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Importance of Tourist Spots in the Economy of the Philippines A research paper submit to Miss Eloisa Belmonte CAS Department World Citi Colleges In Partial Fulfillment of the Course Requirement In English 2 By: Frances Madelaine C. Ramos October 5, 2012 Chapter 1 Introduction How important is our tourist spots for our economy? Can you imagine a country without a tourist spots? Are you able to visit one country without any place to stay and to explore? These are some of many questions that our government and community wish to be answered in no time. Let’s define how our tourist spots affect our economy. Tourism is important to the world because of the amount of income it brings into countries and it promotes interconnectedness throughout the world.   It provides people visiting the country of their choice with the services while they are there in exchange for the visitors boosting the country's economy. It helps provide jobs to the residents of the country that are being visited not only in the tourism and service industry, but also in the manufacturing industry as many people leave their vacation destination with souvenirs in hand. Tourists tend to have disposable income that they spend in the country they are visiting. They also, on the whole, have more leisure time with which they use on numerous, shorter vacations throughout the year. Most tourists are well educated with sophisticated tastes which have resulted in the demand for better service and products. Philippines are one of the most enchanting tourist’s destinations in the world. This beautiful archipelago nation in Southeast Asia is dotted with famous for its tourist spots. Philippines popular destinations include beautiful islands, exotic beaches, amazing volcanoes, world-class diving spots and unique wildlife. The beautiful Philippines have hundreds of enchanting tourist destinations, making it a favorite destination for nature lovers, honeymooners and adventure seekers from all around the world. Apart from its exceptional scenic beauty, Philippines popular destinations also include unique cultural, historical and architectural heritages. The beautiful colonial structures of Vigan in Ilocos and World War II markers of Manila never fail to fascinate its visitors. You can plan your tour to visit the Philippines popular destinations that range from the famous historic centers of the state to the parks and gardens at Philippines. The Filipinos are vibrant and fun loving people and like to celebrate almost every occasion with great fanfare. The vibrant and colorful festivals are major tourist attractions in the Philippines. Tourism in the Philippines is a major economic contributor to the Philippine Economy. The Philippines is an archipelago country composing of more than 7, 107 islands, it offers a rich biodiversity with its tropical rainforests, mountains, beaches, coral reefs, islands, and coves, making it one of the most mega diverse countries in the world. It also offers a rich history and culture. There are diff. tourist spots in our country and in year 2011, the country attracted 3, 917, 454 visitors. Tourist spots are important to our economy. Why? Just imagine the numbers of tourist visit Philippines in a year every tourist will pay for their accommodations, transportation and other expenses needed while staying here. It will help our economy to gain more income to sustain our needs. By having many beautiful tourist spots it will encouraged more foreigners to visit our country and our tourist spots will be known in the whole world like our Underground River in Palawan who been choose to be part of the 7 wonders of the world. So that we need to maintain and take care of our tourist spots because it is not only for the progress of our country but ours too. Chapter 2 Body of the paper There are many types of tourist spots in the Philippines like beaches, volcano, mountain, river, caves, churches, and other historical place like museum. Beach - A beach is a landform along the shoreline of an ocean, sea, lake or river. It usually consists of loose particles which are often composed of rock, such as sand, gravel, shingle, pebbles or cobblestones. The particles comprising the beach are occasionally biological in origin, such as mollusk shells or coralline algae. Famous beach in the Philippines: Siargao Island - Siargao Island presents interesting contrasts; its huge and powerful waves, brought about by being near the Philippine Deep, are a surfer’s dream. If you visit the island you will no doubt see some of the world‘ s best surfers riding the breathtaking waves. Pagudpud Beach (Ilocos Norte) - Its crystal clear waters are comparable with those of the other shores in the country. It is also not lacking exotic marine life which underwater divers can marvel at. Add the smooth fine sands, and you have the complete ingredients for a perfect beach. Boracay White Beach (Boracay Island) - Measuring about 3 miles (about 5 km.) the beach is noted for the cool breeze emanating from the waters, and the soft clear blue skies. Because there are plenty of accommodations nearby, Boracay White Beach, especially in the summer, are filled with people, frolicking in the waters. Volcano - A volcano is an opening, or