



Day trips from York

UFHRD Conference 2026



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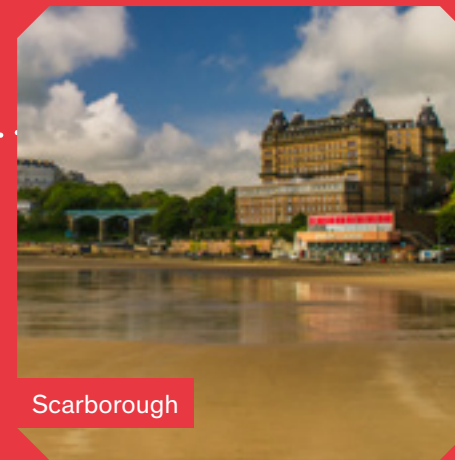
Brimham Rocks



Helmsley



The Hole of Horcum



Scarborough



Whitby



Ripon Cathedral



Ribblehead Viaduct

Transport

The city of York is easy to get around by foot, car and public transport.



Bus

There are many local buses available depending on the area you are travelling to. For information on specific routes, times and fares, see the North Yorkshire Council website:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/public-transport

One of the easiest ways to travel to various coastal towns across North Yorkshire is by taking one of Transdev's Coastliner buses.

www.transdevbus.co.uk/coastliner

Car

Driving yourself could be a great option to see places both in York and around Yorkshire as a whole. If you are looking for car hire within the city centre, you may consider Enterprise Rent-a-car, conveniently located near York train station.

enterprise.co.uk/en/car-hire-locations/uk/york.html

Taxi

There are many options for taxi companies across the county. Whilst we cannot list every catchment area, we hope you find the following links useful for planning your journeys by taxi:

Harrogate: **visitnorthyorkshire.com/index/taxis**

Whitby: **www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/access-for-all/accessible-transport**

York: **www.york.gov.uk/taxis-directories**

Train

York Railway Station is conveniently located in the city centre, and has direct trains to many towns and cities across North Yorkshire, including Leeds, Harrogate and Scarborough. For information on routes, times and fares, visit Trainline:

www.thetrainline.com

If you are looking for a historic or scenic way to see North Yorkshire by train, please see page 7 for more information on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway and their network of steam trains.



North York Moors

North York Moors National Park

There is incredible diversity in the North York Moors National Park, from dramatic coastlines to wooded dales, and the largest expanse of heather moorland in England. This is a great place to explore historic towns and villages, get in touch with nature, or visit our castles and ruins.

Attractions

Castle Howard

Between the North York Moors and the city of York lie the Howardian hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in its own right. This region, as the name might suggest, was once largely owned by the Howard family, whose historic home and grounds is open to visitors. The expansive grounds include walled gardens, lakes, woodland, temples and more. You can also head into the house for a tour to learn about the history of the Howardian Hills and the family that shaped them. You may also recognise some areas from Bridgerton, where the house was used as a filming location for Clyvedon Castle.

www.castlehoward.co.uk



For 20% off, please use the code 'UFHRD20' when booking a visit between the 14th-21st of June 2026.

National Centre for Birds of Prey

Yorkshire is home to many birds of prey, and you may see some in the wild as you explore. If you don't want to leave your encounters with these stunning creatures to chance, pay a visit to the National Centre for Birds of Prey. With up to three flying demonstrations a day, some of which are even indoors, you are guaranteed to see these majestic birds in action.

www.ncbp.co.uk

North York Moors Railway

One of the best and most stylish ways to access the moors is through the North York Moors Railway. This heritage railway supports a network of historic steam trains, tirelessly carrying visitors between historic towns and charming stations from the 1800s to today. If you're interested in taking part in living history, or seeing views inaccessible by other means of transport, book your tickets through their website.

www.nymr.co.uk

Nunnington Hall

Along the banks of the River Rye is the picturesque Nunnington Hall. This National Trust site has been restored and repurposed from its original use as a manor house, to a place for the public to enjoy, with tearooms, walled gardens and exhibition spaces that change throughout the year. If you're looking for a souvenir, they even have a second-hand bookshop.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/nunnington-hall



