

# Returning to Jamaica



Hibiscus Initiatives provide advocacy, support and specialist services to marginalised migrants affected by the criminal justice and immigration systems to enable informed choices and positive change. We promote justice and respect to reduce inequalities.

### **The charity's work falls within four broad categories:**

- Community and prisons
- International resettlement and detention services
- Anti-trafficking
- Volunteering and mentoring

The international resettlement programme provides a support service to clients to facilitate their reintegration into the community in their country of origin.

Through providing resettlement related support and practical assistance we aim to ensure the smoothest possible transition for our clients returning to their home countries. Often this can mean signposting to organisations providing support, finding accommodation, getting identification documents and passports back, helping with internal travel, liaison with families and providing resettlement grants to aid small business start-ups.

Our work is important to clients that have exhausted their rights to be in the UK, those that wish to depart voluntarily, or those who are being deported at the end of serving a sentence for a criminal offence.

### **Contact us**

If you would like to know more about Hibiscus Initiatives, receive support, or know a friend or family member who may need our assistance, please contact:

#### **Hibiscus Initiatives**

Resource for London  
356 Holloway Road  
London N7 6PA

**Email:** [info@hibiscus.org.uk](mailto:info@hibiscus.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.hibiscusinitiatives.org.uk>

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# Introduction

This booklet has been designed to provide you with information that will help ease your return to Jamaica. Inside it you will find useful general information about your return, what to expect and a list of contact details of organisations that may be able to help with any resettlement related issues you encounter.



# Planning for your return

The more planning that is done for your return to Jamaica, the easier it will be for you to benefit from support services when you arrive. There are a number of things to think about before you depart the UK, such as: who will meet you at the airport? Where will you stay? Can family or friends support you emotionally, financially or help you to familiarise yourself with life in Jamaica?

Before your departure, you may want to consider:

## Medication

It is important to talk to your doctor before leaving for Jamaica. If you are currently taking medication, your doctor should be able to advise you on how to source further medication. It might be beneficial for you to request a letter from a GP or doctor, detailing your condition. The more information you have about your medical condition, the easier it will be to continue treatment after your arrival.

## Family and friends

If you have family or friends living in Jamaica, you may wish to tell them of your arrival in case they can support you with your immediate needs upon your return. Try to take their contact details with you to the airport so that you can contact them on arrival or before you leave.

The British Red Cross provides a free service aimed at restoring contact between families that have been separated. You may access this programme by directly contacting them at:

**Address:** British Red Cross, UK Office, 44 Moorfields, London EC2Y 9AL

**Email:** [contactus@redcross.org.uk](mailto:contactus@redcross.org.uk)

**Phone:** +44 (0)344 871 1111

**Website:** [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)

## Faith-based organisations

There may be faith-based organisations in the UK that can suggest avenues of support and places of worship where you will be returning. Faith-based organisations can often provide essential basic support to those of all faiths or with no faith. A good place to start would be to contact members of your local community or faith-based leaders. It is advisable to make enquiries with these organisations or communities early on so that suitable arrangements can be made for you.



# What to expect on arrival

## Arrival at the airport

Once you have disembarked from the aircraft you will be taken to the airport where administrative services will be carried out for your re-entry into Jamaica.

Now that you are in Jamaica, you may want to start thinking about being reunited with family and friends, finding a job, getting a new ID and so on.



# Transport

The main point of entries to Jamaica are Montego Bay's Sangster International Airport (MBJ) and Kingston's Norman Manley International Airport (KIN).

## Taxis

Taxi services are available from both MBJ and KIN airports. There are two types of taxis that are available, both of which are recognised by their red licence plates.

Licensed taxis or 'contract carriages' can be expensive, but you have the option to share with other passengers to reduce the cost.

'Route Taxis' are white station wagons which have their name on the front door of the vehicle. They are a popular and affordable mode of transport in Jamaica and run along set routes, picking up and dropping off passengers along the way. Route taxis charge J\$180 to J\$300 per 50km, with short rides of around 10 minutes costing J\$130.

## Buses

Kingston's municipal bus system operates large yellow buses around the country. Standard fares are from J\$100, with students, children, disabled passengers and pensioners paying half the fare. Buses and minibuses charge roughly J\$130 per 50km.