rupture, in a planet's surface or crust, which allows hot magma, volcanic ash and gases to escape from below the surface. Famous volcanoes in the Philippines: Mayon Volcano - This is the most picturesque of all the volcanoes in the Philippines - Mayon Volcano, an active stratovolcano in the province of Albay. Mayon is the most active volcano in the country, having erupted over 47 times in the past 400 years. The first recorded eruption was in 1616. Mayon Volcano is the main landmark of Albay, Philippines. This volcano is considered to be the world's most perfectly formed volcano for its symmetrical cone. Taal Volcano - The gateway for most visitors is through Tagaytay City, from the ridge where a panoramic view of Volcano Island can be seen. Taal volcano, a 406 meter-high crater, is the world's smallest active volcano. It is described as “ crater within an island within a lake" because it stands as an island at Taal Lake. There have been 33 recorded eruptions of Taal since 1572. What makes Taal Volcano more unique is the fact that the volcano itself has a lake of its own inside its crater which is called the “ Crater Lake. " Mount Pinatubo - A giant reawaken after more than 400 years of deep slumber. The volcano's eruption in June 1991 produced the second largest terrestrial eruption of the 20th century. With an elevation of 1, 745m this volcano is located in Zambales. Mt. Pinatubo is a popular tourist destination in Central Luzon. A 2-3 hour trek then commences on a trail that leads to its crater lake. Facilities include a view deck, cottages, and kayaks. Swimming in the lake is allowed although it is restricted to the proximal banks. Mount Banahaw - A dormant volcanic complex located on the boundary of Laguna and Quezon, Philippines. It is considered to be sacred by the local residents because of its “ holy water and or holy sites. It has a height of 2, 158 m, above sea level. Mt. Banahaw is a traditional pilgrimage site for locals, being considered a " holy mountain". It is also popular among mountain climbers being the closest > 2000-meter mountain to Manila. Hiking activity peaks during Holy Week of each year, with climbers numbering thousands. Points of interest include the Cave of God the Father and the spring at Brgy. Kinabuhayan, said to have curative powers. Mount Makiling - Mt. Makiling is located in the province of Laguna, Philippines. It is an inactive volcano, which rises to 1, 090 m above sea level. A campsite at the foot of Mount Makiling is being managed by the Boy Scout of the Philippines and was the site of the 10th World Scout Jamboree in 1959. Mt. Makiling is also a popular hiking destination. Mountain - A mountain is a large landform that stretches above the surrounding land in a limited area usually in the form of a peak. A mountain is generally steeper than a hill. Famous Mountain in the Philippines: Mt. Apo - Hailed as the highest mountain peak in entire beautiful archipelago of the Philippines, Mt. Apo is one of the most sought after and most climbed mountain in the country. The panoramic view and the stunning nature’s beauty which mountaineers can find at the peak is just one of a kind. This mountain is also considered as one of the many dormant volcanoes in the Philippines. River - A river is a natural watercourse,[1] usually freshwater, flowing towards an ocean, a lake, a sea, or another river. In a few cases, a river simply flows into the ground or dries up completely before reaching another body of water. Famous River in the Philippines: The Cagayan River - also known as the Rio Grande de Cagayan, is the longest and largest river in the Philippine Archipelago.[1] It is located in the Cagayan Valley region in northeastern part of Luzon island and traverses the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela and Cagayan. The Puerto Princesa Underground River is reputed to be the longest navigable underground river in the World. It is one of the few such rivers which the public can easily experience and appreciate. It is the official entry of the Philippines and is 1 of the 7 finalists to the Search for the New 7 Wonders of Nature. The watershed area of the river within the park is covered by primary forest which is home to many endemic species of animals and plants. It encompasses an unusual variety of ecosystems, making it high scientific and conservation interest. Cave - A cave or cavern is a natural underground space large enough for a human to enter. Caves form naturally by the weathering of rock and they often extend deep underground. The word " cave" can also refer to much smaller openings such as sea caves, rock shelters, and grottos. Famous Caves: Hoyop-Hoyopan Caves - In the local dialect hoyop-hoyopan means blow-blow. The name is descriptive to the sound of the wind whistling through the cave entrance. The Hoyop-Hoyopan cave is located 15 km from Legazpi, in the town of Camalig. Franciscan priests had excavated archeological artifacts dating from 50 BC from this cave. Some of the artifacts can be viewed at the nearby Camalig Church while some are located at the National Museum in Manila. Callao Caves in Cagayan - The seven-chambered Callao Caves boast of massive limestone and other rock formations, skylights, and a chapel. The conditions inside the cave cause stalactites and stalagmites, particularly in the deeper chambers. Every chamber has natural crevices, which let light get into the cave, serving as illumination for the otherwise dark areas of the place. Odloman Cave in Mabinay, Negros Oriental - this cave is 8. 