



WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT!

COME AND STAY A WHILE.



TOURIST INFORMATION

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E-mail: tourismus@nordkirchen.de

www.nordkirchen.de/tourismus

Opening hours

May – September:

Monday – Saturday: 09:30 am – 12:30 pm

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 02:00 pm – 05:00 pm

Sundays and public holidays: 12:00 pm – 04:00 pm

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Monday – Friday: 09:30 am – 12:30 pm

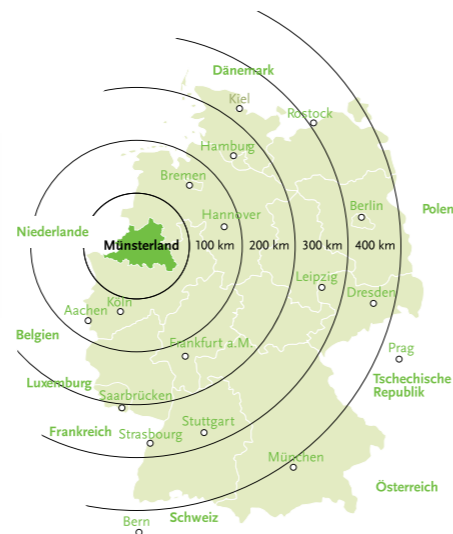
Mon, Tue, Thu: 02:00 pm – 05:00 pm

Or by arrangement

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND US



WELCOME TO NORDKIRCHEN

Dear guests,

We are delighted about your visit and your interest in the palace municipality of Nordkirchen.

Our town offers you a touch of France right on your doorstep. More than half a million visitors come to Nordkirchen every year to see one of the most impressive palaces in Westphalia. Known as the "Versailles of Westphalia", it boasts a stately garden complex with many attractions.

Its most popular sight is the reconstructed Venus island. There are magnificent garden artworks, many cosy nooks and crannies and plenty of avenues invite visitors to enjoy a wander in the baroque park. Everyone who comes to Nordkirchen – locals, students and visitors alike – loves this oasis of quiet situated in-between the three villages of Nordkirchen, Südkirchen and Capelle.

Each district welcomes its guests with open arms. The sensory garden and adjacent petting zoo are particularly popular – and not just with kids. Many historical treasures are

displayed in the Heimathaus museum. A cycling trip along one of our many agricultural paths, called "Pättkestouren", will show you the diverse beauty of our municipality up close.

Nordkirchen is an excellent base for walking and cycling trips to other destinations in the area and further afield. Both solo travellers and groups will enjoy the beautiful parks and landscapes of Münsterland and the warmth of the Westphalian people.

There are many different accommodation options to find your perfect home away from home. You can easily reach the retail outlets, hairdressers, book shops and bakeries of the idyllic town centre on foot.

Enjoy sophisticated cultural experiences, take in beautiful landscapes and get active in our beautiful outdoors.

The tourist information team will be happy to help you plan your unique adventure holiday. Nordkirchen is looking forward to meeting you.

The central location of Nordkirchen is one of its greatest assets.

- Motorway: A1, exit: Ascheberg
 - Rail: The rail station in the Capelle district offers connections to Münster (Westf.) and Dortmund Hbf.
 - Bus: Public and private bus services connect the different districts
 - Address for your GPS: Nordkirchen centre: Schloßstr. 11 (Tourist Information)
 - Parking: Free parking is available, e.g. at Schloss Nordkirchen (the car park also offers a holding tank dump station for coaches)
- Maps of the area can be ordered from us for free.



Please consult our website for more information.

NORDKIRCHEN

Nordkirchen is famous for its palace. Those with an interest in Baroque architecture can visit 13 buildings created under the direction of Johann Conrad Schlaun, the famous German palace architect. They include the community centre and the centre for children with disabilities.

Small, family-run businesses shape the picturesque town centre with the Church of Saint Maurice at its heart. They are managed by their owners, who will make every effort to fulfil your wishes. We wholeheartedly recommend a leisurely walk across the many attractive squares of Nordkirchen, which offer plenty of shops and restaurants.

