

Life in Finland, home in Riihimäki



INFORMATION AND TIPS ABOUT LIFE IN FINLAND AND RIIHIMÄKI

WELCOME TO RIIHIMÄKI!



Welcome to our new home in Riihimäki. I hope that you will like it here and find the services offered by the city easily. I also hope that you will find your own way of living and being part of Riihimäki.

In Riihimäki, just like everywhere else in Finland, all people are equal. We all have the right to social security and health care, children have the right to go to school and children under school age to day care.

There are free or low-cost leisure activities, for example, on nature trails, in courses offered by civic colleges, in sports clubs or at cultural events and museums.

This brochure contains basic information about living in Finland and Riihimäki. Many things are done online in Finland, but you can also do things by phone.

If you need help, feel free to contact the city's integration services (contact details are at the bottom of the page).

We hope that Riihimäki will soon feel like your new hometown!

Best regards, **Jouni Eho**
Mayor of Riihimäki

**Riihimäki,
everything
but the sea!**

Contact
information
can be found
online



Facebook: @internationalhouseriihimaki
Instagram: @internationalhouseriihimaki
Linkedin: @internationalhouseriihimaki

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Lost. Tommi Toija.

Maija Isola mural.
Patrik Korhonen



1

LIFE IN FINLAND, HOME IN RIIHIMÄKI

In this chapter, we will tell you about the official matters you need to handle first and about integration into Riihimäki.

In Finland, everyone is equal. For example, gender does not affect what you can study, what work you can do or whether you can stay at home to look after your children. Children are also

equal in Finland and have the right to good treatment.

- You can find practical advice on living in Finland at infofinland.fi
- You can handle official matters at suomi.fi/frontpage
- Finnish Immigration Service Migri migri.fi/en

Finnish Digital and Population Data Agency – get a personal identity code

When you live permanently in Finland, you must register with the Finnish Digital and Population Data Agency (DVV).

In order for your personal data to be registered in the population data system, you must visit the Digital and Population Data Services Agency of your home town in person. Sometimes, the reception centre can also submit your application to the agency.

When your personal data is registered, you will receive a Finnish personal identity code. You need a personal identity code when dealing with the authorities, opening a bank account or purchasing a telephone subscription, for example. Your postal address and temporary or permanent address will also be registered at the same time.

Bank – remember online banking credentials

You can open a bank account when you have a valid identity document and a right of residence or a residence permit for Finland. Banks have different ways of verifying the customer's identity.

You should also ask online banking credentials from the bank. You can pay invoices and see your bank account information in the online bank. You will receive online banking credentials when you have a Finnish personal identity code.

Online banking credentials, also known as strong electronic authentication, are used when logging in to many Finnish systems and online services. You can also use online banking credentials to sign documents electronically.

You can use the services of any bank you like. You can get more information about managing banking matters from Finnish Financial Ombudsman Bureau (FINE).

Finnish Digital and Population Data Agency,

tel. +358 295 536 320, international@dvv.fi
dvv.fi/en/individuals

tel. +358 9 6850 120, info@fine.fi
fine.fi/en/front-page



● For more information on Kela's services, please visit:

www.kela.fi/coming-to-finland

R teething toy for babies.

Kela – apply for social security

When you live permanently in Finland, you are entitled to Finnish social security and you can apply for benefits from Kela, the National Pension Institution of Finland.

You can receive financial support from Kela in the following situations, for example:

- you need support for rent payments
- you are pregnant or have a child in your family
- you are ill and therefore unable to participate in working life
- you are unemployed and register with the employment agency as a job seeker
- you study full-time
- you are a pensioner

Every child residing permanently in Finland is entitled to the child benefit paid by Kela. The child benefit is applied for using Kela's form.

Apply for income support from Kela if the other support forms do not cover your living expenses.

When applying for support, fill in the form on Kela's website or book an appointment at Kela's service point.

You can book a telephone appointment or an online service appointment.

Kela, Riihimäki office

Tempelikatu 9A

tel. +358 20 634 0200 (national service number)

kela.fi/main-page

EHTA, South Häme Employment Area

At the beginning of 2025, responsibility for employment and business services was transferred from the state to municipalities, which resulted in the formation of 45 employment areas.