# Essential information & important documents

## ID cards

Jamaica's identification system is currently being updated. The new system being developed by the Jamaican government will be a digitally-based system called the National Identification System (NIDS).

At the time this booklet was published (Autumn 2021), the NIDS had not yet been put in place and other forms of ID, such as the voters ID, were still being accepted.

### **To be eligible for a voters ID you must:**

- be aged 18 years or over and a resident or Commonwealth citizen in Jamaica
- be a resident in Jamaica at the date of registration
- have been a resident for at least 12 months prior to the date of registration
- be clear of any legal restrictions and have the capacity to make informed decisions

### **To apply for a voters ID:**

- Visit the Electoral commission of Jamaica (EOJ) office preferably in your constituency and take your birth certificate with you.
- At the office, the registration clerk will assist you in filling out a Registration Record Card (RRC). This form is used to record your demographic information, photograph and fingerprints.
- After you have filled out the application, EOJ representatives will visit your residence at a later date to verify the address you have provided in order to complete the registration process. Once your address has been verified, your application is approved.

- The EOJ representatives will then verify your information and cross check your fingerprints to ensure there are no duplications.
- Once these checks are complete, your name is added to the voter's list and your voters ID card will be issued on May 31st or November 30th (when the next voters list is published).

For more information on the process visit:

<https://ecj.com.jm/voters/voter-information/registration-procedures/>.

### **Taxpayer Registration Number (TRN)**

If you are a tax payer, business enterprise or organisation, you will be assigned a TRN to enable you to carry out transactions with institutions such as banks, schools and examination boards.

To apply you will need your birth certificate, a passport sized photograph, and a completed application form available from the following website: <https://www.jamaicatax.gov.jm/>.

### **National Insurance Scheme (NIS)**

This social security scheme is compulsory for everyone aged 18 years and above. It offers financial protection in cases resulting in loss of income following an injury at work, incapacity or retirement. The insured person is also financially covered by the scheme in the event of their death.

To apply you will need your TRN card and a completed NIS application form available from the following website: <https://www.mlss.gov.jm/>.

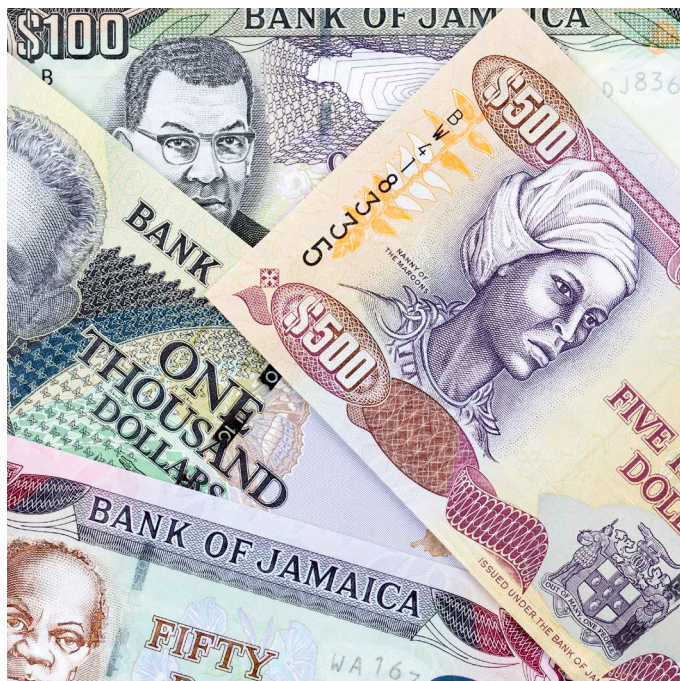


## Opening a bank account

When opening a bank account in Jamaica, you will need to provide the bank with documentation to prove your identity and residency. If you do not have the required documents specified by the bank, you may request to speak to the bank manager to discuss your individual circumstances and the possibilities of starting the process.

You may be asked to provide the following documents:

- Photo ID such as a passport or national identity card
- Documents that prove your address (rental contract or recent utility bills)
- Two passport-sized photographs
- Tax Registration Number (TRN)
- Two references (their name, contact number and occupation)
- Opening deposit (amount specified by the bank)



## Driving licence

To obtain a driving licence in Jamaica, you will first need to apply for a learner's licence. To do this you must visit your local tax office and provide two passport sized photographs and pay a fee.