SÜDKIRCHEN

The charming village of Südkirchen is located to the south of Schloss Nordkirchen. It is known for its active social life with many different activity and associations. The Church of Saint Pancras, whose post-Gothic older section was built in the late seventeenth century, is particularly worth visiting. Its tower dates back to the twelfth century.

A citizen's initiative led to the construction of the village fountain and the impressive maypole. They form the centre of the town together with the church.

CAPELLE

With a population of less than 2,000 residents, Capelle is the smallest district of the palace municipality. Situated amid rolling forests, it borders the Ichterloh nature reserve to the north. To its west lies the Hirschpark nature reserve, to its east, the extensive forests of Schloss Westerwinkel.

The lovingly restored Heimathaus museum is right next to the Church of Saint Dionysius, built in the seventeenth century. The large village park is a perfect place for a walk or to relax.

THE PALACE MUNICIPALITY OF NORDKIRCHEN

Nordkirchen, Südkirchen and Capelle

The palace municipality of Nordkirchen is the main tourist draw of the region. It has a population of 10,000. On weekends and during the holidays, several hundred visitors enjoy the palace gardens and the charming town centre every day.

Schloss Nordkirchen, the "Versailles of Westphalia", is the most famous moated palace in the Münsterland region. It functions as a beacon that is known far beyond the borders of its municipality. Since 1975, the municipality has consisted of three districts: Nordkirchen, Südkirchen and Capelle. All three of them are typical rural, Westphalian villages. They exude peace and quiet, and their many active clubs and associations emphasise the community spirit of the locals. Certified as a "family-friendly commune", the palace municipality of Nordkirchen is a place where different generations live together. Inclusion is more than just a theory here: the centre for children with disabilities and the Caritas association put theory into practice with great success. Independent people with and without disabilities live, work and celebrate together in Nordkirchen.



SCHLOSS NORDKIRCHEN

Versailles in Münsterland

The Münsterland region is famous for its moated palaces and castles. Schloss Nordkirchen is an impressive stately home from the Baroque era and unparalleled in Westphalia. It is the main attraction of the palace municipality of Nordkirchen and truly deserves its nickname as the "Versailles of Westphalia".

In 1703, Friedrich Christian von Plettenberg, the Prince-Bishop of Münster, laid the foundation of the palace complex. He wanted to create the perfect building, and no effort was too great for him to achieve his goal. In 1703, he hired Gottfried Laurenz Pictorius, the court architect of Münster. Unfortunately, Friedrich Christian von Plettenberg died three years after the construction began. The project was taken over by his nephew, Ferdinand von Plettenberg, who would later become an Imperial Count. It was not until two decades later that the Baroque complex (the park, secondary palaces and terraced gardens) were complete. In 1725, Johann Conrad Schlaun – quite possibly the best-known architect and master builder of the Baroque era – was hired. He finally completed the stately complex in 1734. After its completion, its owner found himself in immense debt. But he had created the largest moated palace in the region and a park complex that was among the greatest in Europe. Many generations have enjoyed this legacy ever since. In the early twentieth century, the Duke of Arenberg added large extensions, such as the side wings of the Oranienburg summer palace. Its dimensions are truly awe-inspiring: the palace gardens (open to the public for free) are as large 71 football fields. They are accessible by people with walking frames, pushchairs or wheelchairs. Dogs are allowed to enter on leads.

There is a great deal to explore in the palace gardens: a splendid Chinese fountain, the Venus island (designed by the French garden architect Achille Duchêne), the orangery and more than a hundred garden sculptures. The surrounding forests add a wonderful, natural touch to the Neo-Baroque complex.

Schloss Nordkirchen alone makes a visit to the Münsterland worth your while.



Please scan this QR code for all information, dates and prices about guided tours and information about the history of the palace complex.



WELCOME AT THE COURT

Did you know that you can travel back in time in Nordkirchen? I am a court lady and I would like to invite you to the year 1734. Our splendid palace has just been completed. A tour of all 300 rooms might be more than we can manage, but I will be delighted to show you its most magnificent chambers. Afterwards, we can take a leisurely walk through its Baroque gardens. Many enjoy the experience so much that they are reluctant to return to the twenty-first century ...



The palace guide, Dr Birgit Beisch, makes a spectacular impression as a court lady clad in velvet and silk.



Yes, I do!

