



HAREID
MUNICIPALITY

WELCOME TO HAREID Explorer's Port





Welcome to Hareid

Hareid is, compared to villages elsewhere in the region, a medium-sized municipality with slightly above 5000 inhabitants.

Hareid's history is closely linked to pioneering activities, both locally and in the surrounding areas. There are strong references to the Viking Age and sealing in the Arctic Ocean in more recent times. In fact, the town Ny-Ålesund on Svalbard was formerly called Brandal City, named after Brandal where most of the pioneers came from. The Norwegian polar explorer Roald Amundsen often contacted the experienced Arctic Sea sailors from Brandal before he set off on his many explorations. Therefore, it is with great pride that we welcome you to Hareid - Explorer's port.

In addition to museums that curate these stories, you will find most of what you would expect to find in a place like Hareid. All the city functions are concentrated downtown and you will find restaurants, bakery, grocery stores, a pharmacy and small stores for clothes, second hand and souvenirs. All easily accessible from the harbour. Hareid has a versatile business community that is closely linked to the maritime industry, which is based on long traditions and experiences.

Hareid has a rich cultural life and is known as the Choir-village. Maybe you will get to experience one of the many choirs during your stay? The village also has many voluntary organizations such as sports teams, brass bands, as well as an active church.

Many of the inhabitants of Hareid have chosen to live here because of the closeness to nature. The hiking trails to the mountains start a 15 minute walk from the harbour. The local 9-hole golf course or the wonderful beach Overåsanden is just a few minutes by car/taxi from the town centre. If you prefer to relax, you can stay in pleasant surroundings and perhaps take a stroll along the harbour area. From here you can study the activities you may expect to find in a small, but lively village. Find a bench, relax and enjoy the view of the sea and the mountains.

Welcome!