9 km. long. Five entrances have been connected and the system comprises a mix of large and small galleries with some active streamway. This cave is the 6th deepest in the country. Palawan Underground River or St. Paul Subterranean River - This is the most famous cave in the Philippines. St. Paul Underground River in Palawan, Philippines may not be the longest underground river in the world anymore, but it is still the world’s longest navigable underground river. Church - The Baroque Churches of the Philippines is the official designation to a collection of four Spanish-era churches in the Philippines, upon its inscription to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2003. San Agustin Church is a Roman Catholic Church under the auspices of The Order of St. Augustine, located inside the historic walled city of Intramuros in Manila. In 1993, San Agustin Church was one of four Philippine churches constructed during the Spanish colonial period to be designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, under the collective title Baroque Churches of the Philippines. Paoay Church is the Roman Catholic parish church of the municipality of Paoay, Ilocos Norte in the Philippines. Completed in 1710, the church is famous for its distinct architecture highlighted by the enormous buttresses on the sides and back of the building. In 1993, the church was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as one best examples of the Baroque Churches of the Philippines. Paoay church is prime example of Earthquake Baroque architecture, which is the Philippine interpretation of the European Baroque adapted to the seismic condition of the country. Destructive earthquakes are common and have destroyed earlier churches all throughout the country. The Miag-ao Church was built in 1786 by Spanish Augustinian missionaries and was declared as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site " Baroque Churches of the Philippines" in 1993. On the front facade, which is flanked by two watchtower belfries, one can see the unique blending of Spanish and native influences. The central feature of the bas-relief facade is a large coconut tree which reaches almost to the apex. While an integral part of the Philippine landscape, the coconut tree is also the subject of lore. According to an old Philippine legend, the coconut tree was the only bequest from a loving mother to her two children, a tree which sustained them for life. On the church's facade the coconut tree appears as the " tree of life" to which St. Christopher carrying the Child Jesus on his shoulder is clinging to. Museum - A museum is an institution that cares for (conserves) a collection of artifacts and other objects of scientific, artistic, cultural, or historical importance and makes them available for public viewing through exhibits that may be permanent or temporary.[1] Most large museums are located in major cities throughout the world and more local ones exist in smaller cities, towns and even the countryside. Some Museums: National Museum of the Philippines - This cultural attraction dates back to 1901 when it was founded as the Insular Museum of Ethnology, Natural History and Commerce. The museum is home to an extensive collection of artefacts related to the history of the city of Manila and the Philippines as a whole. Highlights include the skull of 'Tabon Man' - the oldest skeletal human remains found anywhere in the archipelago Casa Manila Museum - Housed in a replica of a traditional 19th century city home, the Casa Manila Museum features a collection of displays and exhibits that illustrate how the city's affluent residents lived in its period under Spanish control. The house's interior has been recreated to look exactly as it might have in the colonial era. Other Tourist Spots: The Luneta Park - The Luneta Park, also known as the Rizal Park, is one of the country’s leading attractions, being its most famous park. Its former name is Bagumbayan (new town), wherein the Philippine’s national hero Jose Rizal was executed in 1896. Luneta is a place of full of history. It was here that the Gomburza execution of 1872 took place; here, too was where the official proclamation of the country being a fully independent republic in 1946 made. Corregidor in Bataan - Corregidor is a small rocky island in the Philippines, about 48 kilometers west of Manila, which is advantageously positioned at the entrance of Manila Bay. This island fortress stands as a monument to the courage, valor, and heroism of Filipino and American defenders who valiantly held their ground against the great number of invading Japanese forces during World War II. Also known as “ the Rock, " it was a key bastion of the Allies during the Second World War. The MalacaÃ±ang Palace - The MalacaÃ±ang Palace is the official residence of the President of the Republic of the Philippines. The palace is located along the north bank of the Pasig River in Manila. The official etymology from the 1930â€²s says that the name comes from a Tagalog