Getting married in the fairy tale surroundings of the Versailles of Westphalia is a dream that comes true for hundreds of happy couples from Germany and beyond every year. Exchange your vows in our romantic little wedding tower. It is open around the clock, even on Sundays and public holidays.

Information & appointments:

Nordkirchen registry office
Phone: +49 2596 917-129/-229
www.nordkirchen.de/heiraten



COUNTRYSIDE ENTERTAINMENT

Concerts and events

Nordkirchen offers sophisticated entertainment. Every year, more than 5,000 music aficionados visit the open-air classical concert in front of the breathtaking Schloss Nordkirchen. It is inspired by the large musical fountains at the Palace of Versailles in Paris. With its synchronised musical fireworks, colourful fountains, a fire choreography and the spectacular illumination of the palace, the event is one of the highlights of every year.

The series of palace concerts held in the Oranienburg summer palace has garnered a reputation far beyond the borders of Münsterland. Its top-class international stars regularly infuse the region with culture and class.

The cultural association is another major integral part of cultural life in the palace municipality. Church socials, school events and public lectures complete the picture. There are many cultural highlights in Nordkirchen, from comedy and cabaret performances to jazz concerts.

The Dutch market offers specialities from our western neighbour, the May festival showcases gems from the Münsterland region, and various local events invite you to join the locals and enjoy a good party. The people of Nordkirchen, Südkirchen and Capelle love life. They celebrate with great hospitality and never forget their local roots.



Please refer to our online event calendar for an overview of all that is happening around here.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Concert and event tickets are available from the tourist information in the centre of Nordkirchen.
Phone: +49 2596 917-500
E-mail: tourismus@nordkirchen.de
You can also pick up the latest programme booklets from here.





COUNTRYSIDE HOSPITALITY

Accommodation and gastronomy

Our local Westphalian chefs serve various dishes from the Münsterland region and beyond. If you are tired after a long day of cycling, the hearty cuisine of Westphalia is sure to replenish your soul. There's dark pumpernickel bread, smoked pork sausage, ham, beer and the local grain-based spirit – so dig in! Alternatively, hikers and cyclists (and everyone else) can enjoy a home-made cake or ice cream in the centre or relax with a glass of wine. The palace restaurant is highly regarded and is among the 20 best restaurants of Westphalia. Surrounded by nature, the beautiful farmer's café is an excellent place to kick back and relax. If you are looking for a place to eat, check out the trendy restaurants in town or head to the farmer's market and grab some fried fish. Nordkirchen offers many different restaurants that entice you to rest and enjoy a tasty meal. The municipality caters to a wide range of culinary preferences.



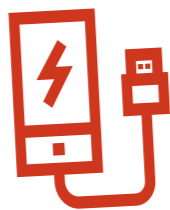
NORDKIRCHEN HAS A SWEET TOOTH!

Have you explored our beautiful Münsterland region during a hike or cycling trip? You deserve a treat! A tasty Westphalian dish is just what you need. You might be thinking of a hearty, savoury meal now: pea soup, pumpernickel or – if you are a true expert – "Töttchen", a special Westphalian kind of stew. But there's more to Münsterland cuisine: come and get to know our sweet side! The proof of the pudding is, as they say, in the eating. Nordkirchen swears by that piece of wisdom. Our chocolate seminar will teach you all there is to know about the production of our local pastries. Of course, you are welcome to try the chocolates, tarts and cakes afterwards.



Master confectioner Heinz Perrar offers a culinary education at the Schlaun Café

No matter the reason for your visit: we want you to enjoy your stay. With plenty of different accommodation options to choose from, you will definitely get a good night's sleep here. From fancy hotels to cosy guest houses, lovingly managed holiday homes to award-winning camper sites and hip hostels, Nordkirchen leaves no wish unfulfilled. Are you coming to Nordkirchen for a conference, congress or seminar? Meeting rooms are available inside the palace, from local hosts and at the community centre. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.



Recharge
Make sure you don't run out of power during your visit. Our tourist information will be happy to lend you a power bank to charge your mobile devices.



For the latest list of restaurants and accommodation options, please ask our tourist information or scan this QR code.

