



Vermont Cycling 2027 - The Full Vermont 5-night Tour

26th December 2027 to 31st December 2027



[View this itinerary online with interactive maps and weather](#)



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Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont!

Sun, 26th December 2027

This is a preview for marketing the tour. The Vamoos you get from us ahead of your trip will have information specific to your tour, including PDF cue sheets and link to all the RideWithGPS routing for your door to door directions (these include distances, elevations, grade %, and so forth).

Welcome to Vermont!

First order of business: Let's get you adjusted to our version of GMT: "Green Mountain Time." Enjoy the relaxed pace of life here in Vermont. You have the luxury of time on this trip. Do try a maple "creemee" somewhere along the way this week, tasty no matter the weather.

We also have to relate to you an old Vermonter adage about our hilly topography: "if you ironed out Vermont, it'd be bigger than Texas!" ;)

On your Vermont tour, you will meet interesting -- quirky, even! -- Vermonters as well as travelers from all over the world who have come to enjoy this little corner of New England. Many, many of our guests have written us post-tour and talked about Vermont as "the Ireland of America" in terms of its forty shades of green, slow pace of life, very small scale (hamlets we call towns, hills we call mountains, ponds we call lakes), and authentic people who are delighted to welcome you to the place they live, and perhaps the place their family has lived for five or six or more generations. Others have caught the spirit of Vermont when they have remarked that it is not so much like going to a different place, it is like visiting a different time somehow exempt from the hustle of 21st-century America.

 The Lilac Inn





Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

Sun, 26th December 2027

Special note for 2027: The post-pandemic tourism/hospitality economy has recovered in a different form from the tumult of the pandemic than it went into it. Inns, restaurants, historic sites, museums, the ferry to and from Fort Ticonderoga, small shops . . . all continue to experience extraordinary challenges in "staffing up". You can expect limited hours, limited days of the week, and some complete closures this season. We will all need to be flexible and understanding when these arise, sometimes with no notice, and gracious when dealing with the staff who are working extra hard to keep amenities and services on offer at all. When dinner is not included in the package at an inn, advance (day-of is fine) reservations are a must this season if you're looking for table service. Take-out may be a little more at whim. Being kind with one another will be helpful to all.

Your tour starts and ends at Lilac Inn, 53 Park Street, Brandon, Vermont 05733.

Brandon is the Art & Soul village of Vermont, with a number of artists' galleries and studios to visit -- the juried but eclectic Brandon Artists Guild around the corner on Center Street is a good starting point and can help you find more of the kind of art you like best. A handful of independent shops and a pair of craft breweries are in and around the village. Award-winning Red Clover Ale and Foley Brothers Brewing are at the top of their field. Immerse yourself in the architectural sampler presented by 250 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places in this village, and do check out the waterfall(s) in the center.

 The Lilac Inn





Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

Sun, 26th December 2027

Tonight's dinner and overnight are at the 1909 Newport-style Lilac Inn, the youngest house of the gracious homes that led the New York Times to refer to Park Street as "the prettiest street in Vermont". The Lilac Inn was built as "The Arches" by a Brandon-born boy who went West, made his fortune, and summered in Brandon as he grew older. The recent addition of rain gardens / bioswales on this broad street (believed to have been the site of militia drilling during the Civil War) is part of an effort to prevent stormwater runoff from heading directly to the Neshobe River, which is a tributary of Otter Creek then flowing northward to Lake Champlain. Lake Champlain water quality is something all Vermonters care about and are making strides to improve.

Throughout your tour, refer to this Vamoos app for each day's at-a-glance biking cue sheets (attached as PDFs within the full version of the app) and other information you won't find anywhere else. Today's PDF is the program overview. A printed copy of the daily turn-by-turn directions and a large map will be awaiting your arrival at the inn. Use the at-a-glance of the day's options to inform your choice of distance, and then head on over to the RideWithGPS app, where each distance is its own straightforward turn-by-turn, door-to-door route which you can view as a cue sheet, a map, or a list, and which will provide you spoken-aloud cues while you bike between your breakfast inn and your dinner inn each day.

