Northern California

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo (ca. 1497-1543)  
Scott 2704 • 1992
Juan Cabrillo led the first European expedition along the west coast, looking for a water route that would connect the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. In 1542 he sailed into San Diego bay, and sailed further north along the California coastline, possibly as far north as Oregon. Cabrillo is believed to have been buried on Catalina Island.

California Settlement Bicentennial: Carmel Mission Belfry  
Scott 1373 • 1969
The Carmel Mission is one of the most beautiful of all California missions. This is where two great Franciscan fathers, Junipero Serra and Fermin Francisco de Lasuen, made their headquarters. Eighteen of the 21 California missions were established by these two padres. (The Carmel Mission, pictured on this stamp, wasn’t founded until 1770; the first mission, San Diego de Alcalá, was the one founded in 1769.)

Panama Pacific Exposition Discovery of San Francisco Bay  
Scott 400 • 1913
On November 4, 1769, Gaspar de Portola of Spain was the first to record seeing San Francisco Bay. Water from approximately forty percent of California flows through the Bay and on into the Pacific Ocean. This stamp was issued in conjunction with the Panama Pacific Exposition.

Legends of the West  
John Charles Frémont (1813-1890)  
Scott 2869i • 1994
John Fremont is known for leading expeditions into western United States. He became the first to see Lake Tahoe, the Great Basin, and the Sierra Nevada. Fremont was one of California's first state senators, and in 1856 was the Republican Party's first presidential nominee.

Trans-Mississippi Exposition  
John Charles Frémont on the Rocky Mountains  
Scott 288 • 1898

Trans-Mississippi Reissue  
Frémont on the Rocky Mountains  
Scott 3209d • 1998

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Northern California

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo
Scott 2704 • 1992

California Settlement Bicentennial
Carmel Mission Belfry
Scott 1373 • 1969

Panama Pacific Exposition
Discovery of San Francisco Bay
Scott 400 • 1913

Trans-Mississippi Exposition
John Charles Frémont on the Rocky Mountains
Scott 288 • 1898

Legends of the West
John Charles Frémont
Scott 2869i • 1994

Trans-Mississippi Reissue
Frémont on the Rocky Mountains
Scott 3209d • 1998
In 1848, James Wilson Marshall discovered gold in California. In August, the New York Herald reported the find. By the following summer the “gold rush” had begun. The first prospectors were able to pick gold nuggets off the ground, while later the gold was found in the streams and riverbeds.

Sutter’s Mill: California Gold Rush Centennial
Scott 954 • 1948
John Sutter owned a lumber mill near Coloma, California, where he planned on building an agricultural empire. This all changed on January 24, 1848 when gold was found at the mill. By March the news had spread throughout California and beyond. Approximately 150,000 prospectors travelled across the mountains carrying picks and shovels seeking their fortunes, while another 150,000 arrived by ship.

California Gold Rush 1849
Scott 3316 • 1999
The California Gold Rush began in 1848 as gold-seekers flocked to the San Francisco area looking for instant wealth. A few became wealthy from the gold, while many returned home with very little. Because of the Gold Rush, the area called California grew substantially. Native Americans were forced off their lands to make way for the roads leading to new towns with churches and schools. The California Gold Rush lasted until the mid-1850s.

First Civil Settlement
Alta, California
Scott 1725 • 1977
Spain founded its first civil settlement in Alta (upper) California in 1777. This settlement, El Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe, helped secure the territory from invasion and also provided a source of food for the missions.

California Statehood Centennial
Scott 997 • 1950
The California Republic was founded in 1846 at the beginning of the Mexican-American War. It was admitted to the United States as part of the “Compromise of 1850,” which banned slavery in the state. This stamp honors the one hundredth anniversary of California’s statehood.