World of James Herriot

This specialty museum, housed in James Herriot's fully restored 1940s home, is focused on his life and work. The museum is in Thirsk, where the 2020 revival of the show All Creatures Great and Small and The Yorkshire Vet were filmed.

worldofjamesherriot.com

North York Moors

Nature



Dalby Forest

If you're looking for a more adventurous way to experience nature on your visit to Yorkshire, take a hike through Dalby Forest. Whilst there are many trails to explore on foot, this woodland is also a popular spot for mountain biking. Another way to get the adrenaline pumping here is Go Ape's treetop course. With ziplines, rope ladders, nets and swings 35 feet above the forest floor, you'll experience the woods from a whole new vantage point.

www.forestryengland.uk/dalby-forest

The Hole of Horcum

Legend has it the Hole of Horcum, or 'the devil's punchbowl' as it is known locally, was formed during a spat between two giants. In a fit of rage, Wade scooped out a fist of dirt to throw at his wife, Bell, leaving behind a hole in the earth over 400ft deep and three quarters of a mile wide. The scientific explanation is less exciting, with the enormous Amphitheater-like wonder being a product of spring-sapping, wherein water wells up from the hillside, eventually undermining the upper slopes to create a vast bowl. However it got here, walking the 5 miles around this phenomenon is an incredible yet accessible way to see some of the best the moors have to offer. Take in dramatic scenery, hills blanketed in heather, and even some highland cows.

www.yorkshire.com/walkshire/the-hole-of-horcum-circular

White Horse of Kilburn

This turf cut image of a horse was carved into the landscape in 1857 by a schoolmaster and his pupils. Still visible today, it stands as an iconic Yorkshire landmark, visible for miles around. Whilst it can be seen from certain vantage points while driving past, the best way to experience the White Horse is on either of the two well marked walks nearby. From there you'll see breathtaking panoramic views, including Hood Hill and Lake Gormire, or wander through the Kilburn woods with a view of the iconic horse from below.

www.forestryengland.uk/kilburn-woods

The Yorkshire Arboretum

This 120-acre green space is home to parkland, ponds, lakes, and over 7,000 trees from across the globe. Wander through hidden glades and meadows, learn more about the conservation efforts of the arboretum, or enjoy a home-cooked meal in the on-site café.

www.yorkshirearboretum.org



North York Moors

Towns and villages



Goathland

There are few places more picturesque than Goathland, with its sprawling moorland on all sides, stunning 70ft waterfall, and even sheep roaming freely and grazing on the village green. This village has played host to many a film crew over the years, from Harry Potter to Heartbeat. It's central location in the moors makes Goathland a great place to stop and rest when exploring, the North York Moors railway passing straight through on its way to the coast.

www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/places-to-go/goathland

Helmsley

The only market town within the national park, Helmsley is an interesting stop to add to your trip across the moors. Sandstone buildings line the central town square, with small streets jutting off in all directions, filled with quirky shops and welcoming cafes. The skyline of the town also features their own castle. It's stood for over 900 years, it has its own unique history to explore, having been a medieval fortress, a luxury Tudor manor, a civil war stronghold, and a romantic Victorian ruin. Today you can stroll the grounds and the castle, with audio guides available to enhance your experience.

www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/places-to-go/helmsley



Hutton le Hole

This peaceful little village is full of charm, and well worth a stop on your journey around the national park. Stop off at the Crown Pub for a pint, or have a stroll along the stream running through the village. The village is also home to the Ryedale Folk museum, which explores the lives of the people of the moors through recreations of their homes and places of business, with an Edwardian photography studio, 1950s chemist and village store, a medieval crofters cottage, and even an iron age roundhouse.

www.ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk

Robin Hood's Bay

This is the perfect place to explore Yorkshire's stunning heritage coastline. This lively village is full of charm with winding streets that lead you straight down to the shore. Whether you're after a place to rest and recuperate after a walk along the cliffs, some retail therapy in boutique shops, or to go explore the not-so-deep in their rockpools, it's easy to spend a day (or more) here.