To obtain a full driving licence, you will be required to successfully complete a written and practical driving test. More information can be found on the following website: <https://www.jamaicatax.gov.jm/motor-vehicle-driver-s-licence1>.

# Accommodation

If you are unable to stay with family and friends you may be able to find temporary emergency accommodation from the organisations below:

## Open Arms Drop-in Centre

This organisation provides emergency short-term accommodation for returnees as well as skills training and income generating programmes.

**Address:** 16½ Windward Road, Kingston 2

**Phone:** +1 876 938 1757

**Email:** [openarmsja@yahoo.com](mailto:openarmsja@yahoo.com)

## Open Heart Charitable Mission

They provide emergency short-term accommodation for returnees and those facing homelessness, destitution and drug addiction. Their programmes include support around health, training and employment.

**Address:** 2a Lawrence Lane, Montego Bay

**Phone:** +1 876 971 5625 or +1 876 971 9097

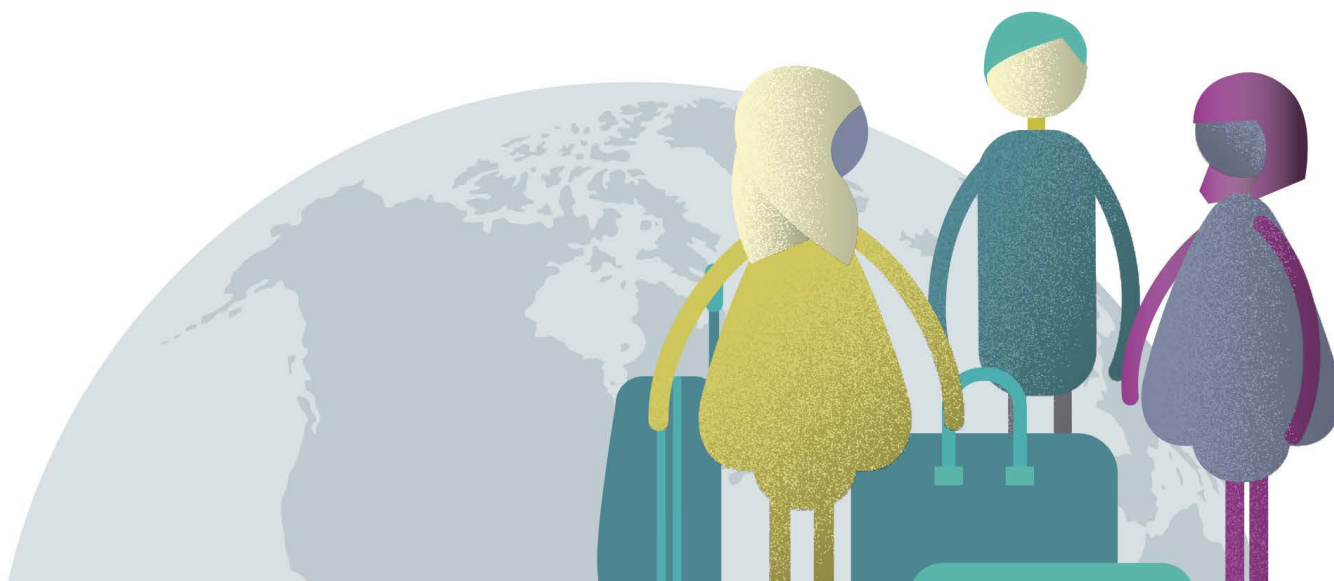
Other short-term accommodation can be booked from various providers on the following websites:

[www.hostelworld.com](http://www.hostelworld.com)

[www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com)

[www.expedia.com/Hotels](http://www.expedia.com/Hotels)

[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)



# Healthcare

## Overview

Healthcare in Jamaica is free to all registered citizens and a wide range of services and care are provided at government run hospitals and healthcare facilities.