COUNTRYSIDE PATHS

Nature on the historical axis between the palaces



Between Schloss Nordkirchen and Schloss Westerwinkel in Herbern lies a diverse natural and cultural landscape. Its primeval forests, unspoilt green spaces and varied structures are typical for the parks of the Münsterland region. You will encounter many information panels and discovery stations during your walk, hike or cycling trip. Oaks, hornbeams and woodruff shape these landscapes, which is infused with the powerful aromas of wild garlic and covered in wood anemones during the blooming season.

Small rest islands offer loungers a place to relax with magnificent views. Take an audio tour to explore different facets of the area. For a truly revealing experience, consider a guided excursion with a friendly professional guide.



Information about the historical axis between the palaces, as well as about dates and hiking paths in this region is available here.

WONDERFUL!

Explore the fields and meadows of the historical landscape between the palaces on foot or by bike. You will learn exciting tales of fast horses, brave people and dangerous wolves and find out interesting information about the palaces and nature of our area.

(Protecting our nature is a matter very dear to our hearts, by the way.)

Tourist guide **Angela Neuhaus** operates an inn for hikers and cyclists in Capelle.

COUNTRYSIDE CYCLING

Cycling in the Münsterland region

In the palace municipality of Nordkirchen, village life and nature coexist peacefully and nurture each other. Our bicycle paths keep this balance in mind. Plenty of well-signed cycling paths allow you to explore the area easily by bike.

With lush fields and meadows, enchanted gardens and historical paths, the lowlands of Münsterland are paradise for nature explorers. A well-developed network of cycling paths spanning more than 250 kilometres criss-crosses the landscape in and around Nordkirchen. The "Route of 100 Palaces", also known as the "King of cycling routes", leads you through the historical town centre and past Schloss Nordkirchen. The "Castle and Palace Tour" showcases the most magnificent sights in the south of Münsterland. Four attractive "Clover Tours" combine cycling with environmental protection and education. For advice and free maps, please visit our tourist information in Nordkirchen.

Of course, a bike rental service, a bike shop (with repair service) and various e-bike charging stations are also available.



We will be happy to send you maps in the post. Simply e-mail us at

tourismus@nordkirchen.de

ROUTE OF 100 PALACES

This route, which spans almost 1,000 kilometres and has been awarded four stars, is considered the "King of cycling routes" in Germany. It leads cyclists through Münsterland and past Schloss Nordkirchen.

CASTLE AND PALACE TOUR

This circular route is 135 kilometres long. It leads you through the south of Münsterland between the Lippe and Stever rivers, where you can discover fairy tale palaces, castles and manors. You will get to know Schloss Nordkirchen, Schloss Westerwinkel and Vischering Castle during the tour. It makes for a perfect weekend trip.

CLOVER TOURS

These special cycling routes are intended to combine leisure with environmental education. They traverse gorgeous nature reserves, where you can observe the local flora and fauna.

"PÄTTKESTOUREN"

The "Pättkestouren" are eight completely signposted, circular trails with a length of between 20–50 kilometres that make for great day trips. In the Münsterland dialect, "Pättkes" refers to a small path. The popular eponymous trails show you the sights of our palace municipality and its neighbourhood.

HISTORICAL AXIS BETWEEN THE PALACES

The diverse landscapes on the historical axis between Schloss Nordkirchen and Schloss Westerwinkel in Ascheberg-Herbern can be explored on foot or by bike. While largely unpaved, the trails are thoroughly signposted and lead you through our nature reserves. Information panels present interesting facts about the local flora and fauna; art installations along the routes beckon you to rest and observe for a while.



Use our tour tips with GPS tracks or plan your trip interactively with the Münsterland tour planner.

COUNTRYSIDE MATCHES

Game, set and match

CYCLISTS' MEETUP

A cosy meeting spot on a former farm, just a stone's throw away from Nordkirchen. Located within easy reach of Münsterland, the Ruhr area and Sauerland.

ARCHERY

The Nordkirchen archery club wants to introduce children and adults to this exciting discipline.

BOULES

You can play boules and pétanque at the facilities of the TV Rot-Weiß tennis club.

GOLF

Green fee players are welcome to play a round of golf at the well-kept 18-hole course of the Nordkirchen golf and country club.