The South Häme Employment Area (EHTA) offers employment services in Riihimäki. EHTA also operates in Janakkala, Loppi and Hausjärvi.

If you are unemployed, please register as a job seeker either online at tyomarkkinatori.fi or visit Kotola in person.

Kotola serves all immigrants in official labour matters. Read more on page 10.

[tyomarkkinatori.fi/en/](http://tyomarkkinatori.fi/en/personal-customers)
[personal-customers](http://tyomarkkinatori.fi/en/personal-customers)
[ehtapalvelut.fi/en](http://tyomarkkinatori.fi/en/ehtapalvelut)

Taxes – pay taxes

In Finland, tax is always paid on wages, on some benefits paid by Kela and on pension. Tax is also paid on capital, and companies also pay tax. Everyone has their own tax card, which shows their tax rate, i.e. how much tax is paid.

You can get a tax card from the tax authorities' **OmaVero** online service, or by visiting the tax office or calling the service number.

Tax office, Hämeenlinna service point

Wähäjärvenkatu 6, Hämeenlinna
tel. +358 29 512 000 (National service switchboard)

vero.fi/en/individuals/



When you live permanently in Finland, you have the right to, for example, public social and health services and you can participate in employment pilots. All people aged 7–18 who live permanently in Finland are also subject to compulsory education.

There are approximately 30,000 people living in Riihimäki, of whom approximately eight per cent are foreign language speakers (their native language is something other than Finnish, Swedish or Sami). In Riihimäki, services and hobbies are close by, and living is easy and safe. The distance between Riihimäki and the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and other large cities, such as Tampere, is short.

Housing – find your home in Riihimäki

Riihimäen Kotikulma Oy

You can find city-owned rental apartments via Kotikulma. Book an appointment or fill in a rental application directly on Kotikulma's website.

Maisterinkatu 9

tel. +358 19 569 5690

kotikulma@riihimaki.fi

riihimaenkotikulma.fi/in-english

NAL Riihimäki ry

If you are 18–29 years old, you can apply for an NAL apartment, **which is a rental apartment for young adults.**

tel. +358 50 551 1338

info@nalriihimaki.fi

nalasunnot.fi/en

Home advertisement websites:

There are many websites on the Internet with advertisements for rental apartments.

The lessor can be a company or a private person.

vuokraovi.com

oikotie.com

tori.fi

Remember that you need time to find an apartment.

In Finland, the rental agreement is always made in writing. Before you can move into the apartment, you must pay a rent deposit, which is usually 1–3 months' rent.

You can find information about rental housing and the general rules of Finnish housing on the Kotikulma website or at infofinland.fi.

Move notification – register your apartment

Submit a notification of move on the website of the Finnish Digital and Population Data Agency at dvv.fi – the same move notification will also be sent to Posti.

Glass blower.
Kalervo Kallio.



Electricity – make an electricity contract

When you move into your own home, you must make an electricity contract with a private electricity company. You can select the company yourself and ask for bids. You pay the electricity company for electricity, in addition to which you must also pay for electricity transmission. The electricity transmission company in Riihimäki is Caruna Oy. The electricity company you choose can sign an electricity transmission agreement with Caruna for you. Please note that you may receive two separate electricity bills.

By comparing the prices of different electricity companies, you can influence

how much you pay for electricity. You can compare the electricity prices of different companies, for example, on the Energy Authority's website at:

sahkonhinta.fi

Posti – send and receive parcels

Post

Merkoksenkatu 5, during K-Citymarket's opening hours

posti.fi/en/omaposti

Kotola, International House Riihimäki (IHR)

At Kotola, we provide guidance and advice to all immigrants. You can come and ask us about issues such as integration, Finnish society, various permits, housing, leisure opportunities, education and work.

At Kotola, you can also register as an unemployed job seeker. If you have recently moved to Finland, we will prepare an assessment of your service needs and an integration plan for you.

In the integration plan, we will agree on suitable services for you. These may include, for example, multilingual social orientation and integration training. Kotola is open from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kotola is closed on public holidays.