Scan or click to read more

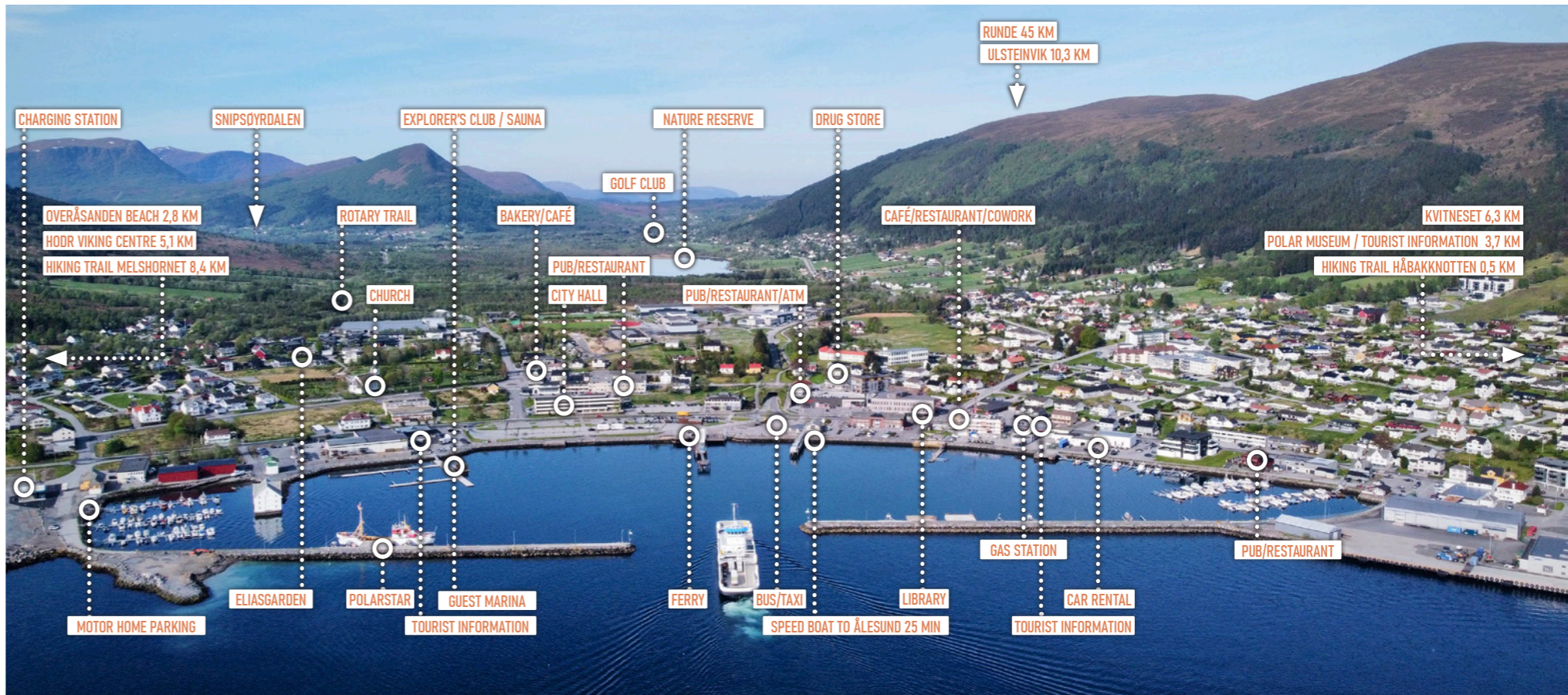




Photo: Erlend Friestad

The polar museum for arctic harvesting, "Ishavsmuseet Aarvak", tells an exciting story about the Arctic Ocean's true heroes, and how the industry has influenced the whole nation. The museum tells the story of the men who fought against the forces of nature and the homesickness, those who sailed out only 15 years old without a hint of fear in their soul, the skipper and trappers. The museum is situated in the centre of Brandal in an old wharfside shed

formerly used for processing seal skins, 4 km from the city centre of Hareid. Brandal was a centre for sealing and expeditions to the arctic from the west coast of Norway. From the start in 1898, 57 small ships set sail from this small town. 41 were wrecked in the ice and in rough seas where the gods of weather in all their majesty can be merciless.



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All photos: Cecilie Hatloy/Visitaalesund

The museum displays over a hundred years of history of sealing, expeditions in Northeast Greenland during the winter, and mining operations in Ny-Ålesund, Spitsbergen, or Brandal City, as the place was first named. Exhibits cover 2500 m2 in addition to the arctic vessel, M/S Aarvak, constructed in 1912, brought to land in dry dock and built into the side of the museum. The museum also has a section for the explorer Ragnar Thorseth who was

the first Norwegian to stand at the North Pole, he also sailed around the world in the Viking ship "Saga Siglar". The museum welcome groups from 10 to 110 persons for guided tours. Lunch and dinner can be served on request.

At the Polar Museum you will find a wide selection of souvenirs to bring home as a memory of your stay in Hareid.

Photo: Erlend Friestad



Polarstar

The famous polar ship Polarstar (picture) was built in 1948 as a sealer. This was Norway's first sealing vessel built in steel. It fought against rough seas and ice for over 50 years hunting seal, polar expeditions to Greenland and Spitsbergen, and was also a pioneer ship at the start of the Norwegian oil adventure in the 1960s. The last sealing voyage was back in 2007. The ship has been saved from scrapping twice and was fully restored in 2017. Polarstar is protected by the Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage. Polarstar can be booked, and is certified for 50 passengers on day trips and 24 on overnight trips. Booking via Ishavsmuseet.





Viking Centre

According to historical sources, the battle of Hjørungavåg is a battle with equal parts historical and legendary background and is recognised as one of the great Viking battles.

It allegedly took place in 986 and was a battle between the earls of Lade in Trøndelag, and a Danish invasion fleet sent by the Danish king, supported by the feared Jomsvikings.

Hodr Hjørungavåg Vikingsete conveys the history and culture through a Viking house built according to old tradition. The centre is continuously expanding, and will also contain several buildings, boat houses and possibly even a Viking ship. Boards with information about Viking culture, the Battle of Hjørungavåg and how this has shaped the country and people will, be an important part of the park.

TRANSPORTATION: 5 km from Hareid. A local quay for disembarking from smaller boats are under planning.



Photo: Hodr Viking park



Hod Heritage

Hod Heritage is a cultural heritage initiative that aims to bring visitors closer to the Viking and Iron Ages in the Hareid and Ulstein region on Norway's west coast. Based on archaeological discoveries and historical sources, the initiative explores how people lived and shaped their communities in this coastal and fjord landscape.

The region preserves a rich and varied archaeological record from the Stone Age - to the Viking and medieval period. Monumental burial cairns and extensive grave fields bear witness to long traditions of ritual and remembrance, while a golden Roman finger ring points to a far-reaching connection beyond Scandinavia. Equally important are the more subtle traces - agricultural activity and everyday settlement patterns - which reveal how people sustained their lives over generations.