There are many hospitals and clinics in Jamaica, many of which are public institutions. Private Doctors are also widely available as long as you have the funds or insurance to cover the cost. The Ministry of Health provides information about health awareness and promotes wellbeing in the country. A list of healthcare programmes and services can be found on their website:

**Phone:** +1 876 633 7433

**Website:** <https://www.moh.gov.jm/>

## Sexual and reproductive health

There are a large number and variety of contraceptive methods available, including condoms, birth control pills, IUDs, implants, vaginal rings and sterilisation.

Contraceptives (birth control) can be purchased over the counter across Jamaica. Emergency contraceptives are also available to purchase in Jamaica, however the cost is high and you have to ensure they are purchased from a reliable supplier.

### Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

This organisation provides programmes to encourage young mothers to pursue an education. Their programmes include counselling sessions, vocational training as well as advice on empowerment, sexual health and family planning.

**Address:** 42 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 10

**Phone:** +1 876 929 7608 or +1 876 929 0977

**Email:** [womenscentre@cwjamaica.com](mailto:womenscentre@cwjamaica.com)

### Jamaica Family Planning Association (FAMPLAN)

FAMPLAN provide contraceptive services in Jamaica. They provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive services especially for young people and those from vulnerable communities.

**Address:** Lenworth Jacobs Clinic, 65 East Street, Kingston

**Phone:** +1 876 922 8724

**Website:** <https://famplan.wordpress.com/>

## List of hospitals

Public hospitals in Kingston that provide free healthcare:

### Kingston Public Hospital

**Address:** North St, Kingston

**Phone:** +1 876 922 0210

### Bustamante Children's Hospital

**Address:** 5 Arthur Wint Dr, Kingston

**Phone:** +1 876 968 0300

### Bellevue Hospital

**Address:** 16 ½ Windward Road, Kingston

**Phone:** +1 876 928 1380

## Psychosocial counselling

There are organisations that provide support and counselling services across Jamaica.

Services include mental health support, assistance for those who have experienced domestic violence and outreach services.

### Women Incorporated

This organisation based in Kingston and Montego Bay provides a crisis centre and temporary accommodation, counselling for those who have experienced domestic and sexual violence and a 24 hour support hotline.

#### Kingston

**Address:** 4 Ellesmere Road, Kingston 10

**Phone:** +1 876 929 9038

**Email:** [wicrisiscentre@yahoo.com](mailto:wicrisiscentre@yahoo.com)

**Website:** <https://womanincja.org/>

#### Montego Bay

**Address:** 53 St. James Street, Montego Bay

**Phone:** +1 876 952 9533

### Stella Maris Foundation

They can help you access basic healthcare, counselling and outreach services. The organisation also offer individuals skills training workshops, education and employment opportunities.

**Address:** 1 Grants Pen Road, Kingston 08

**Phone:** +1 876 941 2000

**Email:** [stellamarisfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:stellamarisfoundation@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://stellamarisfoundation.yolasite.com/>

### RISE Life Management Services

RISE is a civil society organisation offering an outpatient treatment centre for those with addictions. Their services include a telephone helpline providing free, confidential 24/7 advice and counselling services for those affected directly or indirectly by substance misuse. They also offer telephone counselling services specifically for children up to the age of 18 years old, called Childline Jamaica.

**Phone:** +1 876 967 3777 or +1 888 991 4146 (helpline)

**Phone:** +1 888 444 5556 (Childline Jamaica)

**Email:** [rise@cwjamaica.com](mailto:rise@cwjamaica.com)

**Website:** [www.risejamaica.org](http://www.risejamaica.org)

### Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health runs a mental health unit which provides a range of services to those affected by mental health issues. Their website has details on various clinics and programmes available across the country.

**Phone:** +1 876 930 1152 (emergency helpline)

**Website:** [www.moh.gov.jm/divisions-agencies/divisions/mental-health-unit/](http://www.moh.gov.jm/divisions-agencies/divisions/mental-health-unit/)

# Education & employment

## Education

The Jamaican education system provides free compulsory primary education for children up to 11 years of age.

Following this, there are optional further levels of education available: secondary school (11-16 years of age), post-secondary education (16-18 years of age) and tertiary education (18 years of age and above). Tertiary education is provided through the main universities and a number of colleges.

The National Training Agency is responsible for vocational education in Jamaica. This is provided through state-run training centres and private academies. Young people aged between 15-24 years of age can access training and advice via the following organisation:

### National Centre for Youth Development (NCYB)

This organisation is part of the Ministry of Youth and Culture and offers advice and information on training programmes, finding employment, as well as providing counselling services.