More information: ihr@riihimaki.fi

Contact
information
can be found
online



Facebook: [@internationalhouseriihimaki](https://www.facebook.com/internationalhouseriihimaki)
Instagram: [@internationalhouseriihimaki](https://www.instagram.com/internationalhouseriihimaki)

We organise various group activities for immigrants. The group activities include, for example, low-threshold Finnish-speaking groups. You can find all group activities on the fintegrate.fi page by entering **Riihimäki** as the search term. You can also always visit Kotola to ask for more information about group activities.

SPR Riihimäki

The Finnish Red Cross Riihimäki department works actively with immigrants. You can ask for advice from SPR if you need help.

Homework help on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

At Läksyhelppi homework help, volunteers help immigrants with homework and study-related tasks.

Suomi Café on Thursdays 5–7 p.m.

At the Suomi Café, you can practice Finnish, meet new people and spend time together. The café is open to everyone, and you do not need to know Finnish beforehand. The Suomi Café meets at Antonin talo (Öllerinkatu 3). Coffee and tea are served. No need for advance registration. Up-to-date information can be found on the website.

More information about SPR Riihimäki's operations
tel. +358 50 308 3213
riihimaki@punainenristi.fi
riihimaki.punainenristi.fi

Church diaconal work

The church diaconia employees at Riihimäki provide help through discussion and advice in practical problem situations. You can also get help in English.

Immigrants can participate in church activities, such as clubs and camps for children and young people, as well as family activities and family camps.

riihimaenseurakunta.fi

Appointments for diaconia workers by telephone, Monday and Wednesday from 12 noon to 1 p.m.
tel. +358 800 170707 (free of charge)

A service is held on Sundays at 10 a.m.
Central Church, Hämeenkatu 5

Riksula

Riksula is a meeting place that is open for all residents. Riksula is located at Antonin talo, which is a popular event venue.

Learn more about Riksula:
riihimaki.fi/en/riksula

Riihimäki – a city of events

- The City of Riihimäki organises many different events. Follow the city's cultural services on social media and get information about events that are open to all.
- Do you want to organise your own event or performance or are you looking for a platform to showcase your skills? Please contact kulttuuri@riihimaki.fi





You can ride a city bike in spring, summer and autumn.

2 EVERYDAY LIFE AND FREETIME

Public transportation

Several local traffic lines (R lines) operate in Riihimäki. In addition, demand-responsive transport is used in local traffic, known as R-kyyti (R ride). If you need to get to a place that is not served by regular public transport, you can order an R ride.

You can pay for the trip in cash, by bank card or with a mobile app. The mobile ticket applications Tickets (Pay-iQ), Reitit & Liput (Matkahuolto) and Pivo (OP) are used in Riihimäki.

Children under the age of 7 do not pay for R-traffic. In addition, passengers travelling with children under the age of 7 in prams can travel on the bus for free.

More information on fees, routes and timetables can be found on the city's website at riihimaki.fi/en (also in English).

Trains (VR) and buses (Matkahuolto) operate to other locations in Finland. Tickets for long-distance traffic must usually be purchased in advance.

vr.fi/en
matkahuolto.fi/en

City bikes

You can ride a city bike in Riihimäki from spring to autumn. There are bike stations in the city where you can rent a bike. You must also return the bike to one of the bike stations.

More information on bike rental, bike stations and prices can be found on the website kaakau.fi/?lang=en.



Indoor swimming pool

Riihimäki has an indoor swimming pool and a large outdoor swimming pool in summer. See the opening hours at

riihimaki.fi/en

Salpausseläntie 16

tel. +358 50 500 1642.

uimala.kassa@riihimaki.fi



You can get your own library card for the Riihimäki library.

Library

The library's services are open to everyone and free of charge. In the library, you can read books or magazines and digital newspapers, use a computer and the Internet, as well as a printer or a copier. You can also get help finding information if you need it.

Most of the books and materials are in Finnish, but there are also a lot of books and material in English. You can ask the library to order other foreign-language books.

Some services can only be used if you have a library card. You need a Finnish personal identity code in order to get the library card. If you do not yet have a personal identity code, you can receive a temporary library card by proving your identity with a passport, for example. The library card is free of charge.

With the library card, you can borrow books and other material, such as music, for a specific period of time. You can also use the library card to read digital books, newspapers and magazines.

