Arriving to our accommodation this evening we can take some time to relax. You may wish to head to the waterhole where you can sit and observe the animals that come and go. **Overnight - Etosha National Park** (B, L)

Day 13 : Windhoek

Etosha - Windhoek. After our breakfast this morning, we head out of the park. Today's drive will take us through small rural towns and scenic landscapes. Nestled between the hills, Windhoek is a rather small capital city but has many places of historical interest. Our tour ends in Windhoek this afternoon, we recommend booking post tour accommodation. (B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

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Cape Town to Windhoek

Please refer to your **Tour Voucher** for your **confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information**.

Ashanti Gardens Guesthouse

Overlooked by Lion's Head Mountain, this guesthouse is comprised of two lovingly restored Victorian buildings with communal kitchens. Each room is individually decorated and features a private bathroom, tea and coffee making facilities and unlimited free WiFi so you can stay connected to everyone back home. Guests are also able to use the facilities of the neighbouring Ashanti Backpackers, which include a refreshing pool and the Kumasi Cafe. During the mornings you'll find a delicious breakfast buffet and by night the cafe serves a tantalising array of cocktails to enjoy with the views.



Highlanders

Nestled amongst the farms of the Klawer wine region, Highlanders is set on the Olifants river at the foot of the Cedarberg mountain range. Originally just a campsite, it now boasts 12 luxury rooms within a lodge, each of which are complete with an ensuite and air conditioning. Tasty group meals are on offer including traditional braais or a potjie served with fresh, homemade bread. Guests can also enjoy a wine tasting of six local varieties. The wine bar and a swimming pool are perfectly positioned to take in the surrounding views whilst you enjoy a glass or two.



Bushwacked

Set on the banks of the mighty Orange River, Bushwacked has the essence of a bush camp, but is equipped with modern facilities. It features grassy campsites and, for those wanting the camping experience without having to pitch a tent, there is now a glamping option. Within each glamping unit, you'll find two single beds and bedding, with the benefits of lighting and electricity. Group meals can be provided, and their speciality is a spit braai with fresh bread baked on the coals. Guests can also enjoy a cold beer at the bar and stunning views of the sun setting over the Richtersveld mountain ranges.



Grunau Chalets

Grunau Chalets offers the perfect stopover for those travelling between South Africa and Namibia. Its self-contained accommodation is arranged into chalets that feature a seating area, private bathroom and refrigerator. The staff here are always happy to help and a shop sells everything from postcards to Namibian biltong. At the restaurant, guests can enjoy some of the best home-made pies in the country or, alternatively, you can light up a campfire and sit back to experience the Namibian sunset.



Adventure Village

Set in the coastal town of Swakopmund, Adventure Village is just a 15-minute walk from attractions such as the fort-like Alte Kaserne and the National Marine Aquarium. Several restaurants and a supermarket are also close by, alongside an on-site snack bar. Its modern guestrooms are simply furnished, with a private bathroom, wardrobe and free WiFi available in public areas. Each of the

rooms has also been built out of colourful shipping containers, offering a unique stay within Namibia.



Brandberg White Lady Lodge

Open since 2004, the Brandberg White Lady Lodge is a warm and hospitable lodge at the foot of Namibia's highest mountain. Choose from chalets or rooms, all are well furnished with en suite facilities and a private patio/veranda. There are 2 large outdoor pools perfect for cooling down in. The famous 'White Lady' Bushman painting is a popular half-day excursion from here - which is not to be missed!



Okaukuejo Resort

With a popular waterhole for game viewing and a range of luxury chalets and standard rooms Okaukuejo Resort is the perfect place for relaxing and game viewing. Guest rooms range from Bush Chalets to Premium Waterhole chalets (which overlook the animals' drinking place). Evenings are a great time to relax at the waterhole and watch the amazing wild life come down for their evening drinks - you could even take your own beverage and join in with the drinking. Okaukuejo is accessed from the southern entrance of the park and is about 17km in.



Eldorado

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Family-run Eldorado offers an authentic taste of Namibian hospitality and farm life. Its guestrooms have been individually crafted from existing old farm buildings and provide a private bathroom, coffee making facilities and air conditioning. Guests can grab a bite to eat in the on-site restaurant or enjoy a refreshing drink at the bar. The outdoor pool is also an inviting spot to cool off after a day out wildlife-spotting in the African heat.