California Statehood
Scott 3438 • 2000
Following the gold rush of 1849, the people of California realized the need for an effective, civil government. In 1849 a state constitution was adopted. The following year California became the 31st state in the Union. This stamp honors the 150th anniversary of California’s statehood.
Northern California

Trans-Mississippi Exposition
Western Mining Prospector
Scott 291 • 1898

Trans-Mississippi Exposition
Western Mining Prospector
Scott 3209g • 1998

Sutter’s Mill
California Gold Rush Centennial
Scott 954 • 1948

California Gold Rush 1849
Scott 3316 • 1999

First Civil Settlement
Alta, California
Scott 1725 • 1977

California Statehood Centennial
Scott 997 • 1950

California Statehood
Scott 3438 • 2000
Butterfield Overland Mail Centennial:
Missouri & Tennessee to California
Scott 1120 • 1958
In 1850, when California became a state, mail delivery was by ship, either around the southern tip of South America, or to Panama where it was carried across the isthmus then loaded onto another ship for delivery. Eight years later the first expedition of the Butterfield Overland Mail set out from Tipton, Missouri. This allowed the mail to be delivered across a 2,975 mile route — arriving in California in just 25 days.

Legends of the West
Overland Mail
Scott 2869t • 1994
Almost 250,000 men moved into California during the Gold Rush years of 1849–1853, many leaving their families behind. In 1857 Congress voted to subsidize an overland mail service that would guarantee mail delivery in 25 days or less. This stamp commemorates the Overland Mail service whose southern route went from St. Louis, through Texas and Arizona, then up the coastline of southern California and on to San Francisco.

Pony Express: 80th Anniversary
Scott 894 • 1940
Even with the Overland Mail service, important information from the eastern states was almost history until it reached California. With the start of the Civil War, it became obvious that a better method of mail delivery was needed. This stamp was issued to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the start of the Pony Express which cut the delivery time for mail from Missouri to California to just ten days.

Pony Express Centennial:
St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California
Scott 1154 • 1960
The Pony Express consisted of relays of men and horses carrying mail in specially designed saddles across a 1,966-mile trail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. Many of the riders were youth, often under 15 years of age, partly because of the requirement to weigh less than 125 pounds. Although it was only in existence for just over eighteen months, from April 3, 1860 to October 25, 1861, the Pony Express carried 34,753 pieces of mail and lost only one mail delivery.
Northern California

Butterfield Overland Mail Centennial
Scott 1120 • 1958

Legends of the West
Overland Mail
Scott 2869t • 1994

Pony Express: 80th Anniversary
Scott 894 • 1940

Pony Express Centennial
Scott 1154 • 1960
Northern California

John Muir (1838-1914) & Redwood Trees
Scott 1245 • 1964
Celebrate the Century 1900s
Scott 3182j • 1998
John Muir is considered the “Father of the National Parks System.” He campaigned to have the federal government to set aside areas to be preserved in their natural condition, such as Yosemite, the Petrified Forest, and the Grand Canyon. Muir is shown in this stamp alongside the Redwood Trees of California.

National Parks series
El Capitan, Yosemite
Scott 740 • 1934
Yosemite National Park became the nation’s third national park in 1890. This National Parks series stamp depicts El Capitan, the largest monolith of granite in the world, rising more than 3,000 feet above the valley floor.

American Treasures
“Valley of Yosemite” by
Albert Bierstadt
Scott 4346 • 2008
Albert Bierstadt (1830–1902) traveled to California to produce landscape paintings that he could sell to those living in eastern United States. His painting “Valley of the Yosemite” depicts El Capitan on the right and Sentinel Rock along with Cathedral Rocks on the left. The five by eight foot canvas he used allows viewers to feel they are part of the scenery.

Masters of American Photography
Ansel Adams (1902-1984)
Scott 3649p • 2002
Ansel Adams was born in San Francisco, growing up near the Golden Gate. He became an artist-activist, photographing untamed nature that inspired wilderness preservation. Adams received the Conservation Service Award for his role in conservation of natural resources and the Presidential Medal of Freedom for “his efforts to preserve this country’s wild and scenic areas.”

Wonders of America
Yosemite Falls: tallest waterfalls
Scott 4050 • 2006
Yosemite National Park home to many waterfalls, with the tallest being Yosemite Falls. The Falls is at its height of beauty when the mountain snows melt, causing roaring runoff from April through June. However, even the mighty Yosemite Falls will often slow to a trickle or even dry by late summer.