The library has a music studio that you can reserve for your own use. You can, for example, play the piano or drums or record your own music in the studio.

The library also organises free events, such as Finnish-language fairytale reading for children, visits by authors and art exhibitions. You can also just spend time or meet friends in the library.

Riihimäki Library

Kauppakatu 16
tel. +358 50 500 1734, kirjasto@riihimaki.fi
riihimaki.fi/en

Sports equipment lending

You can borrow sports equipment from the Riihimäki library, such as snowshoes, badminton clubs, frisbee golf discs, a compass, binoculars or a camping cooker.

Kauppakatu 16
tel. +358 50 500 1734
kirjasto@riihimaki.fi

Recycling centre and second hand shops

The city's recycling centre sells used homeware, furniture, curtains, carpets and tableware as well as sports equipment at low prices. Home delivery can also be arranged for a fee. Coffee shop Kupla serves coffee.

Open: Mon–Tue and Thu–Fri 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
and Wed 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
[Sakonkatu 4, kierrätyskeskus@riihimaki.fi](mailto:Sakonkatu_4_kierrätyskeskus@riihimaki.fi)

Riihimäki also has private flea markets and second-hand furniture and clothing shops.

Youth services

Community youth work

Clubs and activities for all young people, as well as a special events during the holidays. You are welcome to join regardless of your language skills.
tel. +358 40 330 4710, +358 40 330 4714,
+358 40 330 4715 (youth counsellors)
tel. +358 50 505 8756, +358 40 330 4710
(school youth workers)

Targeted youth work

Individual support and guidance for young people and young adults, youth work at educational institutions and activities for groups.

tel. +358 40 330 4717, +358 40 330 4719
(special youth work, under 18-year-olds)
tel. +358 50 513 5060, +358 40 701 0473 and
+358 50 594 7903 and +358 50 408 4435 (detective youth work for people over the age of 18)
Check Instagram, TikTok, FB.

Youth Centre Monari

Uusimaakatu 1

Meeting places for young adults

Ohjaamo

Ohjaamo in the Riihimäki region is a service and meeting place for all young adults under the age of 30. Ohjaamo provides support for everyday life, well-being, health, housing, studying and working life.

Ohjaamo is open in Riihimäki on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Uusimaakatu 1
tel. +358 40 663 8094
ohjaamo@riihimaki.fi
ohjaamot.fi/en/etusivu

Café pOint

Café pOint cafe for young adults is open on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Monari, Uusimaankatu 1. The café offers an opportunity for coffee, games and hanging out. You are warmly welcome!



3 EDUCATION AND TEACHING

Early childhood education

In Finland, children under school age have the right to early childhood education organised by the city. You can apply for a place in early childhood education at a daycare centre or family day care centre.

You must apply for early childhood education with the city at least four months before your child needs care. If necessary, the child can be arranged a place in early childhood education more quickly, for example, because of starting studies or work. In Riihimäki, early childhood education is subject to a fee. The amount of the payment is influenced by the family's income, the number of family members and the number of hours the child spends in care.

If the child does not need early childhood education, they can participate in the city's open early childhood education together with their guardian. The Aapeli open day care centre (14 Junailijankatu) is open 2 days a week. There you can chat with employees or other parents and your child can play with other children.

You can also apply for a place in a club for your child. The club is held 1–2 times a week at the day care centre on Junailijankatu. Children can stay at the club without their guardian.

More information: tel. +358 40 728 6435 early childhood education service coordination
varhaiskasvatus@riihimaki.fi
riihimaki.fi/en

Preschool education

Before primary school, children participate in preschool education at the age of six. Free preschool education lasts four hours on weekdays. It is organised in Riihimäki by both schools and day-care centres.

In addition to preschool education, you can apply for a place in paid early childhood education for your child.

Primary education

In Finland, children are subject to compulsory education. Compulsory education begins at the age of 7 and ends at the age of 18. When the child's municipality of residence is in Finland, compulsory education also applies to them.

Teaching is free and everyone gets a free school lunch at the school.

If the child does not speak Finnish, they can be referred to preparatory teaching before primary school. The preparatory teaching lasts one year and is intended to strengthen the child's Finnish language skills and help them to study in a Finnish school.