About Overlanding

- To get the most out of your overland tour of Africa we highly suggest you read the 'About Overland Safaris' page on our website. It can be found under the Africa travel guide section on our website and is a comprehensive resource for understanding what to expect on an overland tour in Africa
- Overlanding is not considered a luxury holiday but is undoubtedly a lot of fun
- Africa is a vast continent and distances between the highlights we visit can be very far apart, but some early morning starts and late arrivals into camp will ensure that your time is maximised to see as many sights as possible
- We believe that a flexible approach to travel and good sense of humour are essential when undertaking overland safaris, although we trust that any hiccups in the itinerary will be resolved as soon as possible by our trusted partners

Tour Leaders and Groups

Our longest Overland Camping Safari we offer is our Great African Expedition - 57 Days, generally all other safaris we offer are sectors of this larger safari or similarly a fragment of one of the another safari's we offer. As such, on your holiday you may have travellers join you part way through your safari and also there may be travellers who end their safari when you continue on. There may also be times when there is a change of crew and

truck (changed to suit group size or local road conditions).

Please Note

This tour is operated in conjunction with our trusted partner and you will join travellers from different operators, not solely On The Go.

This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road & weather conditions, political situations and group decisions.

All prices & Local Payments are subject to change.

Due to Tourism Laws in some of the countries we visit, there may be a truck and crew change during the trip.

Accommodation

During this tour you'll stay in a mixture of 2-4 star hotels, shared chalets, permanent tented camps as well as some fixed camping tents. All accommodation will have fixed beds and you won't be required to erect any tents. Your accommodation during your trip will have a mixture of en-suite and shared washroom facilities.

For your excursions into the Okovango Delta and Chobe National Park, accommodation will be provided in mobile tented camps and therefore during these nights may be a little more basic than other accommodation during the tour.

Things To Bring

- A rucksack/back pack is the best luggage to bring as your main bag
- For extra comfort, bring a travel pillow
- A towel
- Spare camera batteries/film and dustbag
- Mosquito spray (with active DEET ingredient)
- Your own personal first aid kit
- A torch
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Antibacterial wipes
- A photocopy of your passport data pages
- Your Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate
- Your travel insurance policy details
- Hat, sunglasses & sunscreen

- Warm clothing - raincoat, warm hat, socks, gloves etc as across Africa wet/dry and hot/cool climatic periods change invariably.

Transport on Tour

Our overland vehicles are custom built converted Mercedes Benz or MAN trucks that have seating space for our passengers and a storage areas for luggage and all trip equipment. The trucks seat

between 27-30 passengers on our camping trips. Most seats are forward facing, though some models have a combination of forward, backward and some inward facing seats with tables. There is no air-conditioning on board, instead vehicles have sliding glass windows, and the seating area is raised providing a great advantage for game viewing and photography. Seats are cushioned and there is storage space for personal items like cameras, snacks and day packs in the seating area.

Meals on Tour

Meals and menus vary as food is purchased en-route, and is subject to produce that is available

seasonally in the areas we travel through. As we support the local communities along the way, fresh produce is mostly purchased direct from the producer or local grower and therefore has an organic appearance. Our safari cooks are able to offer a wide variety of menus with the ingredients available, even if the produce on offer is not of the same selection as what you may be used to back home. The breakfast spread consists of bread (toast when time allows), spreads and cereals with a hot breakfast every few days. Lunches are mostly prepared en-route with a supply of 'build your own' sandwich ingredients available. Dinners (when included) are cooked in the evenings on arrival at the campsite. A wide array of dinner menus are on offer during your safari, consisting of curries, stews, pastas, BBQs and even roasts!

On certain days lunch and dinner is not included and will need to be paid for at your own expense. Please check your itinerary for the day by day meal inclusions.

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Participation on Tour

All of our overland safaris are participation trips meaning that all passengers are expected to help out around camp. The crew members running the trip will set up a rota system that will be followed. One day you may be on cleaning duty, the next day you may be on cooking duty and so forth. This is not only to make the trip easier for all involved but also for you as the passengers to get to know one another while on trip.