phrase May lakan diyan, which means “ there is a rich man there". EDSA Shrine - The EDSA Shrine is located at the crossroads of Epifanio de los Santos (EDSA) Avenue and Ortigas Avenue in Quezon City. It is formally known as the Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (Our Lady of EDSA). It is dedicated to Our Lady who miraculously interceded to oust the Marcos dictatorship in a peaceful and bloodless uprising that is now world-renowned as the People Power Revolution of 1986. INTRAMUROS, the old capital of Manila, was built in 1571. It remains a monumental, if ruined, relic of the Spanish period in Philippine history. It is a city within a city, separated from the rest of Manila by its crumbling walls. This ancient capital had well-planned streets, plazas, the Governor’s Palace and churches. However, many buildings were reduced to shambles in World War II. Among the places to visit in Intramuros are the two churches — The Manila Cathedral and St. Augustine Church – and Fort Santiago. Banaue Rice Terraces - With tall rice terraces at the backdrop and cool breeze shuttling between mountain peaks, a journey across the Cordillera mountain ranges exposes one to an atmosphere strangely different from the daily offering of Manila and its suburbs. More importantly, it provides a peek into the ancient Philippine civilization before the foreigners came. Cagsawa Ruins - A lone church bell tower rises in the landscape with Mt. Mayon dominating the horizon behind it. This scene is famously depicted in many postcards throughout the Philippines. The bell tower is what remains of the Cagsawa town, about a few minutes ride from Legazpi City. When Mt. Mayon erupted in 1814 it engulfed the whole town in fiery lava. The people fled to the church but were unable to escape the lava flows. Only the church tower remains from this 19th century town to serve as a memorial for a tragic past. Tiwi Hot Springs National Park - Tiwi is a highly active thermal zone, with Tiwi Hot Springs in the Top 5 Tourist Spots in Bicol-Philippines. Its hot waters are believed to have medicinal properties. Naglagbong Lake offers the hottest waters. The Geothermal Electric Power Plant is also located in Tiwi. It uses steam from the natural hot springs to generate electricity. Busay Falls - The Busay Falls is in our Top 5 Tourist Spots in Bicol-Philippines. It is one of the highest waterfalls in the Philippines. Its luminescent waters cascades down in seven tiers from a height of 800 ft into two catch basins. The falls is located in Malilipot, Albay and is accessible through a foot trail. Rizal or Luneta Park should make it to the top 5 tourist spots in Manila-Philippines. It was where the national hero, Jose Rizal, was martyred through a military musketry when Spain occupied the country in the 19th century. It is also among the places in the country known the world over since early times. Rizal Park includes the Chinese and Japanese Gardens, Manila Planetarium, Quirino Grandstand, Ocean Adventure, Part of Manila Bay, and the giant map of the Philippines. Fort Santiago - Visitors and tourists often have Fort Santiago next in their Manila itinerary after visiting Rizal Park. It is just adjacent to it, so this makes it among the top 5 tourist spots in Manila-Philippines. Moreover, Fort Santiago is as historical as Luneta and also had to do with the last moments of Jose Rizalhe was imprisoned there for some time before being shot at Luneta. In fact, metallic footsteps can be seen today from the prison cell of Rizal in Fort Santiago to Luneta to mark where the hero was said to have walked during that fateful morning. Fort Santiago also features dungeons, cells, ruins, and a museum for Rizal, among many others. Fort Santiago was used by the Spaniards, Americans, and Japanese. Bay Walk Area - The long stretch of national highway from the US Embassy to a portion just before the Coastal Road to Cavite offers a panoramic view of Manila Bay. It is most picturesque in the afternoon as the dying sun emits golden rays and lends golden tones especially to the towering hotels and office buildings nearby. The renovated bay wall is now a tourist-class promenade known as Bay Walk Area where stylish benches are propped up for frolicking and where people roam around for fresh air or jog in early mornings. Being now a popular sightseeing destination, it is among the top 5 tourist spots in Manila-Philippines. Quiapo Church - Most tourists in Manila never miss the old Quiapo Church. It is located in Plaza Miranda, the historical center in Manila where so-called parliaments of the streets congregate and boldly air their political agenda or grievances against the government. Quiapo Church is home to the Black Nazarene which is paraded each year with crowds of the faithful escorting it in a very emotional procession. Marcos Mausoleum and Muesum - Batac, Ilocos Norte is most famous for two things, the specialty empanada, and the Marcos Museum. South of Laoag City, Batac is fondly dubbed by Ilocanos as the home of great leaders because of the numerous illustrious figures that hail from the town, including former President Marcos. The museum houses hundreds of memorabilia, and eerily enough, the body of the president himself, encased in wax in a dark room, available for