Riihimäki has a total of 10 primary schools. Teaching is also provided in different groups, such as music classes, special classes and preparatory classes.

In Riihimäki, robotics is taught to all children, starting from day care centres.



You can read more about robotics on the city's website.

Transport to school is arranged for the child, if certain conditions are met, including the distance to school. The schools also offer paid afternoon activities for children in 1st and 2nd grades.

The school year is divided into autumn and spring terms in Finland. Schoolchildren have about two weeks of holiday around Christmas and two months of holiday in the summer. In addition, there is one week of holiday in both autumn and spring.

Schools use the digital communication system Wilma to communicate with parents or guardians and students. The school staff will provide advice and help with creating Wilma accounts.

Further information is available from the immigrant education coordinator
+358 40 737 3942 and at riihimaki.fi/en.

Secondary and higher education

After primary school, you can study either at upper secondary school, where you receive general education, or at a vocational school, where you receive training leading to a profession. Upper secondary school and vocational school are secondary schools.

Riihimäki has Riihimäki upper secondary school and Hyria vocational school. In addition, the SYKLI Environmental College offers degree training and shorter courses.

Universities of applied sciences and universities are called higher education. Riihimäki is home to the Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) campus, where students can study, for example, mechanical engineering or robotics in Finnish and English.

More information: riihimaenlukio.fi
hyria.fi
sykli.fi/en
hamk.fi/en

- 
- You can also find information about Finnish public health care on Kela's website at kela.fi and in the suomi.fi service.

SMS numbers for the First line interpretation service can help you if you do not speak Finnish

If you need health services in a language other than Finnish, send a text message to the number. Write the name of your own language in Finnish or English. For example, type "English" or "arabia". The service will call you back with an interpreter to the number you sent the message from.

Check the SMS numbers for different services: omahame.fi/tekstiviestipalvelut

4 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

There is a major restructuring of public healthcare in Finland in progress. For this reason, the contact details of social and health services, such as telephone numbers, may change. You can always find up-to-date information on the OmaHäme website, omahame.fi.

When your municipality of residence is in Finland, you have the right to public social and health services. You pay the same customer fee as the other residents. You also have the right to public health care if you work in Finland. If you are a customer of a reception centre and do not have a municipality of residence, you will receive healthcare services through the reception centre.

Urgent care is provided to everyone in Finland, but you must pay for the care yourself if you are not entitled to public health care.

Many of our social and health services use a callback system. It means you will be called back after your contact.

MyKanta

In MyKanta, you can see your own health information and prescriptions. You can also renew prescriptions in the service. You can log in to MyKanta when you have a Finnish personal identity code and online banking credentials.
kanta.fi/en

First aid and emergency services

Emergency number 112

Call the emergency number in case of an urgent emergency when first aid, police or fire brigade is needed. Do not end the call until you are given permission to do so. Help is also available in English.

More information: 112.fi

Medical helpline 116 117

Call the medical helpline if you are considering going to emergency care or when you need advice on urgent health concerns. The number serves around the clock.

The PULSSI77 emergency care

unit is open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Riihimäki Hospital, Kontiontie 77

Night-time emergency care

Kanta-Häme Central Hospital

Ahvenistontie 20, 13530 Hämeenlinna

Kanta-Häme social and crisis service 24/7

+358 3 629 6560

Non-urgent appointment booking

You can make an appointment with your own nurse or doctor by calling the team number of your place of residence. See the details at omahame.fi or call **+358 3 6291**.

Omaolo

In the Omaolo service, you can estimate your need for treatment and the urgency of your case based on symptoms. If necessary, you will receive self-care instructions, or the service will tell you who to contact in order to receive the necessary treatment. You do not need online banking credentials to use the service.

omaolo.fi **Pharmacy**

In Finland, medicines are only sold in pharmacies. Some of the medicines are so-called over-the-counter medicines, which you can buy without a prescription. The pharmacy will also give you advice on self-treatment and information about medicines.