**Phone:** +1 876 922 1400 or +1 876 612 5900

**Website:** [www.youthjamaica.com/contact](http://www.youthjamaica.com/contact)

## Employment and training

Various organisations across the country provide adult education, skills-based training programmes, CV writing workshops and assistance preparing for job interviews.

Visit the following websites to find more information about some of the educational programmes and support available for adults:

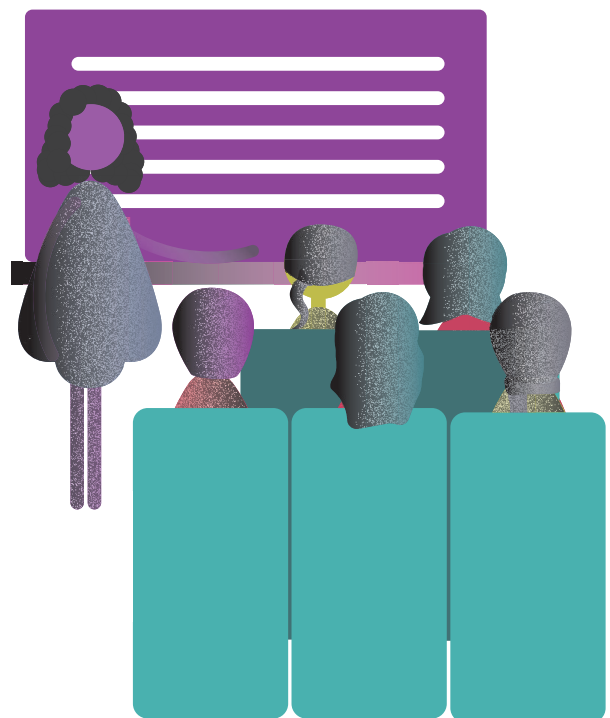
### Jamaican Foundation for Lifelong Learning

**Website:** <https://jfl.gov.jm/>

### Labour Market Information System (LMIS)

**Website:** [www.lmis.gov.jm/](http://www.lmis.gov.jm/)

Vocational training opportunities are available in Jamaica. The Vocational Training Development Institute website provides information on courses available. The website is available here: <https://vtdi.heart-nta.org/>.



# Useful information

## Cost of living

Food	Price (Jamaican Dollar, J\$)
Bread 1 loaf	360.87
Milk 1 litre	383.46
Water 1.5 litre bottle	149.17
Rice 1kg	134.84
Eggs 12	383.58
Cheese 1kg	1,319.82
Chicken breasts 1kg	646.2
Beef 1kg	835.58
Potatoes 1kg	347.68
Onions 1kg	380.57
Lettuce	224.52
Tomatoes 1kg	282.85
Oranges 1kg	366.97
Apples 1kg	839.91
Bananas 1kg	368.92
Transport	
One way ticket (local transport)	100.00
Monthly pass	5,000.00
Taxi 1km	355.34
Taxi 1 hour	1,400.00
Others	
1 min. of prepaid mobile tariff (local)	9.33
Internet (60 mbps or more, unlimited data)	5,600.38
Formula milk	5,425.00
Nappies	1,114.00
Salaries	
Average monthly net salary (after tax)	94,543.58

Correct in December 2021

## Significant dates and public holidays

Date	Holiday name
1st January	New Year's Day
Varies every year	Ash Wednesday
Varies every year	Good Friday
Varies every year	Easter Monday
23rd May	Labour Day
1st August	Emancipation Day
6th August	Independence Day
Varies every year	Heroes Day
25th December	Christmas Day
26th December	Boxing Day
31st December	New Year's Eve
25th December	Christmas Day

Shops and public services may be closed on these dates (some dates subject to change).

## Emergency contact numbers

**Police:** 112  
**Ambulance and Fire:** 110 and 119

# Useful contacts

## National Organization of Deported Migrants (NODM)

They provide meet and greet services for non-voluntary returnees from the UK, as well as onward travel to your home. They offer advice and guidance to help returnees with resettlement in Jamaica and can assist with emergency accommodation.