the public to see. Chocolate Hills - Spread in the town of Carmen, Batu, and Sagbayan. Its name because the hill looks like a row of brown layer that enveloped it when the grass turns brown in early summer. Two hills have been developed and equipped with facilities, including view deck, hostels and restaurants. See there a lot of tourist spots in the Philippines! So we have to maintain its being preserve so that the next generation will see what our country has. The question is what is the importance of these tourist spots in our economy? These are the opinions of some writers about what is the importance of tourist spots in our economy: A. Tourism provides foreign exchange without exporting anything out of the country and it’s providing more stable earnings for the country than any other industry. (Economic importance of tourism by Shantimani on Aug 26, 2010) B. For the national government tourists are welcome, because they bring money to the country. Some of that money will go as tax to the national government. Many Philippine businesses, small or big, offer their services to the tourists. (http://www. philippines. hvu. nl/tourism2. htm) c. Tourists in the country will bring a lot of possibilities for jobs. Because the total employment in the industrial sector of the Philippine's economy is still moderate, the tourist sector is extra important for creating possibilities to have employment for many families. (http://www. philippines. hvu. nl/tourism2. htm) D. Tourism is important because there are places where it is their main source of income. ( Tsalyer 2010) E. Tourism is important to the world because of the amount of income it brings into countries and it promotes interconnectedness throughout the world. It provides people visiting the country of their choice with the services while they are there in exchange for the visitors boosting the country's economy. (http://www. blurtit. com/q6809256. html) F. The most important economic impact that tourism has is that it provides more employment for the people in that area and hence in a way increases their standard of living. In fact certain economies primarily run on tourism. As a result it also helps the region as a whole to develop and as a result the governing bodies can utilize the funds to promote the destination and make it more attractive for tourists. (Atul Chhotray ) G. It generates benefits to both host countries and tourists' home countries. Especially in developing countries, one of the primary motivations for a region to promote itself as a tourism destination is the expected economic improvement. (amo1, May 2007) H. Tourism industry is one of the pillars of Philippines’ economy. It is a major driving force towards economic growth. Both the government and the private sector continue to develop the tourism industry to attract large numbers of visitors in the face of sustainability challenges and competition from other countries. I. Travel spending brings in outside dollars that " turn over" in the community. Even if you do not have direct contact with travelers, the money filters through the entire economy as residents re-spend travel dollars. But the increased interest in tourism translates to fierce competition in the marketplace. J. Our tourist spots is important to our economy because it’s also help us to promote not only on what our country has but also its promote our culture, beliefs and products. While tourism can provide a massive financial boost to an area and is often the backbone of its economy, there can also be significant problems such as the disintegration of the traditional culture of an area. Whereas some areas use their traditional culture as a selling point to encourage tourists to visit in order to sample it, other areas instead try to entice tourists by attempting to offer them a culture that is more similar to what they would experience at home. Here are some of the problems that our tourism industry is facing: 1. The greater majority of Filipinos still living in Philippines view foreign tourists as a " target" for getting money from them into the hands of Filipinos by any means necessary as quickly as possible. 2. After all the years of steady traffic and foreign money coming into the country, nothing ever improves. There is no significant change in anything that I can see since 1984 to the present. Still stuck in a time warp. A few struggling internet cafes with outdated computers that don't boot up do not constitute " modernization". 3. Sex tourism, with aged foreigners flocking to the country seeking young women as partners. Others come to indulge in pedophile activities; 4. Negligence of environmental considerations in some cases by both foreign nationals and Filipinos; 5. The government hurries to attract foreign tourists without the existence of a proper tourism infrastructure; 6. Due to the negative image of the Philippines as a corrupt nation, visitors believe they can escape justice easily by bribing law enforcement authorities. 7. The indigenous culture and the local inhabitants can often be sidelined in order to encourage the influx of tourists. In the modern era, terrorists have been known to frequently target popular tourist resorts and attractions, resulting in significant loss of life. 8. There can also be significant environmental problems caused by the expansion of the tourism industry in an area. The rapid growth and construction of new resorts, hotels and restaurants can often see wildlife, plant life and natural beauty removed from an area in order to satisfy the demands of tourism. 