 The Lilac Inn





Day 1 - Welcome to Vermont! (Continued)

Sun, 26th December 2027

Unless we've arranged otherwise, Olia will meet you on the front porch of the inn at 8:15AM tomorrow (Monday) to say hello and do a quick orientation (please bring your map packet to this) before breakfast. Husband-and-wife Seth and Olia have been associated with these tours since 2005, designing and operating them exclusively since 2007, and 2027 marks their 22nd year in Vermont tourism. DooN from Green Mountain Bikes, even longer in tenure as the top bike shop in Vermont, will deliver and fine-fit your bikes for you about the same time.

You will be able to leave your car parked safely behind Lilac Inn.

Please park along the trees facing west (town) and leave keys with the innkeepers at the front desk in case of emergency. If you brought your own bikes, you may tuck them in the little shed at the rear corner of the parking lot. Please do not bring bikes into any of the inns; they all have safe covered bike storage for overnights that has well-served thousands of cyclists over dozens of years.

In the full version of this app, tailored to your tour, the RideWithGPS for your cycling tour this week is accessed from a link which will be provided to you here.

 The Lilac Inn





Day 2 - Apple Orchards and Dairy Farms, and the Largest Wetland in New England

Mon, 27th December 2027

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 01.

Use your at-a-glance cue sheet at breakfast to select the distance you want to cycle, then go over to the RideWithGPS app and choose the straightforward turn-by-turn route you chose. Cyclists will sometimes ask "What am I missing if I bike the 29 instead of the 33?" (or similar questions on later days). The answer is always the same: it's not anything different, it's just more or it's just less time actually pedaling. Bucolic bocage farmland of hayfields, corn fields, apple orchards, and dairy farms is the scenery almost everywhere (except the return to Brandon through the National Forest at tour's end). Our "best choice" recommendation for most pleasure cyclists would be the 29 mile version today. It's about 4 hours of cycling at a leisurely 8MPH and includes a lunch stop so you don't have to gather a picnic and ride with that in your bike trunk as you would on the 16 or 20 mile routes.

Door to door route possibilities today:

- *16 miles with 1016 feet gain
- *20 miles with 1114 feet gain
- *29 miles with 1561 feet gain
- *33 miles with 1878 feet gain

Extensions (from 29 or 33 mile routes):

- *3 miles around Fort Ticonderoga, 170 feet climb
- *4 mile spur (2 out, 2 back) to visit Ticonderoga village, 335 feet climb
- *10 mile spur (5 out, 5 back) to Mt Independence Historic Site, 534 feet climb

Luggage should be tagged as directed and left at the side porch, either inside or outside, for pickup by 10AM.

 The Shoreham Inn and Pub





Day 2 - Apple Orchards and Dairy Farms, and the Largest Wetland in New England (Continued)

Mon, 27th December 2027

A tasty breakfast in the inn's sunny glass-walled breakfast room to fortify you for your day. Lovely quiet riding west eases you into the Champlain Valley. A newly-relaunched old-time general store at the four corners at Whiting offers provisions for lunch. Options are a covered railroad bridge, a rare second chance lunch from the deli at OGNNG down the hill from Orwell village [return to Orwell common for picnic], maybe some carved art at Norton's Gallery, a 10-mile add-on spur (5 out, 5 back on a paved dead-end road) to Mount Independence Historic Site (\$8; open daily) or a \$5 ferry crossing of Lake Champlain to pedal around restored Fort Ticonderoga (was closed Mondays last year) and/or Ticonderoga village on the New York State side, before cycling up(hill) through the apple orchards and on to sleepy little Shoreham. (Do budget some stamina for that last five miles climbing up the terraces from the lakeshore.)

The 1759 ferry operation depends upon the water level in Lake Champlain; early season trips may find the ferry not running due to the Lake level being too high for the dock; late summer trips occasionally find interruptions in service if the water level drops too low.

Dinner, overnight, and breakfast at the inn, hosted by Kevin & Scott. While Brandon and Vergennes are mildly entertaining, and Wednesday in Middlebury promises relative excitement, Shoreham is at the other end of the spectrum, with "nothing whatever to do" as you enjoy a quiet respite from the 21st century. Bikes go in the shed at the rear of the inn -- use the driveway at the right side of the inn if looking at the inn with the street at your back.