Through lectures, written content, and visual storytelling from an archaeologist, Hod Heritage aims to create engaging and authentic encounters with the past. Academic knowledge is combined with narrative depth, offering both locals and visitors a meaningful connection to the history that surrounds them.



The image is from the archaeological excavation at Overåsanden. Among the finds were traces of agricultural activity dating back 5,000 years, as well as the remains of a longhouse that is over 1,000 years old.
Foto: Aaron Johnston, Møre og Romsdal fylkeskommune



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Foto: Maren Stakke (SNU) and Universitetsmuseet i Bergen (U)



Eliassgarden – Living Rural History

Eliassgarden is a historic farmstead offering insight into traditional rural life on the west coast of Norway. Through old buildings, guided storytelling, and local food, visitors learn how people lived and worked from the 17th century onwards. The farm reflects a way of life shaped by agriculture, fishing and close ties to the sea.

The stories focus on family life, daily work, craftsmanship and important historical events that influenced the local community. Guided visits may include serving of local food and traditional baked goods. Eliassgarden is still a living home, giving the experience a genuine and personal character. Groups can book guided tours.



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Hareid Church

In the city centre of Hareid you will find a beautiful, wooden church from 1877. The style of the church is called «Neo-Gothic».

The earliest existing historical records of a church in Hareid date back to 1432, but it is established as a fact that a church has existed in this area even earlier. The first church in Hareid, a wooden stave church, was likely built in the 13th century.

The beautiful altarpiece from 1660 is the largest and oldest work of art. The church has also beautiful stained glass windows with biblical motifs.

In the churchyard you will find the priest's cottage, «Prestestova» (red building), which dates from before 1600. It is probably the oldest house in the municipality. Prestestova was built for the itinerant priests so that they had a place to stay when they came to hold their services at Hareid.

In the cemetery there are two memorial stones, one in memory of those who perished at sea in the period 1850-1945, and one in memory of those who did not return after WW2.

In the area surrounding the church, you will find several cultural heritage posters with historical information about the church and the churchyard.

A tour or even to attend a church service is a great experience.



Photos: Erlend Friestad



Overåsanden

A short drive or bike ride (3 km) from the centre of Hareid lies the most beautiful beach in the region, with chalky white sand and clear blue water. The mountains surrounding the beach create a magical frame. If you do not wish to jump into the sea from the bathing

jetty or swim in the clear seawater, you can sunbathe, go for a walk, or study the beautiful monument in memory of the Viking battle that is claimed to have taken place in Hjørungavåg in 986. The beach is beautiful to visit in any kind of weather.

Photo: Erlend Friestad



Scan or click for directions



Rotary Trail

Along Hareidselva you will find the Rotary Trail, a great way to experience the surroundings of Hareid. The walk is approximately 5,5 km long and starts just a few minutes walk from the city centre of Hareid. Along the trail you will find a newly restored mill house, a dam for an old power plant and several fishing spots for salmon and trout.

The trail runs alongside Grimstadvatnet wildlife conservation area. Along the trail there are several places to sit down and enjoy nature, and you will also find a small activity park.

You can choose to walk or cycle, and there are several starting points along the trail.

It is possible to book a guided tour along the river, where you will hear about the history, culture, and nature associated with the river.



Photos: Erlend Fjæstad





Hiking

From the town centre you can easily get to several mountain tops.

Håbakknotten (main picture /267 masl) can be reached on foot directly from the harbour. The trip to Håbakknotten has a steep, but short climb. It is therefore equally suitable as an afternoon workout, or as a weekend trip with the little ones.

Along the way, you will find nice rest areas both on a large stone and on the ruins of an old barn. At the top you can enjoy a magnificent view of the fjords and the areas north and east of Hareid.

From Håbakknotten you can easily continue to several other mountain peaks in the area, for example Holstadhornet (531 masl).

If you would like a longer hike, you can go to the beautiful mountain top, Melshornet (668 masl). The starting point is just a few minutes drive from the village centre. The reward at the top is a majestic view of the fjords and the Sunnmøre Alps, as well as the ocean in the west.

Hareid has a lot of other hiking opportunities, as the town is surrounded by beautiful nature, whether you want to enjoy the sea, the local Hareid river or the mountain tops.

Melshornet



Photos: Erlend Friestad



Bukketrappane



Holstadhornet



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Photo: Even Sundgot



Photo: Erlend Friesstad



Kvitneset

Kvitneset is located at the northern tip of Hareidlandet. During the Second World War the Germans built a coastal fort here in 1941. Firing positions, command bunkers and a series of tunnels for storing ammunition were built by local workers. The fort also had a prison camp for up to 120 Russian prisoners of war.