www.robin-hoods-bay.co.uk

Rosedale

when visiting the quiet village of Rosedale, it's hard to believe it was once a noisy hub of industry housing over 5,000 miners. Ironstone was mined all across the moors, feeding the industrial revolution. Today, the village is a bit less sooty, and a lot more peaceful, but if you look around you will still see the lasting impact these mines left on the landscape and local way of life. Walk amongst the relics of the industrial age, or try to spot all of the iconic moorland crosses as you amble along the endless trails from the village. There are many circular walks starting and ending in Rosedale for a variety of different ability levels.

www.rosedaleabbey.com



Whitby

Attractions

199 Steps

This famous stairway was first recorded in the 1370s, making them over 650 years old. The original wooden steps have since been replaced with stone, but the ascent remains the same as it ever did. Starting from the old town, the stairs were an opportunity to Christians to demonstrate their determination and commitment on their pilgrimage to Whitby Abbey atop the cliff, but in modernity are more frequently used by tourists looking for great views, to explore the abbey or St Mary's Church, or to evoke the scenes that take place here in Bram Stoker's Dracula.

www.visitwhitby.com/blog/199-whitby-abbey-steps

Whitby Abbey

Once one of the most important religious sites of the Anglo-Saxon world, Whitby has been home to religious buildings from 657 AD. The abbey has seen many important historic events, including the synod that decided the date on which Easter would be celebrated by the Christian faith, and Danish raids during the 9th century. It has even served as great inspiration for artists across the ages, including Cædmon (the first named poet in the English language), and Bram Stoker, who set some of Dracula here.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/whitby-abbey



Whitby Distillery

Whitby Distillery has been on a mission from 2018 to produce local gin, celebrating the flavours of the North Yorkshire coastline with locally foraged and sourced ingredients like honey, sugar kelp, and of course, heather. They have grown a lot in recent years, so if you'd like to sample a few flavours, learn more about their story, or see how gin is produced, stop by for a tour from Thursday to Sunday, or pop into their shop, Botany Way.

For 10% off a tour, please use the code 'UFHRD2026' at checkout online.

www.whitbydistillery.com

Whitby Lobster Hatchery

This unusual aquarium is on a conservation mission to restore and protect Whitby's rich heritage and fishing industry. The Lobster Hatchery is committed to the preservation to the abundance and diversity of lobster. With Whitby potting boats catching around 100,000 lobsters per year, their mission is essential to maintain balance. Pay them a visit and learn more about the marine life of the North Yorkshire coast.

whitbylobsterhatchery.co.uk

Whitby Museum

Explore the local history of Whitby, including the area's natural history, maritime heritage and social history, telling the stories of the people who have called this coastline home. Their collection includes everything from costume and textiles to Whitby jet and an impressive collection of over 17,000 glass-plate and film negatives.

whitbymuseum.org.uk

Whitby

Tours and tips

Fishing trips

Once a centre of the fishing industry, Whitby is still a popular location for those who fish for sport. For a fishing trip you'll never forget, join Skipper Gordon for a 3 hour excursion (all fishing gear included) exploring the coastline and catching your dinner as you do. If Poseidon is not on your side, you can always commiserate over some fish and chips harbourside once you get back to dry land.

www.whitbycoastalfishing.co.uk

Open Top Bus Tour

if you want to see all that Whitby has to offer (but perhaps don't fancy ascending the 199 steps), then the hop-on hop-off style bus tour might be for you. Your ticket will last all day, for however many stops you want to make, with busses running every 30 minutes. From Whitby Abbey, to North Terrace, this is the easiest way to get all around town.

www.coastalandcountry.co.uk/open-top-bus



Whitby Walks

If you're looking to hear more about the folklore surrounding this historic town, you can take a guided tour with Whitby Walks. With 3 walks to choose from, the Ghost Walk, In Search of Dracula, or Heritage and History, you'll soon be immersed in the haunted and supernatural history of Whitby.

www.whitbywalks.com



Yorkshire Dales



Harrogate

Attractions

Crimple Valley Viaduct

This grade II listed feat of engineering built in 1848 carries trains from Harrogate to Leeds to this day. Over 30 meters tall and spanning over half a kilometre, its stunning 31 arches are a sight to behold. The valley and woodland that surround it are full of footpaths and bridal ways, meaning there are many ways to access the site from below. One of the best ways to see not just the viaduct but other beautiful landmarks throughout the area surrounding Harrogate is the 7 mile circular walk starting at Fulwith Mill Lane. You'll cross becks, disused railway lines, fields of wheat and possibly the occasional cow, all while taking in the green space surrounding Harrogate, and of course, dramatic views of the viaduct.