 The Shoreham Inn and Pub





Day 2 - Apple Orchards and Dairy Farms, and the Largest Wetland in New England (Continued)

Mon, 27th December 2027

In the full version of the app, the PDF of the Brandon to Shoreham cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 The Shoreham Inn and Pub





Day 3 - The West Coast of New England

Tue, 28th December 2027

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 02.

Again, use the at-a-glance cue sheet at breakfast to choose your adventure, then the specific turn-by-turn route in RideWithGPS to actually guide you.

Door to door route possibilities today:

- *30 miles with 1406 feet elevation gain

- *35 miles with 1587 feet elevation gain

- *43 miles with 2529 feet elevation gain (this is ***not*** the best route unless you really, really need to avoid the short unpaved section mentioned below; the 43 route is a lot hillier and carries a lot more vehicular traffic to avoid that stretch)

Extensions (from any route):

- *pop over the Crown Point Bridge to the historic sites (bike lane on bridge, about 1 mile round trip)

- *12 mile spur (6 down, 6 back) with 578 feet of gain to Crown Point village (not particularly much by way of shopping or dining here now, though)

Luggage today should be left in the front lobby / main sitting room of the inn for pickup by 10AM.

Wend your way up Lake Street today, hugging the shore of Lake Champlain at times. This route has a number of promising side excursions: in order, they are the Chimney Point Historic Site; crossing the Champlain Bridge by bike to the Crown Point Historic Site in New York, perhaps climbing the Champlain Lighthouse for a view and clambering over the ruins of Fort St Frederic and imagining yourself a soldier at the barracks of Fort Crown Point; the DAR State Park and Button Bay State Park, and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum back in Vermont. Lots of fun by the water on this ride.

 Strong House Inn





Day 3 - The West Coast of New England (Continued)

Tue, 28th December 2027

****Note:** If you are here before Memorial Day in May or after Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day in October, you may well find that the state parks (etc) may be closed for the season; you can use them as Vermonters do year-round, which is simply to enjoy them without benefit of staff/lifeguards/interpreters/restrooms and without needing to buy admission tickets. (Swimming not prudent; enjoy parks for picnics, etc., at your own risk.)

There is an unpaved stretch of 3 miles on Watch Point Road / Lake Street starting a bit after Smith Street and ending at Torrey Lane (town line). We do recommend this route (quiet and pretty) versus the all-paved alternate which swings in easterly and entails some climbing and more car traffic. Non-electric hybrids and electric-assist eBikes will be fine; if you're bringing thin-tire road bikes, they need to have tires that are not finicky. Rental thin-tire road bikes will be set up by the shop with suitable tires.

Lunch options include West Addison General Store on the Vermont side shortly after the bridge (suitable for gathering a picnic and biking the 30 mile route; perhaps enjoy at DAR State Park further along), and the Red Mill Restaurant at Basin Harbor Club later in the day (table service; large windows overlook the grass landing strip of the private airport used by Basin Harbor Club guests. Highly recommended if taking the 35 mile route, but double-check opening hours [best current info is 11:30 - 3PM]).

At day's end, innkeepers Amy and DJ welcome you to Vermont's Little City. Dinner, overnight, and breakfast at the inn. Bikes go in one of a couple of outbuilding "bicycle cottages" depending on how many bikes need to sleep over.

 Strong House Inn





Day 3 - The West Coast of New England (Continued)

Tue, 28th December 2027

In the full version of the app, the PDF of the Shoreham to Vergennes cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 Strong House Inn



Day 4 - Limitless Possibilities

Wed, 29th December 2027

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 03.

Pre-departure extensions available:

*13 mile loop, 598 feet climb [Kingsland Bay State Park on Lake Champlain]

*14 mile loop (repeats some of previous day), 561 feet climb [Button Bay State Park on Lake Champlain]

Door to door distance options:

*12 miles with 1071 feet gain

*16 miles with 1019 feet gain (this is preferable to the 12 mile version both for climb and for views)

*26 miles with 1947 feet gain

*43 miles with 2941 feet gain (shortcuts available)

The 43 mile route has a fairly extended climb at the beginning and uses a more car-traveled road than our other routes; we suggest **if 40 is your target you instead take the 13 mile pre-departure loop and add to it the 26 mile connection for a 39 mile day.**

Luggage today should be left by the kitchen; Amy & DJ will guide you. Plan for pickup of luggage about 10AM daily.