Today most of the positions are still visible. The fire control center/command bunker and the armor emplacement at the entrance are still

standing. Most of the tunnels are still intact, including those carved into the rock, where the Germans stored ammunition (picture).

However, the history of Kvitneset is far older than WWII. You can also find three burial mounds from the Iron Age.

At Kvitneset you can experience history, fantastic nature, amazing sunsets, and the huge waves from the open sea on stormy days.

TRANSPORT: Kvitneset is located about 6 kilometres from Hareid, towards Brandal. The last kilometer of the road is a picturesque gravel road not far from the shoreline. The best option is to park in Brandal (scan QR code for parking placeel) and walk (5 km roundtrip).

Photos: Erlend Friestad



Hareid Sauna

Hareid Sauna is located at Hareid Marina, in the centre of Hareid.

Our floating sauna offers a unique Scandinavian experience: unwind in the warmth of the sauna while admiring stunning mountain views, and take a refreshing dip in the fjord.

You can book a private or shared sauna on our website: hareidhamn.no/sauna





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Golf Club + footgolf

Sunnmøre Golfklubb has a beautiful 9-hole golf course, 18-hole footgolf course, pro-shop and good training facilities. All in nice surroundings with a beautiful view of the Sunnmøre Alps.

In the architect designed clubhouse from 2008 you will find a cafe and a conference room.

The golf course has 8 ponds in play, as well as several rivers and side water hazards, which help adding to the difficulty of the course.

You can also kick your way through an 18-hole football golf course – a fun and active experience for the whole family. No prior experience needed.

The golf club is located at Hovden, about 4 km from the harbour.



Scan or click for directions



Snipsøyrdalen

Snipsøyrvatnet is a beautiful, big lake in Hareid. A bike ride around the lake is a nice way to enjoy the beautiful nature in the valley of Snipsøyrdalen. The lake is also great for kayaking and swimming.

The beach of Holesanden (10 km from the harbour) is to be found in the southern end of the lake. The water is often warm in the summer, nevertheless the beach is nice to use at all seasons. By the beach, there is a cabin owned by Hareid YMCA. Most Sundays in the

summer season, the cabin offers a café where you can buy coffee and the most delicious homemade cakes, a light meal or maybe just an ice cream. At Midsummer they arrange traditional Norwegian mid-summer with a bonfire by the lake and an open café.

A short distance away from Holesanden, you will find a river called Nesselva – another nice outdoor area for tenting, hiking, kayaking or swimming in Snipsøyrvatnet.

Photo: Cecilie Hatloy/Visitalesund



1

Photo: Hodr Viking park



2

Photo: Instagram - @rarhaug



3

Photo: Erlend Friestad



4

Join the Explorer's Club

The Explorer's Club is an exclusive community for those seeking authentic experiences and a deeper connection to nature and history. To become a member, you must complete a series of unique challenges. Upon completing these challenges, you will be awarded a diploma and an exclusive club pin to mark your achievement.

- 1** Ishavsmuseet Aarvak
Discover the rich maritime history of the northern seas.
- 2** Hodr Viking Centre
Experience history and culture through a Viking house built according to old tradition
- 3** Hareid Sauna
Relax in a modern Nordic sauna with a stunning mountain view.
- 4** Swim in the Fjord
Take a refreshing dip in the cold, clear waters as a part of your journey.



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Places to sleep

There are no hotels in Hareid municipality, but there are still many charming places to stay. If you are arriving by boat or motorhome, we recommend Hareid Guest Marina or the motorhome parking area (see next page).

Several providers offer cabin rentals, and many also list rooms and houses on Airbnb.

The area also offers many beautiful areas suitable for camping and outdoor stays, thanks to the right to roam. Some areas are particularly well suited for this. We would especially like to highlight the recreational area by the Nesset river. Here you will find fire pits, toilets, and waste disposal facilities, in addition to idyllic surroundings. Other nice campsites are Kvitneset and Leirvågen.

If you prefer a hotel stay, you can book a room at Quality Hotel in nearby Ulsteinvik.