9. Terrorism in our country that is known specially in Mindanao. It’s because of political war of different groups. And because of that the tourist spots there are not well known and unexplored not only buy tourist but us also because we are all afraid to go there. 10. Lack of security some tourists are afraid to visit some places here in the Philippines especially manila because of diff. crimes and they believe that they don’t have enough security in that place. How to maintain the beauty of our tourist spots? A. Plant more Trees — we have to plant more trees to preserve the beauty of our mountains and forest. It could also our weapon to prevent us from flooding, landslide and mudslide. B. The government should implement more laws about prevention of our tourist spots and natural resources with a punishment that will be experience by the people that will disobey the law. C. Proper Disposal of waste. D. Enough financial support for the maintenance for tourism infrastructure like churches, museums and ancestral house. E. Limit the number of tourist that visits a certain tourist spots to avoid much waste from different tourist. F. Explore more beautiful attractions inside the country and make it as a new tourist spot. G. Enough tourist guide that will able to give knowledge to the tourist not only by giving description to a certain destination but also a guide that will make some rules and regulations about not destroying anything while they have their tour in the destination. H. It requires some degree of creativity to tap input from tourists for the cause of ecotourism. For instance, management could designate an accessible denuded area of a nature park as a tree planting area for tourists. Holes and seedlings can be readied for planting. The seedlings they have planted can be labeled personally with their individual names. I. Organize some activity that the fund that will be collected will be part of rehabilitation or financial support for the tourist spots that for now is not known by the people. J. Last is DISCIPLINE — every human should have this kind of attitude. Discipline is a trait that not only for people but also for a place that treats as a person that needed to be respected. We should not destroy them but to explore. We don’t need rules and regulations if we have discipline on our selves. Chapter 3 Conclusion Here in the Philippines, we have blessed with our mother earth with different beautiful tourist spots. We have to be proud of what we have and we have to tell it to the whole world that not all beautiful tourist spots can be found in the countries that is rich or that is progressive. We have to wholeheartedly proud that there are areas here in the Philippines that can be recognize in the world. As a Filipino we need to explore our own country, because according to the famous saying “ we don’t need to be a tourist in our own country" so that we have to travel first here in the Philippines explore, learn and enjoy our tourist spots. Here in our country, tourism is one of our weapons for us to be one of the countries that are progressive. In our country there is a lot of foreign tourist attracted in our tourist spots like beaches, church, museums, caves etc. Tourism is important in our economy because of the tourist that is annually or monthly visit our tourist spots. Their visiting here will affect our income because of foreign exchange and others. There are beautiful tourist spots in our country but always keep in mind that every positive impacts have also negative impacts. Like the saying “ if there’s a tourist there’s a prostitute" this are common especially in the province that there is ports or some streets called “ Red Street" and we cannot deny it because it is true. And hopefully it will begin to stop because it is not good for our country’s reputation, there could be some instances that other tourists who want to visit the Philippines will be paused because of that news and each of us will be suffered. Tourism also plays very important role to the economy because it gives more employment to the citizens that unemployed. Because of being one of the largest industries here, in tourism industry they need a greater number of workers, service providers and tour guides etc. to provide services to the tourist. Tourist spots are important to all of us especially to our economy. So that we need to maintain the beauty of our tourist spots the more it be cleaned and maintained the more the tourist will be attracted to it. The more the visit tourist and foreign exchange the more income to our economy. So, Can you answer my question earlier? Do you imagine a country without a tourist spots? For me not. Why? Because in our generation tourist spots is the only thing that a country could be proud of and if they don’t have any it means they not progressive. So that we need to preserve our tourist spots and passed it to the next generation to a new progressive Philippines. 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