[visitnorthyorkshire.com/index/crimple-valley-viaduct](https://www.visitnorthyorkshire.com/index/crimple-valley-viaduct)

The Harrogate Story

This is a collection of displays curated by a group of volunteers, telling the story of how this charming town came to life and grew into its identity as a spa town. From the volcanic activity that formed the landscape, to the booming health resort Harrogate became, this comprehensive guide will help you understand the cultural identity of this unique town.

[visitnorthyorkshire.com/index/the-harrogate-story](https://www.visitnorthyorkshire.com/index/the-harrogate-story)



Harrogate Turkish Baths

Harrogate was formed because of the discovery of its natural mineral springs, leading to the eruption of spas and health tourism throughout the 1600s and 1700s. The town still has many spas in operation today, but the longest standing and the most striking is the Turkish Baths. With over 125 years of experience, there is no better place to be guided through the meditative journey of a true spa experience.

www.turkishbathsharrogate.co.uk

Mother Shipton's Cave

In a small cave along the river Nidd, Yorkshire's most famous prophetess and soothsayer was born. The claim that placing objects into the water here will turn them to stone, just as Mother Shipton did to the king and his men, has drawn millions of visitors to this unique site over the centuries. Today, the cave is open for visitors to learn more about her life, and is a charming stroll through some of England's oldest and tallest beech trees.

www.mothershipton.co.uk

The Royal Pump Room Museum

Housed in an ornate octagonal building, erected in 1842, stands the Royal Pump Room Museum. In its prime, this pump room saw 15,000 visitors a year, coming from far and wide to take the water from the strongest sulphur wells of Europe. After a restoration project in 2024 revitalised the building to its former Georgian glory, the pump room was reopened as a museum with temporary and permanent exhibits celebrating the heritage of the spa town of Harrogate.

[visitnorthyorkshire.com/index/royal-pump-room-museum](https://www.visitnorthyorkshire.com/index/royal-pump-room-museum)



Harrogate

Nature

RHS Harlow Carr

If you are looking for tranquillity, there are few places better to find it than at RHS Harlow Carr. The garden of over 58 acres contains a variety of diverse landscapes and ecosystems, with woodland, wildflower meadows, and streamside gardens. With an emphasis on the curation and conservation of rare fauna, there's always something beautiful in bloom.

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/harlow-carr

Valley Gardens

These gardens are the site of 36 of the 88 unique mineral springs in the area, and the location of the Old Magnolia Well Pump Room. During the peak of the tourism boom for Harrogate's spas, visitors would frequently walk these grounds as they took in the healing minerals of the springs. Today, it's not recommended that the spring water be drunk, but Valley Gardens remains a popular place to relax and unwind, with a games pavilion, boating pool, and even bands and choirs playing every Sunday afternoon.

www.friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk

Tours and trips

Free Walking Tour

If you're looking to learn more about Harrogate, from its origin as a spa town to the vital role it played during the second world war, you can join Harry, an expert guide, on a gentle stroll through the town's streets. For larger groups it's worth booking ahead, but for smaller groups or individuals, meet him outside the war memorial (opposite the famous Betty's Tea Rooms) for insights on Harrogate only a local could have.

www.harrydoeshistory.com/special-events

Harrogate Bike Tours

If walking tours aren't your speed, bike tours are also available. You'll be guided through the town on a 6-mile journey (bikes and helmets provided) at a gentle pace with plenty of stops, while being entertained with stories about the history, architecture and culture of Harrogate. The route is carefully planned, making it accessible even to those who aren't avid cyclists.

visitnorthyorkshire.com/index/harrogate-bike-tours

The Heritage Plaques of Harrogate

If you're looking for a way to tour the town without a personal guide, trying to uncover the Heritage Plaques of Harrogate might be the right choice for you. There are a total of 96 plaques around Harrogate, 55 of which are in the town centre, each intended to give you an insight into the civic history all around you. To explore at your own pace, visit their website for more information on the location of each plaque.