Wonders of America
Coast Redwoods: tallest living trees
Scott 4063 • 2006
The Coast Redwood, or sequoia, is the tallest living tree in America. Growing to a height of more than 350 feet, the trees can be 26 feet in diameter, which includes 12 inch thick bark. The trees are often used for railroad ties and railway trestles. This stamp shows the official tree of California – the Coast Redwood.
Northern California

John Muir & Redwood Trees
Scott 1245 • 1964

Celebrate the Century 1900s
John Muir, Preservationist
Scott 3182j • 1998

National Parks series
El Capitan, Yosemite
Scott 740 • 1934

American Treasures
“Valley of Yosemite” by Albert Bierstadt
Scott 4346 • 2008

Masters of American Photography
Ansel Adams (1902-1984)
Scott 3649p • 2002

Wonders of America
Yosemite Falls: tallest waterfalls
Scott 4050 • 2006

Wonders of America
Coast Redwoods: tallest living trees
Scott 4063 • 2006
Northern California

American Bicentennial: State Flags series
California State Flag
Scott 1663 • 1976

The California flag was designed in 1846, symbolizing the settlers' revolt against Mexican rule. The single star to the left side of the flag replicated the flag of Texas, and the grizzly bear centered over the word "California Republic" represented the many bears found in the state. The flag, as shown on this stamp, was adopted as the state's flag in 1911.

Flags of Our Nation series
California Flag and Coast
Scott 4279 • 2008

The original California Flag, referred to as the Bear Flag, was raised for the first time in 1846. This flag was destroyed in the fires that followed the great San Francisco earthquake in 1906. The California coast is shown alongside the flag on this 2008 release.

State Birds & Flowers series
California Gull
(Utah State Bird)
Scott 1996 • 1982

The California Gull can be found from Canada to California. It is a migratory bird, moving to the Pacific coast for the winter. In 1848, when swarms of crickets invaded Utah, the gull "attacked" the crickets, helping to settlers to save lives. The California Gull is depicted on this Utah State Bird stamp.

Wildlife Conservation series
California Condor
Scott 1430 • 1971

Endangered Species
Scott 3105i • 1996

Five hundred years ago the California Condor could be seen throughout the southwest area of the United States. After nearing extinction, condors have been raised in captivity and released back into the wild. The California Condor, as depicted on this stamp, is the largest North American land bird.

State Birds & Flowers series California
Quail and California Poppy
Scott 1957 • 1982

Wildflowers series: California Poppy
Scott 2651 • 1992

In 1931, the California legislature adopted the California Quail as it's state bird. Also known as the valley quail, it is a prized game bird with a distinguished downward curving plume on top of its head. The California Indians used the golden flowers of the poppy for food and for the oil extracted from the plant. In 1903 in became the state flower. Every year April 6 is California Poppy Day.

North American
Wildlife series
California Sea lion
Scott 2329 • 1987

The California sea lion, as shown on this stamp, lives along the coast from Canada to southern California. It is a social mammal, living in colonies on the rocks and hunting in the sea for food. The sea lion is easily trained, and is often seen doing its tricks at the circus or in the zoo.
Northern California

American Bicentennial: State Flags series
California State Flag
Scott 1663 • 1976

Flags of Our Nation series
California Flag and Coast
Scott 4279 • 2008-

State Birds & Flowers series
California Gull (Utah State Bird)
Scott 1996 • 1982

Wildlife Conservation series
California Condor
Scott 1430 • 1971

Endangered Species
California Condor
Scott 3105i • 1996

State Birds & Flowers series
California Quail & California Poppy
Scott 1957 • 1982

Wildflowers series
California Poppy
Scott 2651 • 1992

North American Wildlife series
California Sea Lion
Scott 2329 • 1987
Northern California

Wonders of America
Pacific Crest Trail:
longest hiking trail
Scott 4043 • 2006
This stamp is a tribute to the longest hiking trail in the United States. The trail begins in the south near the town of Campo and continues crossing desert valleys and high mountains as it crosses California from south to north. Each year hundreds of visitors travel all or just a portion of the 2,650 mile Pacific Crest Trail.

Wonders of America
Great Basin: largest desert
Scott 4051 • 2006
The Great Basin is a 200,000 square mile, high-altitude desert covering parts of California, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, and Idaho. It is endorheic, that is, it has no river and no outlet to the sea. As seen on this Wonders of America stamp, it is undoubtedly the largest desert in the United States.