Lots of options for distance today -- Visit the tiny boutique "city" of Vergennes and the UVM Morgan Horse Farm as you zigzag around prime agricultural land along the way. Arrive in Middlebury through the only two-lane covered bridge in Vermont. An optional route to Kingsland Bay state park can precede the door to door routes today.

 Swift House Inn





Day 4 - Limitless Possibilities (Continued)

Wed, 29th December 2027

There is world-class chocolate milk at Monument Farms Dairy (current hours are 1-5 weekdays) in "Weybridge Hill". Around the corner in the little greensward fronting the brick Congregational Church is an amazingly rare relic for your amusement -- a working outdoor pay phone! Call your friends! It's almost as convenient as having a phone in your pocket. :)

Middlebury is a delightful town to wander around by foot or bike, with all the commerce and culture that a top-tier liberal arts college brings. Perhaps the Midd Tasting Trail (<https://www.middtastingtrail.com>) this afternoon? The town is eminently walkable -- ask the innkeeper for the "cartoon map" (resort map) of the downtown, and that will help guide you to interesting shops, museums, etc., as will the Points of Interest feature in this Vamoos app. The spectacular Middlebury College campus is within easy reach on foot. When Seth was a Midd student in the mid 1990s, a few afternoons a week he walked down to his work-study job at the public library in the village, and back up the hill in the evenings. Then as now, the library had a clawfoot bathtub in the children's room -- local youngsters used to race to claim it as their special reading spot after school.

Bikes go in the bike barn at the gate house of the Swift House (down near the corner of Pleasant Street / US Route 7). Registration is also in that building. Most guestrooms and all dining are in the main house up the hill.

 Swift House Inn





Day 4 - Limitless Possibilities (Continued)

Wed, 29th December 2027

Dinner tonight is at the area's top-rated fine dining, Jessica's at the Swift House. Swift House is the namesake of Jessica Stewart Swift, who grew up in this house and attained the distinction of being the longest-lived person ever born in Vermont, 110 years of age when she was noted by Guinness --- for flying in a plane! She was present on the Middlebury Village Green at the Centennial celebration of the United States in 1876 as a toddler, and again at the Bicentennial celebration in 1976 as doyenne of the shire. Overnight accommodations and breakfast are at the Swift House, a former Vermont governor's restored family estate a couple blocks off the village green. Swift House is always a hit with our guests.

In the full version of the app, the PDF of the Vergennes to Middlebury cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 Swift House Inn





Day 5 - The Green Mountain National Forest

Thu, 30th December 2027

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 04.

Door to door distance options:

*25 miles with 1282 feet gain

*29 miles with 1397 feet gain

*39 miles with 1946 feet gain

Luggage today generally is picked up from the bar at the main house since most of the guestrooms are in that building. Again, 10AM is your goal.