www.harrogateplaques.org

Vintage Trails and Antique Adventures

This unique tour will take you through hidden vintage and antique hotspots around the town, with a variety of tasty treats along the way.

www.yorkshireappetite.com

Yorkshire Appetite Food Tours

One of the best ways to immerse yourself in a place is to embrace the local cuisine. Yorkshire Appetite Food Tours will help you do just that, with the Harrogate Food Tour, or the Afternoon Tea with a Little Extra Harrogate Style. They also provide tours in York and Ripon, as well as a speciality Indian food tour in Leeds.

www.yorkshireappetite.com

Nidderdale

Attractions and activities

Coldstones Cut

Integrated into one of the UK's deepest quarries is Coldstones Cut, a public and interactive sculpted piece of art on a monumental scale. As you explore its winding pathways and enclosed terraces, you are invited to become introspective about where we are and what we do to impact the landscape around us. The sculpture gives way to breathtaking views of Nidderdale's National Landscape, in contrast to the views you get of the active quarry below, with 60 tonne trucks hauling limestone.

www.thecoldstonescut.org

The Himalayan Garden and Sculpture Park

Art and nature combine across 45 acres of planted gardens and woodland. Explore the arboretum and its 300 different varieties of trees, or take in the peaceful serenity of the oriental pagoda, overlooking the floating Magnolia sculpture.

www.himalayangarden.com



Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden

Two points in history meet in a truly unique way at this UNESCO World Heritage site. Fountains Abbey is one of the largest and best-preserved ruins of a Cistercian monastery in England, with its imposing tower and vaulted ceilings still intact. Surrounding it are the Georgian water gardens, featuring elegant lakes, cascades and canals. There is also a deer park, with over 300 does and bucks calling this park their home, as well as St Mary's church, a wonderful example of Victorian gothic revival architecture.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/fountains-abbey-and-studley-royal-water-garden



Lime Tree Observatory and Planetarium

The Yorkshire Dales have been awarded an international dark skies status, meaning the lack of light pollution allows for access to the stars to be abundant. Lime Tree Farm's Observatory and Planetarium is run by a small group of volunteers, helping to keep access to this space available even when the clouds or the sun are working against us. Visit for a trip around the universe, or to learn more about the Dark Skies conservation efforts on behalf of our wildlife, our storytelling and culture.

www.limetreeobservatory.com

Nidderdale

Nature

Brimham Rocks

These giant rock formations started their creation process 320 million years ago as tectonic plates collided into one another, leaving an expansive mountain range to the north of what is now Nidderdale. You can see it all up close and personal when visiting, including climbing up many of the formations (please pay careful attention to signage as some structures are unstable). If you don't fancy scaling them, the rocks still serve as a beautiful vantage point for viewing stunning farmland and heather moorland, a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its globally significant plant life.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/brimham-rocks



Dark Skies

There are 4 official Dark Skies Sites across Nidderdale, preserving some of the most star-studded skies in the country. While June is slightly out of season for the best time to see the sky in all its glory, if the clouds cooperate, it may be worth the late night for you to go and see them. You can go star gazing at Fewston Reservoir, Scar House Reservoir, Toft Gate Lime Kiln and Thrushcross Reservoir – bring a blanket, some snacks, and some company for what is sure to be a magical evening. If you would rather explore the skies in comfort, pay a visit to the Lime Tree Observatory and Planetarium listed above.

nidderdale-nl.org.uk/our-work/dark-skies

Lost Earth Adventures

Get up close and personal with the natural beauty of Yorkshire by going gorge walking with Lost Earth Adventures. Or go to places you never thought you could by caving with their experienced guides. Whatever you decide, it's sure to be an adrenalin fuelled adventure.

www.lostearthadventures.co.uk/activities-in-yorkshire



Yorkshire Dales Towns and villages

Ripon

Ripon is a city with an impressive 7th century cathedral, lots of independent shops, cafés, restaurants and bars, and interesting museums. Despite its city status, this place often feels more like a town trapped in time, with echoes of the past all around you, such as the nightly Hornblower, performing their ceremony for "setting the watch" in the town square to this day. You can take a scenic cruise on a river boat, enjoy a stroll around the walled gardens, or learn more about the darker side of the city's history at the Workhouse Museum.