Budgeting

Africa is not as cheap as many people believe and we recommend that you budget between US \$50-70 per day for expenses such as drinks, snacks and curios. Budget more if you plan on buying a lot of souvenirs and budget for your optional excursions and visas separately.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Passports & Visas

Please ensure that you have at least two blank pages in your passport, plus an additional blank page for each visa/African country you are visiting. If travelling on one of our longer overland safaris we recommend that you have at least 12 blank pages in your passport.

Please also note that your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the end date of your trip.

Any visa information provided in this document is for general guidance purposes only, visa requirements and fees are subject to change. It is essential that you check current entry requirements with each relevant embassy/consulate prior to departure. Visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go.

Booking Your Flights

When booking your departure flight you should allow time at the end of your African safari for any unexpected delays. We recommend that you book your onward flight no earlier than 24 hours after the end of your safari. In the case of our longer overland camping safaris (22 days or more) we advise against making any firm

arrangements for at least 48 hours after the scheduled departure date. Your tour leader can help to arrange post tour accommodation locally upon request.

Allergies/Likes/Dislikes

Whilst all will be done to accommodate everyone, sometimes the choice available is limited as your cook may be making the best of very limited availability, so some flexibility may be required when encountering something you're not particularly fond of or have chosen not to eat as a lifestyle choice. Should you possess allergies which will result in a medical emergency or a life threatening situation then please ensure you speak to your cook on arrival so you can discuss the options available whilst en-route. This will ensure also that they are fully aware of what you can or cannot eat and make adjustments.

Namibia Country Guide

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Africa.

UK, Ireland, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and South African citizens do not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days in Namibia.

Very few countries require Namibian visas. Those that do require a visa must obtain it prior to departure. Visas are not issued at Namibia ports of entry, if you arrive without a visa, immigration officials will refuse you entry to Namibia.

The border crossings we use in Namibia include:

Noordoewer (South Africa/Namibia border)
Muhembo (Namibia/Botswana border)

Under 18s Travelling to Namibia

Parents travelling to Namibia with children (under 18) will be asked to show the child's unabridged (full) birth certificate which lists the child's details and both parents' details. The abridged (short) birth certificate which only lists the child's details won't be accepted. Uncertified copies of birth certificates will not be accepted.

Where only one parent is accompanying a child, parental or legal consent for the child to travel (eg an affidavit from the other parent or – if applicable – a death certificate) is required and there are other requirements for children travelling unaccompanied or with adults who are not their parents.

If you are travelling with children (under 18) it is essential that you contact your Namibian Embassy for further information relating to these regulations. If you do not carry the correct documentation you will not be allowed to enter the country. Obtaining the correct paperwork is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours.

Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Namibia from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Polio, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A & B and Tetanus is strongly recommended. Rabies may also be recommended.

There is the risk of malaria in certain areas of Namibia so it is very important to check with your doctor before you go, to see whether malarial medication is required for the areas you are visiting. A valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is also required if travelling into Namibia and you have previously been in an infected country.

Currency

The currency of Namibia is the Namibian Dollar (\$NAD) 1 \$NAD = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of \$NAD10, 20, 50, 100 and 200. Coins are in denominations of 5, 10, 50, \$NAD1, \$NAD5.

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Cape Town to Windhoek

It is possible to change money and use ATMs in all sizeable towns. Bureau de Changes offer quicker and commission free service but are only found in Swakopmund and Windhoek. ATMs are widely accessible and very reliable and offer the best rates of exchange for cards.

The Rand and Namibian dollar are tied to each other on an equal level and as such the Rand and Namibian dollar can be used interchangeably in Namibia. However Namibian dollars are not accepted in South Africa.

All unused Namibian Dollars need to be exchanged to South African Rand before leaving Namibia. The Rand can then be used in Botswana or South Africa. Namibian Dollars can be changed to Rand at banks and bureau de changes and swapped over in some shops.