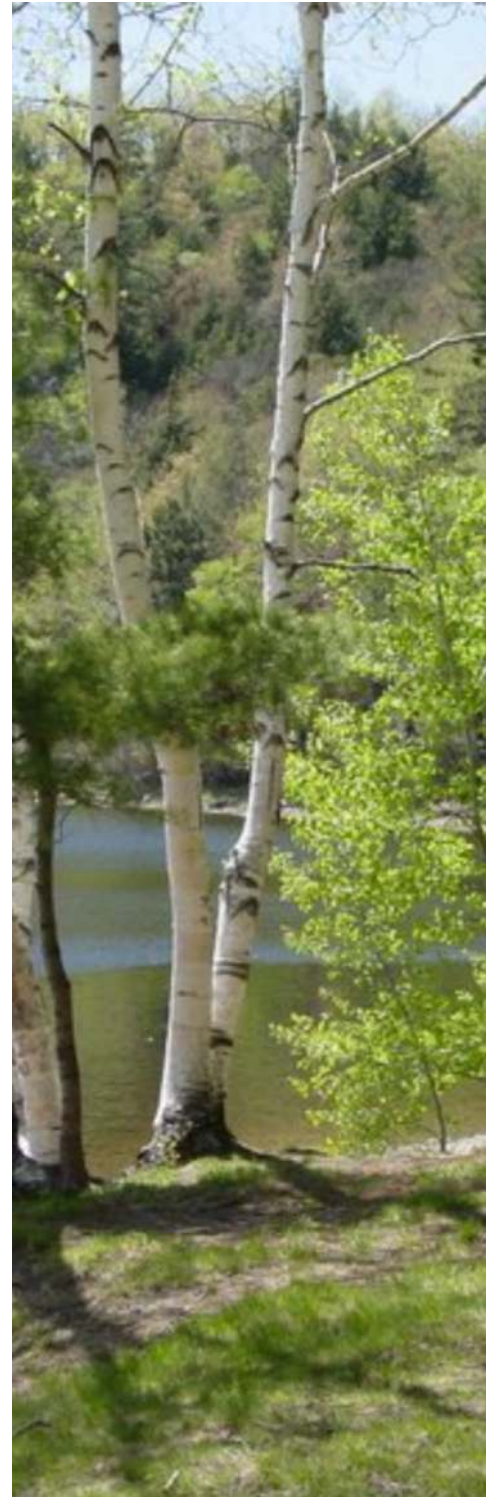
Start off in working agricultural land similar to previous days, but then leave that behind for a very different experience as you circle thousand-acre Lake Dunmore in the National Forest this afternoon, an excellent spot for a swim at Branbury State Park, or short hike to the Falls of Lana waterfall in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area.

Complete your large circle and top off your tour with dinner, overnight, and breakfast at your home base, Lilac Inn.

If you rented an electric-assist bike and are not cycling tomorrow, please be sure to put your bike charger back in the trunk on the rear of your eBike for retrieval by DooN at the bike shop. In other words, if you've kept the charger in your luggage to plug in each night, be sure not to take the charger home in your luggage with you tomorrow morning.

In the full version of the app, the PDF of the Middlebury to Brandon cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 The Lilac Inn





Day 6 - Three Covered Bridges of the Marble Valley

Fri, 31st December 2027

Today's RWGPS routes/cues start with 05.

Cycling today is OPTIONAL.

*27 miles with 1622 feet gain (bikes through three covered bridges)

*37 miles with 2124 feet gain (bikes through the same three covered bridges)

If your departure day schedule allows: You'll visit Vermont's only company town, Proctor, home to Vermont Marble, today. Vermont Marble furnished the dimensional stone for the US Supreme Court, the UN Headquarters in New York City, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington, among other high-profile buildings and monuments. Wend your way south on a lightly-traveled road that parallels US Route 7 (which carries all the car and truck traffic for you). Points of interest on the 27 or 37 mile loop include the New England Maple Museum. Kamuda's Store in Pittsford does sandwiches for lunch (picnic at the Village Farm across Elm St).

On your way back to Brandon you will ride through the Gorham covered bridge (built 1841), then the Cooley (1849) and the Depot (1840 or 1853, sources differ). Following the covered bridges, ride back into Brandon either on pavement (Union Street [recommended], the way you came down from Brandon this morning) or dirt (Syndicate Road, virtually untravelled by cars, but be aware the first mile is in much better shape than the following two miles [very rough dirt] after you cross the Otter Creek into Brandon again).

 The Lilac Inn





Day 6 - Three Covered Bridges of the Marble Valley (Continued)