visitripon.co.uk

Pateley Bridge

Nestled in the heart of Nidderdale is Pateley Bridge, a market town with a thriving high street of independent shops, including the oldest sweet shop in England. Pateley Bridge is a great place to stop off on your exploration of Nidderdale, or to relax in as a base for exploring nature. It's also home to the wonderful Cocoa Joe's, a speciality chocolate shop, who until recently had a sister location in York. Pop in for a drink made with any kind of chocolate you could imagine – the ruby chocolate with its delicate fruity flavour profile is not to be missed.

visitnorthyorkshire.com/places/pateley-bridge-nidderdale

Wensleydale

Attractions and activities



Black Sheep Brewery

This brewery was established in difficult times for the industry. With the sale of his family's brewers to a national brewer in the 1980s, Paul Theakston was faced with the realisation that 5 generations of brewing could end with him, and founded Black Sheep Brewery. The brewhouse is still in operation today, producing craft beers. Learn more about the origins of this brewery and see how they make their signature brews by taking a tour of the distillery on your visit.

www.blacksheepbrewery.com

Bolton Castle

Bolton Castle host falconry display in the gardens, where the birds of prey glide and swoop against the spectacular backdrop of the castle. They also provide guided tours, with the choice between authentically dressed medieval, Tudor and civil war guides. From archery demonstrations, afternoon tea, bee keeping and even wild boars, Bolton Castle is a great day out.

Show this guide when purchasing for £14 admission to the castle, gardens and grounds

boltoncastle.co.uk

Middleham Castle

Once the childhood home of Richard III, the castle has been described as the Windsor of the North. While Middleham Castle is a ruin, it is very well preserved, allowing you roam the grounds and explore inside its towers for outstanding views of the Yorkshire Dales.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/middleham-castle



Theakstons Brewery

In operation since 1827, Theakston's is a family run brewery that has been passed down over 6 generations. Take a trip to their visitor's centre, The Black Bull in Paradise, to taste test their selection. You can also take a tour of their brewery, with expert guides to inform you on their brewing process and history.

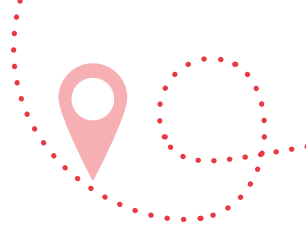
www.theakstons.co.uk

Wensleydale Creamery

As custodians of a 1000 year heritage, Wensleydale Creamery take the art of cheesemaking very seriously. Stop by for their famous cheesy afternoon tea, or to take part in their Wensleydale cheese experience, where you'll see demonstrations of how this iconic Yorkshire cheese is crafted by hand.

www.wensleydale.co.uk

Wensleydale



Nature

Aysgarth Falls

these beautiful and impressive three stepped waterfalls are a great place to start if you are wanting to explore nature in the area. The nearby visitor centre has welcoming and knowledgeable staff on hand to tell you more about the stunning and accessible walks in the area, and the café is a great place to refuel before or after your journey. If you are lucky, you may even see a roe deer darting off into the shadow of the woodland that surrounds the falls.

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/places/aysgarth_falls_national_park_centre

Hadraw Force

The tallest single drop waterfall in England, with a reputed 100 foot cascade, is located within the grounds of the Green Dragon Inn. Access to the falls is not public, but is well worth the price of entry to see, and you'll also be able to explore the fall's heritage centre included in your ticket, with exhibitions and images of the falls story throughout the decades, as well as having a lovely tea rooms to stop and relax in.

www.hardrawforce.com

Towns and villages

Masham

This charming town with a Georgian market square is home to not just one but two iconic Yorkshire breweries: Theakston's and the Black Sheep Brewery. While this is a must-see destination for beer lovers, it also has a lot to offer outside of its brewing heritage. Visit Swinton Estate to explore their parkland and gardens, enjoy some natural swimming in their lake, or spend a day at their cookery school.

visitmasham.com



Please note that this guide is provided for convenience only, and does not constitute official recommendations or endorsements.



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