Wonders of America
Oroville Dam: tallest dam
Scott 4056 • 2006
The Oroville Dam, standing 770 feet high and 6,920 feet long, is one of the largest earthen dams in the United States. It's inner core is made of clay (to resist seepage) and the remainder is made of sand and gravel left from the gold dredging along the Feather River. The dam serves as a water supply, a hydroelectricity generation facility, and is used for flood control.

Pacific Lighthouses
St. George Reef Lighthouse
Scott 4150 • 2007
The need for a lighthouse on St. George Reef was realized when more than 200 people died after a steamer hit an uncharted rock. The 150-foot tall St. George Reef Lighthouse was built of individually cut granite rocks with a cast iron lantern room on a rock that is only 17 feet above sea level. However, it has endured dangerous storms, some of which have had waves high enough to break the glass in the lantern room.

American Trees
Giant Sequoia
Scott 1764 • 1978
The Giant Sequoia grows only along the Pacific Coast in California. These trees live as long as 2,200 years, often grow over 300 feet tall and 20 feet in diameter, with bark that can be over two feet thick. The timber from managed farms of the Giant Sequoia is a valuable commodity.

Tourmaline
1974 • Scott 1539
Although California's tourmalines have been used by Native Americans for centuries, they were not discovered by the gemstone industry until the 1880s. California tourmalines come in many colors, bicolors, and tricolors, but the bright pinks are the most desired of the gem. One of the world's largest producers of tourmaline is the Himalaya Mine, located in San Diego County.

Transportation coil
Carreta: Spanish ox-cart 1770s
Scott 2255 • 1988
This stamp show a carreta, a multi-use, two wheeled wagon pulled by oxen. It was often used by the Hispanic population, especially in the mission era, to haul timber, trade goods and supplies, and even to haul laundry to the river. The wheels were never oiled so the screeching sounds would scare evil spirits away.

Historic Preservation series
Cable Car, San Francisco
Scott 1442 • 1971
Transportation coil
Cable Car 1880s
Scott 2263 • 1988
When Andrew Hallidie saw five horses killed in a tragic accident while trying to pull a trolley to the top of a slippery, cobblestone slope in San Francisco, he knew there had to be a better way to climb the steep hills. Just four years later he tested the first cable car system, and soon the cable car, such as depicted on this stamp, became a San Francisco icon.
Northern California

Wonders of America
Pacific Crest Trail: longest hiking trail
Scott 4043 • 2006

Wonders of America
Great Basin: largest desert
Scott 4051 • 2006

Wonders of America
Oroville Dam: tallest dam
Scott 4056 • 2006

Pacific Lighthouses
St. George Reef Lighthouse
Scott 4150 • 2007

American Trees
Giant Sequoia
Scott 1764 • 1978

Tourmaline
Scott 1539 • 1974

Transportation coil
Carreta: Spanish ox-cart 1770s
Scott 2255 • 1988

Historic Preservation series
Cable Car, San Francisco
Scott 1442 • 1971

Transportation coil
Cable Car 1880s
Scott 2263 • 1988
Northern California

Panama Pacific Exposition
Golden Gate Scott
399 • 1913
The Golden Gate crosses the famous strait that separates the San Francisco Bay from the Pacific Ocean. Although English and Spanish explorers may have visited the area as early as 1579, it was not until 1846 that Captain John Fremont declared the land as a U.S. territory, naming the strait “chrysopylae” which means Golden Gate.

Golden Gate
Scott 567 • 1923
In 1923, the California State Legislature passed the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District Act into law. This governmental agency operates the Golden Gate’s Transit, Ferry and Bridge.

Greetings from America:
California
Scott 3565 • 2002
The Greetings from America stamp series features retro designs that mimic the popular tourist postcards of the 1930s and '40s. California's stamp features the Bay Bridge at dusk, with its suspension cables outlined in lights. The San Francisco skyline can be seen in the background, and palm trees from Santa Catalina Island hang overhead. Two blossoms of the California poppy are in the lower corner of the stamp.