MINIGOLF

Children and adults can show their skills on the minigolf course in the Schlosspark.

HORSEBACK RIDING

The Münsterland riding trail is 1,000 kilometres long. It connects the districts of Borken, Coesfeld, Recklinghausen, Steinfurt, Warendorf and the city of Münster.

SWIMMING

Swimming facilities will be available in Nordkirchen again in the near future. For now, indoor and outdoor pools can be found within 25 kilometres of the palace municipality. There is the Cabrio water park in Senden, the indoor pool in Ascheberg-Herbern, Lippe Bad in Lünen, Maximare in Hamm, and outdoor pools in Selm and at Lake Cappenberg.

SKATEBOARDING

Young skateboarding enthusiasts will love the skateboarding park and halfpipe in the Schlosspark.

TENNIS

Nordkirchen is home to two tennis clubs: TV Rot-Weiß and TG Blau-Weiß. Several indoor and outdoor courts are available on their premises.

SPORTS CLUBS

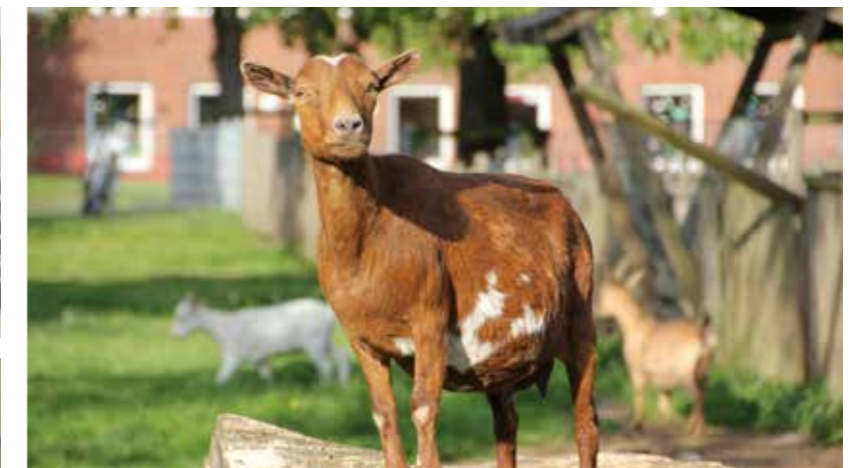
Get active in our sports clubs: they offer football, chess, table tennis and cycling.

Nordkirchen is active:
Stay fit in our palace municipality! Cycle, hike or power-walk for a healthy workout in nature. Of course, there are plenty of other sports and leisure activities to enjoy here.



COUNTRYSIDE LIVING

Live and work at your own pace



Insider's tip:
The Caritas Souvenir Shop on Mühlenstraße 60 in Nordkirchen sells lovely home accessories and gifts, produced locally and in fair conditions by people with disabilities.

The centre for children with disabilities in Nordkirchen and the Caritas association for the Coesfeld district have developed an extensive strategy of inclusion that is implemented in a familial atmosphere. Both institutions continuously develop flagship projects across the region North Rhine-Westphalia.

The municipality of Nordkirchen welcomes guests, families and companies alike. Modern child care and educational institutions (up to the Abitur high school diploma) safeguard your family's future. Various clubs, the youth centre, culture house and the various calendar events ensure our sense of community and an active social life. The elderly receive imaginative day care at the Caritas association. Nordkirchen, Südkirchen and Capelle are developing constantly. Its attractive town centre offers a diverse range of public spaces, including the Ludwig-Becker Platz and the village parks in Capelle and Südkirchen.

Nordkirchen is a diverse business location. It boasts a considerable number of small and medium-sized enterprises, a wide variety of crafts businesses, plenty of retail outlets and many restaurants. Business development and close co-operation are the pillars of its success. These measures ensure that vital infrastructure, such as fibre-glass broadband are in place.

Finanzministerium
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



A GREAT EDUCATION
The North Rhine-Westphalia University of Applied Sciences for Finance is located inside Schloss Nordkirchen and some of its adjoining buildings. Every year, more than 1,000 students obtain qualifications for the higher civil service in the state financial administrations. The presence of the university also ensures that the palace is maintained in excellence condition.



CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
The centre for children with disabilities is an integral part of village life in Nordkirchen. It offers a wide range of services. All children and teenagers who are being treated here get to participate in the life of the community. Both residents and visitors enjoy the sensory park, petting zoo and playgrounds on the centre's premises.



CARITAS
The Caritas employs 250 people who have mental, physical or multiple disabilities. They contribute to industrial production, horticulture, landscaping and other sectors. Our Caritas is known beyond the borders of our region for its handmade embroidery, a rare craft.



Please scan this QR code for more information about Nordkirchen as a business location.

PACKAGE TOURS & MODULAR BOOKINGS

Have you always wanted to meet the Kiepenkerl sculpture? Or explore Münsterland in a covered wagon? Work at an arts court or enjoy a light meal on a farm? We offer a wide range of options for you so you can put together your own perfect holiday and enjoy the very best of Nordkirchen.

The adventure modules can be booked exclusively for individuals and groups. You can combine them as you wish. We will be happy to offer you tailored packages. Of course, we will always take your individual wishes into account.



We continuously expand our offers for you. Please scan this QR code for an overview, our package tours and sample programmes.

TRIPS & SIGHTS IN THE REGION

Locals and guests agree: the palace municipality is an excellent base for excursions into our region. There are plenty of destinations to be explored. We have put together a small selection for you.



Visit the outdoor facilities of Schloss Westerwinkel



Watch an open-air performance in Werne



Have lunch at the palace gardens in Nordkirchen



Walk the Venne moor



Experience history at the Henrichenburg boat lift, part of the LWL Westphalian Industrial Museum



Go rafting in the Steveraeue Olfen nature reserve



Play in the Nordkirchen sensory garden



Climb in the Haltern am See climbing park

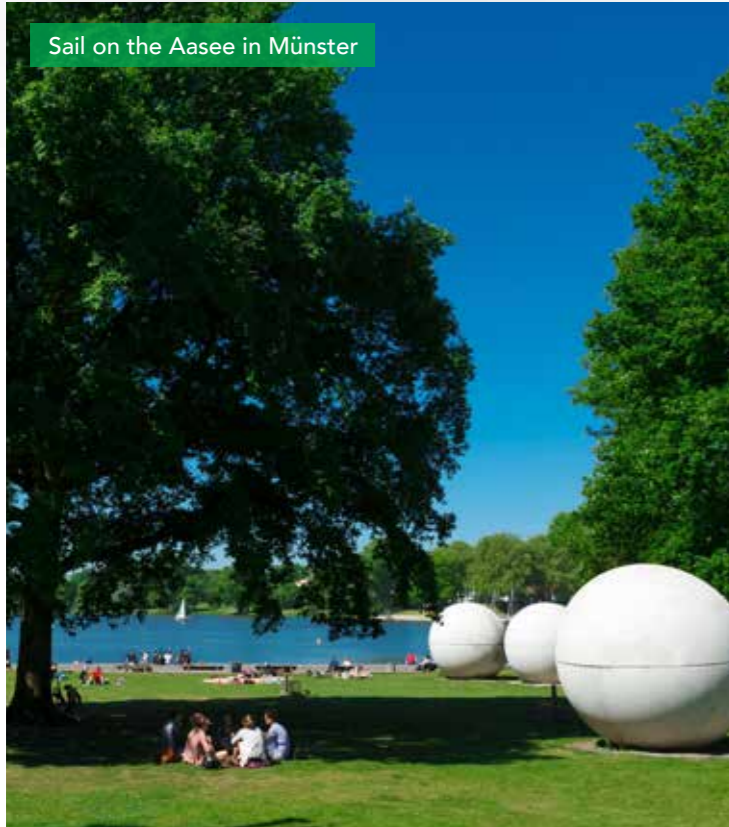


Visit the wild horses in Dülmen



Learn exciting and quirky facts about Vischering Castle

TRIPS & SIGHTS IN THE REGION



Sail on the Aasee in Münster



Wander around the historic
Prinzipalmarkt in Münster



Visit Maximilianpark in Hamm



Go water-skiing in Hamm



Learn about the history of mining
at Zeche Zollern in Dortmund



Walk across the Ruhr
metropolis Dortmund



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