Mental health and substance abuse services

Call the First Line of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services if you need advice or an assessment of the need for treatment.

tel. +358 36 296 571

The Health Chat is available at
omahame.fi/mielenterveyspalvelut

Oral and dental care

Public health care also provides oral and dental care. You can get non-urgent treatment in approximately one month, and urgent first aid is arranged in three working days, usually on the same day.

Non-urgent oral health care advice and appointment booking

tel. +358 36 296 301 (Mon–Fri 8am–3pm)
Dental clinic at Riihimäki Health Centre
Kalliokatu 10–16 B

Urgent oral health care First line

tel. +358 36 296 300 (Mon–Fri 8am–3pm)
Emergency care in the evenings, on weekends and on public holidays only for patients requiring urgent care

Kanta-Häme Central Hospital,
Ahvenistontie 20, Hämeenlinna,
tel. +358 40 620 5664 (Mon–Fri 3 p.m.–9 p.m.,
Sat–Sun 8 a.m.–9 p.m.)

Maternity and child health clinic

The services are free of charge. The maternity and child health clinic offers support for pregnancy and childbirth as well as everyday life with the baby. The family planning unit handles matters related to pregnancy prevention.

First line of the maternity and child health clinic

tel. +358 36 296 200 (Mon, Wed, Thu 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Tue, Fri 8 a.m.–9 p.m.)
Riihimäki maternity and child health clinic,
Kallionkatu 10–16 E

Neuvola chat

omahame.fi/aitiys-ja-lastenneuvolapalvelut
You can ask for advice or book an appointment at the child health clinic. Booking an appointment requires electronic identification, which means that you must have online banking credentials.

Remember to apply for parental allowance and the maternity package from Kela in advance. **kela.fi/en**

Disability services

If you have a disability or long-term illness and you cannot find the services you need, contact the First line for disability social services.

First line for disability social services

tel. +358 3 296 578 (Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–12 noon)

Services for the elderly

Services for the elderly include diverse support and rehabilitation services. Riksula has an open, free meeting place where you can come for a coffee or participate in various clubs.

Family work

The services for children, young people and families are aimed at strengthening the well-being of families with children. Family work supports and helps in difficult everyday situations.

Adult social work

Adult social work helps and supports you if you have problems in everyday life, are in a crisis, do not have a job or home, are in debt or have a substance abuse problem. The social welfare office also provides information on income support, family support, services for the disabled, services for the elderly and substance abuse work.

First line of adult social work

tel. +358 3 629 6566 (Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–11 a.m.)

Adult social work chat

omahame.fi /aikuissosiaalityochat
(Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–3 p.m.)

SMS numbers of the First line interpretation service

The SMS numbers are intended for people with hearing and speech impairments and those who need interpretation. SMS numbers can be found for the following services, among others:

Adult social work

Assistive device centre

Elderly people

Rehabilitation

Service counselling for families with children

Mental health and substance abuse services

Medical helpline 116117

Oral health (urgent and non-urgent care)

Health centres, non-urgent care

Social work for the disabled

Maternity and child health clinic

omahame.fi/tekstiviestipalvelut

Student care

In Finland, the well-being of schoolchildren is taken care of by student care. The services are free of charge and the schools have regular health check-ups. The services include school health care, school counsellor's and school psychologist's services and, in upper secondary schools, the services of a psychiatric nurse and physiotherapist.

You can ask the school curator for help if you are a schoolchild yourself or if you are concerned for your child who is attending school. The school curator provides support with studying at the school and social growth.



RIIHIMÄKI

riihimaki.fi



LINKS

Finnish Immigration Service Migri | migri.fi/en

Finnish Digital and Population Data Agency | dvv.fi

Kela, the National Pension Institution of Finland | kela.fi/en

Suomi.fi service | suomi.fi

Infoblinland.fi | infofinland.fi (information in several languages)

Employment area services | tyomarkkinatori.fi/en/personal-customers and
ehtapalvelut.fi/en

Tax Office | vero.fi/en/individuals

City of Riihimäki | riihimaki.fi/en

Health and social services, OmaHäme | omahame.fi

Production & Layout: TK mediatalo

Printing: UPC, Vaasa

Photos: Jenniina Nummela, Mikko Käkälä

Texts: Marjaana Tunturi, TK mediatalo

Translation: LanguageWire

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