Golden Gate Exposition
Scott 852 • 1939
In 1939 San Francisco hosted the Golden Gate International Exposition in honor of the construction of the world's two largest suspension bridges, the Golden Gate and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridges. This stamp shows the Tower of the Sun, located on Treasure Island, the largest manmade island.

American Architecture
Palace of Fine Arts by Bernard Maybeck
Scott 1930 • 1981
The Palace of Fine Arts was constructed for the Panama-Pacific Exhibition (world's fair) held in 1915 in San Francisco. With a combination of Greek and Roman architecture, the Palace is now home to an interactive science museum. [Note that the word “Fine” was not printed on the stamp.]

United Nations Conference
Scott 928 • 1945

International Cooperation Year-
United Nations
Scott 1266 • 1965
The United Nations's General Assembly designated 1965 as International Cooperation Year. The Anniversary meeting was held in San Francisco, California — the city where the U.N. had been organized just 20 years earlier. The goal was to show that "cooperation would lead to a better appreciation of the true nature of the world community and of the common interests of mankind."
Northern California

Panama Pacific Exposition
Golden Gate Scott
399 • 1913

Golden Gate
Scott 567 • 1923

Greetings from America:
California
Scott 3565 • 2002

Golden Gate Exposition
Scott 852 • 1939

American Architecture
Palace of Fine Arts by Bernard Maybeck
Scott 1930 • 1981

United Nations Conference
Scott 928 • 1945

International Cooperation Year
United Nations
Scott 1266 • 1965
Northern California

Ronald Reagan (1911-2004)
Scott 3897 • 2005
Scott 4494 • 2011
Born in Illinois, Ronald Reagan moved to California where he began a career as an actor. After joining the Republican Party, he became the 33rd Governor of California. In 1980, he became the 40th U.S. President where he initiated his “Reaganomics,” to control inflation, reduce growth in government spending, and to spur economic growth through tax cuts.

Great Americans
Earl Warren (1891-1974)
Scott 2184 • 1992
Earl Warren was the only person elected to as Governor of California for three successive terms (1942, 1946, and 1950.) He was also the only person to run unopposed for the position of California’s Governor (1946.) Warren was appointed Chief Justice of the United States in 1953 and headed the commission that investigated the death of President John F. Kennedy.

Great Americans
Bret Harte (1836-1902)
Scott 2196 • 1987
Bret Harte was born in New York, but moved with his family to California when he was just a teenager. His first experience in writing was with the Northern Californian, where he would eventually write poetry, political essays, and more. Harte spent time with prospectors in the gold rush mining towns, and is well known for his gold rush fiction. His “The Luck of Roaring Camp,” stories printed in The Overland Monthly journal, brought him widespread fame.

Robert Frost (1874-1963)
Scott 1526 • 1974
Robert Frost is known for his plain-spoken poetry about rural America. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry four times. This stamp honors Frost who was born in San Francisco.

Great Americans
Jack London (1876-1916)
Scott 2182 • 1986
John Griffith “Jack” London (John Griffith Chaney) was one of the first authors to become known worldwide for his fiction writings. The Call of the Wild and White Fang both reflect his years as a gold miner in the Klondike. The Sea Wolf was written about the San Francisco Bay area. London was born in San Francisco, California.

Literary Arts
William Saroyan (1908-1981)
Scott 2538 • 1991
William Saroyan is known as a writer, playwright, and humanitarian. His first book, The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze, a story about a circus performer, was a hit in the literary world. In 1939, he won The Drama Critic’s Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize for his play “The Time of Your Life.” Saroyan was born in Fresno, California.