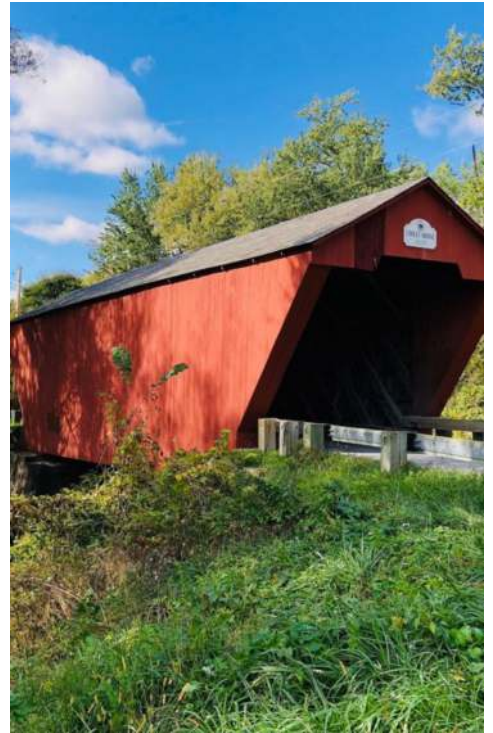
Fri, 31st December 2027

Return to Brandon. Today is departure day. As mentioned on the Thursday notes, please leave rental bikes in the little shed out back of the parking lot, and be sure to leave the charges for the eBikes with the eBikes and don't take the charger home by mistake.

Thank you for choosing us. We hope you are taking home with you only the most pleasant memories of your inn to inn cycling tour of Vermont's Land of Milk and Honey. Safe travels onward.

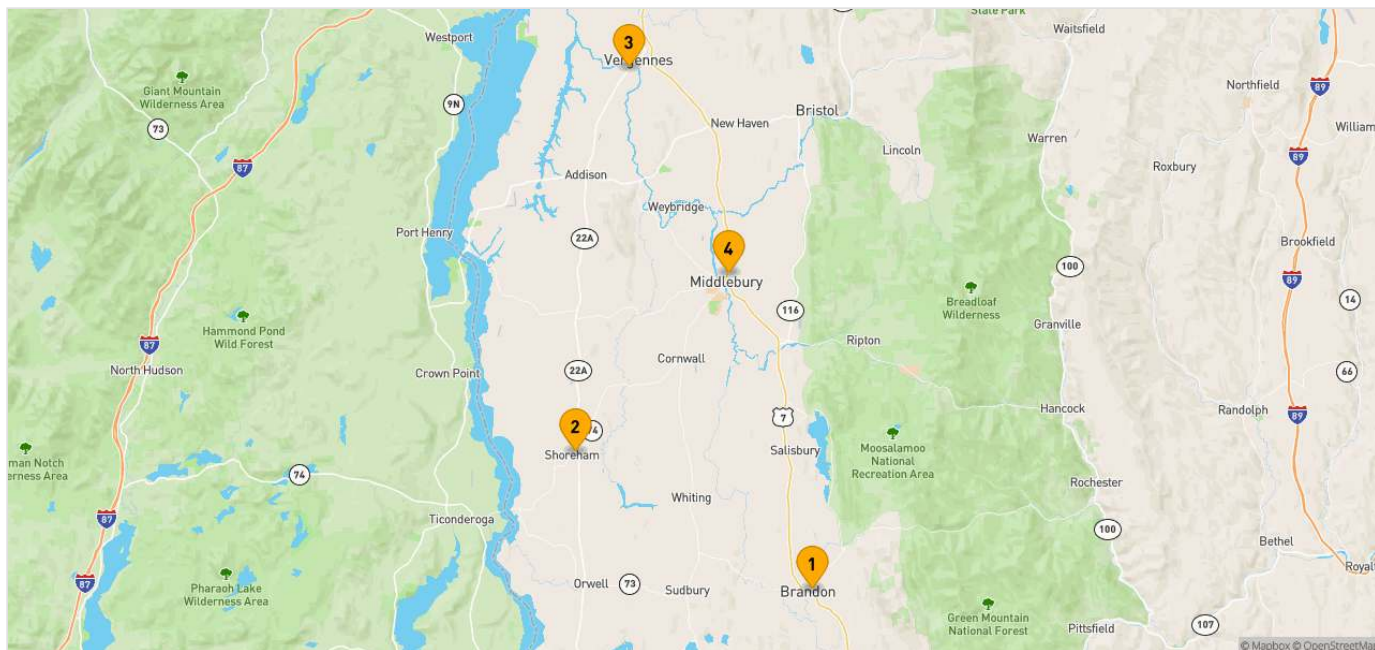
In the full version of the app, the PDF of the Covered Bridges Loop cue sheet is attached to this day's Vamoos.

 The Lilac Inn





Map



1 The Lilac Inn

4 Swift House Inn

2 The Shoreham Inn and Pub

3 Strong House Inn

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