Nessetelva / Photo: Erlend Frøestad



Places to eat

We have several places where visitors and locals can enjoy a meal:

- **Millennium Kafe:** Local food, salads, burgers, coffee (picture)
- **Mjøl og Meir** - artisan bakery and café
- **Posten** - traditional Norwegian home-style cuisine, pizza, pasta, and Middle Eastern food
- **Hareid Restaurant og sportsbar** - pizza, pasta, and Middle Eastern food
- **Hareid pizzarestaurant** - pizza
- **Jafs** - fast food
- **Ishavsmuseet** - traditional Norwegian home-style cuisine

Photo: Erlend Friestad



Hareid Guest Marina

Hareid Guest Marina is situated in Hareid Port and offers approximately 35 berths for leisure vessels within walking distance to the town centre. The marina has shore power, freshwater and a service building with toilets, showers and a laundry room. The marina is just a stone's throw away from transport links to the Ålesund area, the Sunnmøre Alps and the Outer Sunnmøre islands.



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Photo: Larisa Parkhomenko



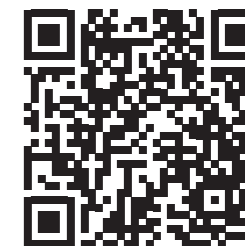
Motor Home Parking

The motor home parking is located by the marina in the city center of Hareid. In addition to a great view and short distance to everything you need, you will also have the opportunity to connect to electricity.



Local Festivals

Throughout the year, you can experience small and large festivals and events in Hareid. 'Opplev Hareid' is an umbrella organization for many of these. Scan the code to see what's happening!



oplevhareid

oplevhareid.no

Photos: Annika Brandal, Cecilie Hatloy, Matias Kvalvik Slotteroy, Melinda Skeide, Larysa Parkhomenko, Bernt Bandal, Martin Hauge-Nilsen and Erlend Friestad,



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Photo: Pixvels.com/Eta Yudhanira



1

Some Attractions Near By

1 Ålesund is currently the second largest cruise destination in Norway and should hardly need any further introduction by us.

Hareid Port has, by stepping forward as a new cruise destination, opened an alternative gateway to Ålesund city and its attractions.

The catastrophic fire of 1904 left the town of Ålesund in ashes. The rebuilding created one of Europe's most characteristic architectural environments in the Art Nouveau style

2 Hjørundfjorden is a side arm of Storfjorden in the same way as Geirangerfjorden (Geiranger) is a side arm of the same fjord system.

Hjørundfjorden is 33 km long and has its own side arm, which leads to the small village of Oye. In this village you will find the beautiful Union Hotel Oye, a traditional Swiss style hotel, originally based on tourism and local mountaineering traditions. Today the hotel offers an excellent kitchen and comfortable accommodation, together with proud references to its past history and a vast amount of artifacts in every corner of the hotel.

Hjørundfjorden with its side arm is entirely surrounded by alpine peaks up to 1500m, rising directly from the sea level. Geirangerfjorden may very well be the king of the norwegian Fjords. In that case Hjørundfjorden may surely be the queen. Lighter, but wilder, more complex and far more beautiful.

3 Runde is the southernmost of the large bird islands in Norway. With its 160 inhabitants (apart from the birds) the island is located only approx. 35 minutes with bus from Hareid. Runde has an exceptional variety of species - in fact all seabird species nesting in colonies are represented. Most numerous is probably the tourists great favourite, the puffin.

On this island you will also find Runde Miljøsent, which is an international environmental research center. It is also a convey center where among other things you get the opportunity to see parts of the treasure that was found on the seabed at Runde in 1972. The treasure was a part of the cargo of the Dutch freighter «Akerendam» which shipwrecked on its maiden voyage in 1725.

4 Trandal is a tiny village in Hjørundfjorden (a side arm to Storfjorden) with only 17 residents.

The surroundings are breathtaking and the atmosphere is warm and welcoming. The only way to get to Trandal is by boat, unless you prefer to walk across the mountains. Which in fact surprisingly many seems to do.

Here you will find Christian Gaard which offers small scale accommodation and also offers food and beverage for their guests. Christian Gaard also organizes concerts and festivals on a regular basis, such as blues and country festivals.



2

Photo: Simon Sjøkvist / Visitalesund



3

Photo: Erlend Frøstad



4

Photo: Oddgeir Vineset / Visitalesund



Important phone numbers and web pages

Medical:

Emergency: 113
Doctor: 116 117

Police:

Emergency: 112
Non-emergency: 02800

Hareid municipality:

70 09 50 00
hareid.kommune.no



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Public transport

frammr.no



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Local Taxi:

900 44 211

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