American Scientists
Melvin Calvin (1911–1997)
Scott 4541 • 2011
Melvin Calvin spent his academic years at the University of California, Berkeley. He began as an instructor and climbed the ranks to become a Director in the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, with much of his work devoted to organic molecular structure and behavior. Calvin was awarded the Priestley Medal by the American Chemical Society, a Gold Medal from the Maricin Institute of Chemists, the National Medal of Science, and the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

Innovative Choreographers
Isadora Duncan (1877–1927)
Scott TBD • 2012
Angela Isadora Duncan is often considered the creator of modern dance. She developed the concept of natural breathing, defining movement based on the body’s natural movements. She believed that a good dancer needed only a simple stage and a simple costume. Duncan was born in San Francisco, California.
Northern California

Ronald Reagan
Scott 3897 • 2005

Ronald Reagan
Scott 4494 • 2011

Great Americans
Earl Warren
Scott 2184 • 1992

Bret Harte
Scott 2196 • 1987

Great Americans
Bret Harte
Scott 2196 • 1987

Robert Frost
Scott 1526 • 1974

Great Americans
Jack London
Scott 2182 • 1986

William Saroyan
Scott 2538 • 1991

American Scientists
Melvin Calvin
Scott 4541 • 2011

Innovative Choreographers
Isadora Duncan
Scott TBD • 2012
Northern California

Snoopy, by Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000)  
Scott 3507 • 2001

The Peanuts cartoon strip, of which Snoopy was one of the main characters, was written by Charles Schulz. The cartoon ran for almost 50 years in as many as 2,600 newspapers in 75 countries. Schulz lived most of his adult life in Sebastopol and later Santa Rosa, California. In his will Schulz requested that no new comics be drawn based on his creations in the Peanuts strip — a request that was honored by the legal owners of the strip.

Mendez v. Westminster and the California Board of Education  
Scott 4201 • 2007

Until the mid-1940s, Hispanics in the Westminster School District were forced to attend school in wooden shacks. In 1944 the Mendez family sued the School District because their children were not permitted to attend an all-white school. This stamp celebrates the 60th anniversary of the groundbreaking legal case in which a group of civic-minded parent successfully sued to end segregation in their schools.

Pacific '97; International Stamp Exhibition

Sailing Ship  
Scott 3130 • 1997

Stagecoach  
Scott 3131 • 1997

Scott 3130 was printed in blue and depicts a clipper ship, while Scott 3131 was printed in red and shows a stagecoach, both means of delivering mail to the Pacific coast residents in the 1800s. The stamps were the first triangular stamps ever issued by the United States Postal Service. They were issued in panes of 16, eight of each design, arranged in four blocks of four stamps each. The words “Pacific '97 International Stamp Exhibition San Francisco, California May 29–June 8, 1997” are printed on the margin of the sheet.
Northern California

Snoopy
Scott 3507 • 2001

Mendez v. Westminster and the California Board of Education
Scott 4201 • 2007

Pacific ’97; International Stamp Exhibition
Sailing Ship
Scott 3130 • 1997

Pacific ’97; International Stamp Exhibition
Stagecoach
Scott 3131 • 1997
Pacific '97; International Stamp Exhibition
Benjamin Franklin
Scott 3139 • 1997

The souvenir sheets issued to commemorate Pacific 97 depict Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. The first U.S. stamp, printed in red-brown showed Franklin. This stamp is reprinted in the margin of Scott 3139. The useable stamps on this souvenir sheet are also of Franklin, but are printed in blue with a 50¢ denomination. The second U.S. stamp, printed in blue and showing Washington, is shown on the margin of Scott 3140. The useable stamps on this sheet are also of Washington, but are printed in red-brown with a 60¢ denomination. The words “Pacific 97 San Francisco CA from May 29 to June 9, 1997” is also printed in the margin of each sheet.
Northern California

Pacific ’97; International Stamp Exhibition
George Washington
Scott 3140 • 1997

The souvenir sheets issued to commemorate Pacific 97 depict Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. The first U.S. stamp, printed in red-brown showed Franklin. This stamp is reprinted in the margin of Scott 3139. The useable stamps on this souvenir sheet are also of Franklin, but are printed in blue with a 50¢ denomination. The second U.S. stamp, printed in blue and showing Washington, is shown on the margin of Scott 3140. The useable stamps on this sheet are also of Washington, but are printed in red-brown with a 60¢ denomination. The words “Pacific 97 San Francisco CA from May 29 to June 9, 1997” is also printed in the margin of each sheet.
Northern California

Pacific '97, International Stamp Exhibition
George Washington
Scott 3140 • 1997

American Philatelic Society, www.stamps.org
Northern California page -23
Northern California
This album does not include every issue related to the topic. Use the blank pages at the end of this album to add stamps related to Northern California.

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