Banking hours: 09:00 to 15:30. Some close between 13:00 and 14:00

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - Namibia is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

Standard voltage in Namibia is 220 - 230V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Namibia's climate is typical of a semi-desert region, with hot days and cool nights. Namibia is blessed with an average of 300 days of sunshine a year. Temperatures are cooler along the coast and on the central plateau. Rainfall is typically low in Namibia and normally only occurs during the summer months from December to March, mostly in the form of heavy thunderstorms. During the winter months from May to September days are typically warm but temperatures can drop below freezing at night.

South Africa Country Guide

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement

is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Africa.

UK, Australian, USA and Canadian citizens do not require a tourist visa for South Africa for stays of up to 90 days.

Since 16th January 2017 all New Zealand passport holders have been required to obtain a visa prior to travelling to South Africa.

Nationalities who don't require a visa are able to get an entry stamp at the border on entering South Africa. Please contact your local South African embassy to find out if you require a visa prior to entering SA. If you are subject to visa requirements, you must apply and receive your visa before your departure for South Africa, visas are not issued at South African ports of entry.

The border crossings we use in South Africa include:

Noordoewer (South Africa/Namibia border)
Groblersberg/Martin's Drift (South Africa/Botswana)
Lebombo (South Africa/Mozambique)
Oshoek (Swaziland/South Africa)

Under 18s Travelling To Or Through South Africa

Parents travelling with children (under 18) into or out of South Africa, or transiting in South Africa will be asked to show the child's unabridged (full) birth certificate which lists the child's details and both parents' details. The abridged (short) birth certificate which only lists the child's details won't be accepted. Uncertified copies of birth certificates or copies of the parents/guardians identification will not be accepted. A parental consent affidavit (PCA) must have a certified copy of the parent's/guardian's identification (ie passport) attached to it.

Where only one parent is accompanying a child, parental or legal consent for the child to travel (eg an affidavit from the other parent or – if applicable – a death certificate) is required

and there are other requirements for children travelling unaccompanied or with adults who are not their parents.

If you are travelling with children (under 18) it is essential that you contact the South African High Commission or the South African Department of Home Affairs for further information relating to these regulations. If you do not carry the correct documentation you will not be allowed to enter the country. Obtaining the correct paperwork is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours.

Please note: From the 11th November 2019, only a valid passport will be required for foreign minors travelling to South Africa.

Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to South Africa from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A (for stays over 4 weeks) and hepatitis B (for stays over 3 months) are recommended.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one, coming from infected areas.

A low malaria risk occurs in northern parts of Mpumalanga (as well as Kruger National park, northern and northeastern parts of KwaZulu-Natal). If travelling to these regions and/or the countries north of South Africa, where there is a high malaria risk, we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication. Precautionary measures to take to prevent contact with mosquitoes include: insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and wear long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

Currency

The currency in South Africa is Rand (ZAR; symbol R)

1 Rand = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of R200, 100, 50, 20 and 10. Coins are in denominations of R5, 2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10 and 5 cents.

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Obtaining local currency within South Africa is very easy. ATMs are widely accessible and very reliable and offer the best rates of exchange. International credit cards are accepted in almost all shops, restaurants, hotels and game reserves.

Bureau de changes offer a quick and commission free service but are only found in the main centres such as Cape Town and Johannesburg. Travellers cheques can be changed at banks. These should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Please note that proof of identity may be requested in some instances, so it's useful to carry a passport or some form of photo identification. Travellers cheques can be difficult to exchange and tend to attract high commission fees.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1530, Sat 0830-1100.

Rand can be used in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, so if you are travelling on one of our overland safaris ample money for these three countries can be obtained prior to beginning your trip in Cape Town or Johannesburg. The Rand and Namibian dollar are tied to each other on an equal level and can be used interchangeably in Namibia. The Rand can also be easily converted to Pula in Botswana at good rates.

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - South Africa is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed

Standard voltage is 220-230V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Climatic conditions generally range from Mediterranean in the south western corner of the country to temperate in the interior plateau, and subtropical in the northeast. A small area in the northwest has a desert climate. Most of the country has warm, sunny days and cool nights. Rainfall generally occurs during summer (November-March), although in the southwest, around Cape

Town, rainfall occurs in winter (from June-August). Temperatures are influenced by variations in elevation, terrain, and ocean currents.

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