**Address:** 56 Lyndhurst Road, Shop 19, Kingston 5

**Phone:** +1 876 592 1301

**Email:** [nodmjamaica@gmail.com](mailto:nodmjamaica@gmail.com)

**Website:** [info@nodm.org](mailto:info@nodm.org)

## Salvation Army

They assist with a wide range of support services such as counselling for individuals and family units. Additionally they offer free meals to those in need, emergency accommodation and needs based financial grants.

**Address:** 3 Waterloo Road, Kingston 10

**Phone:** +1 876 929 6190

## International Organization for Migration (IOM)

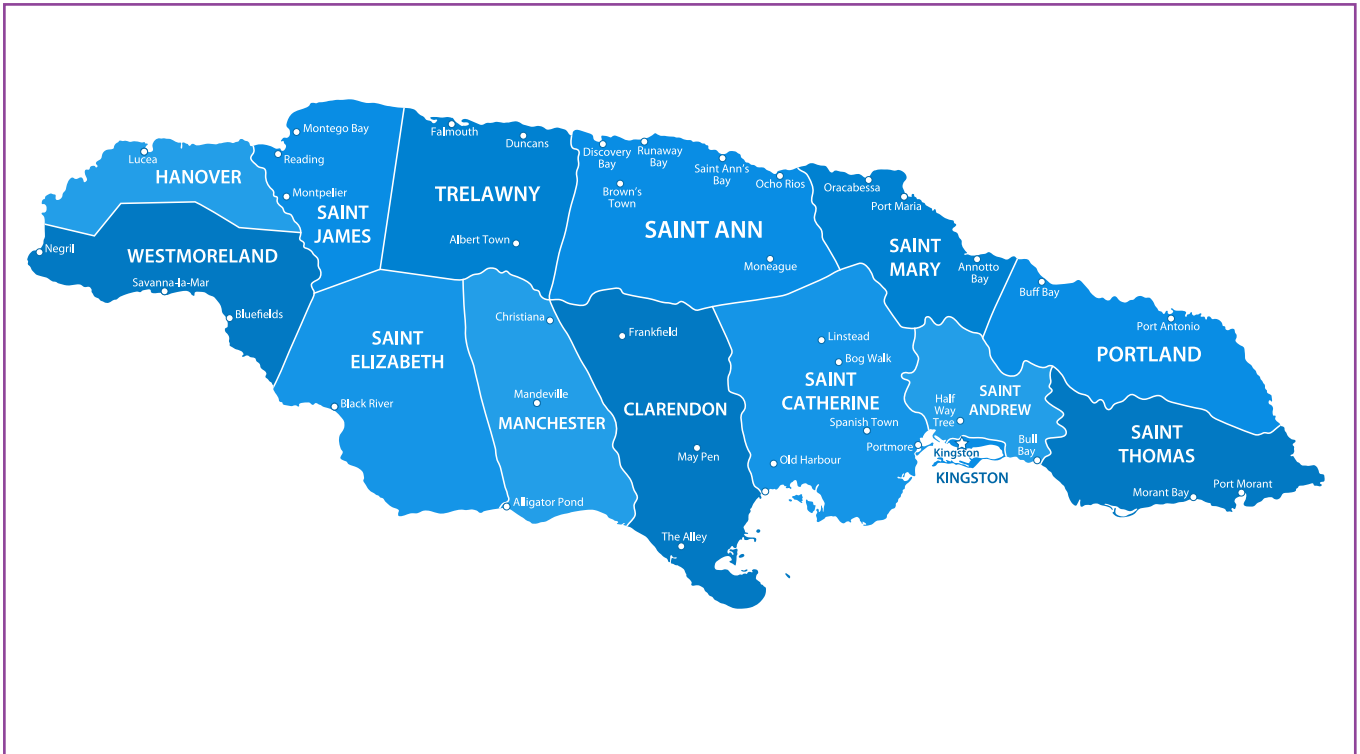
The IOM offers resettlement and reintegration support to those returning to Jamaica.

**Address:** 25 Dominica Drive, The Towers, 6th floor, Kingston 5

**Phone:** +1 876 968 0569

**Email:** [iomkingston@iom.int](mailto:iomkingston@iom.int)

# Map of Jamaica





# Disclaimer

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