

Ability Guidebooks
presents
Explore Helsinki, Finland!



I Am Going To The Ateneum!

A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit The Ateneum Art Museum

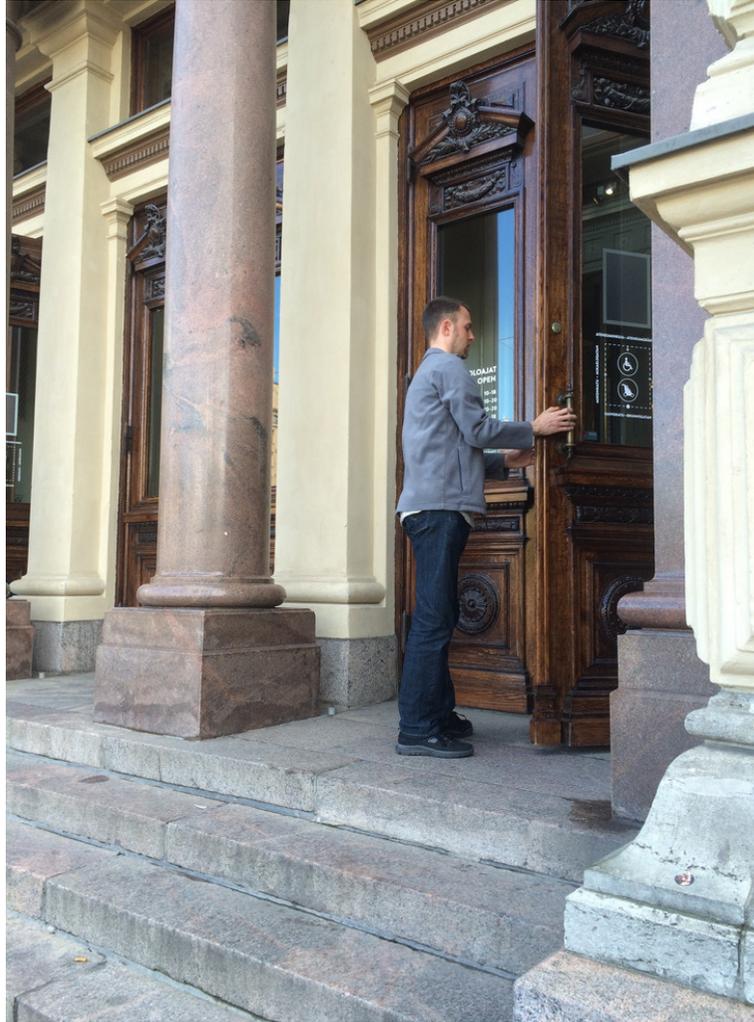
by
Brett Bigham

The Ateneum is a famous museum in Helsinki. Some of the best art in Finland is in this museum



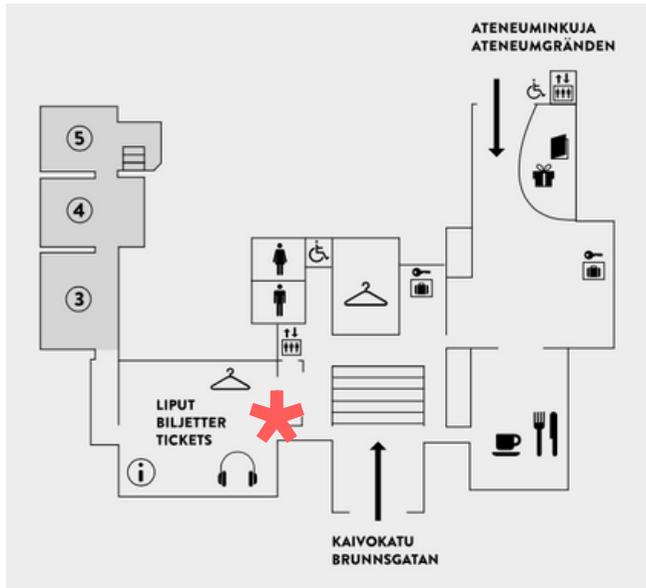
The street in front of the museum is very busy! You must be very careful crossing the street. See these people? They are waiting for the crosswalk light to turn green before they cross. Stay with your group!

This is the door to the museum. This man likes to see the art so he is going inside to buy a ticket.

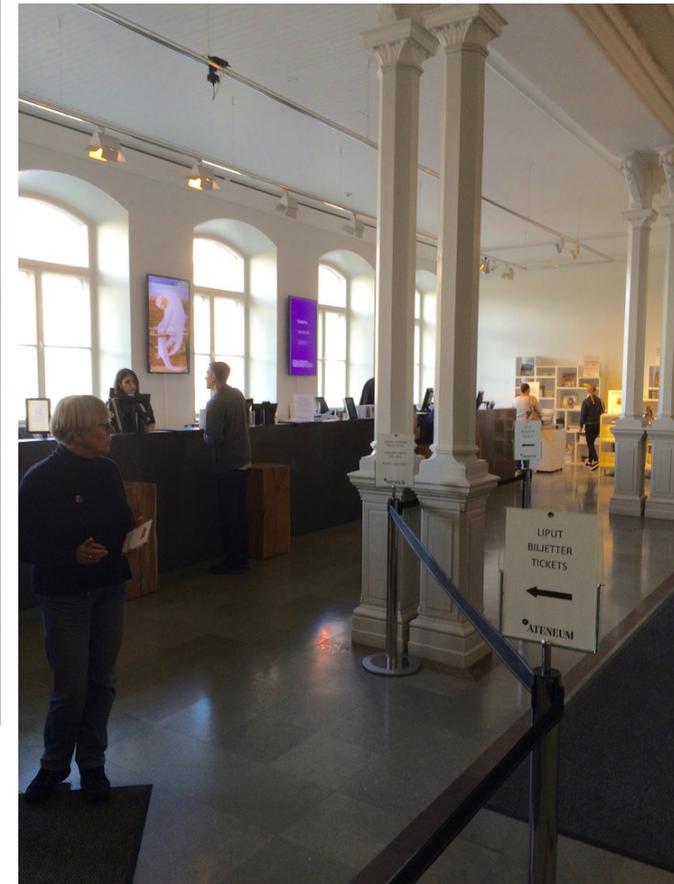


He knows that museums are serious places and that there are rules to follow. He knows to walk and to use a quiet voice!

**The door to buy tickets is to the left.
Go inside to get your ticket.**



Go ahead and get in line!

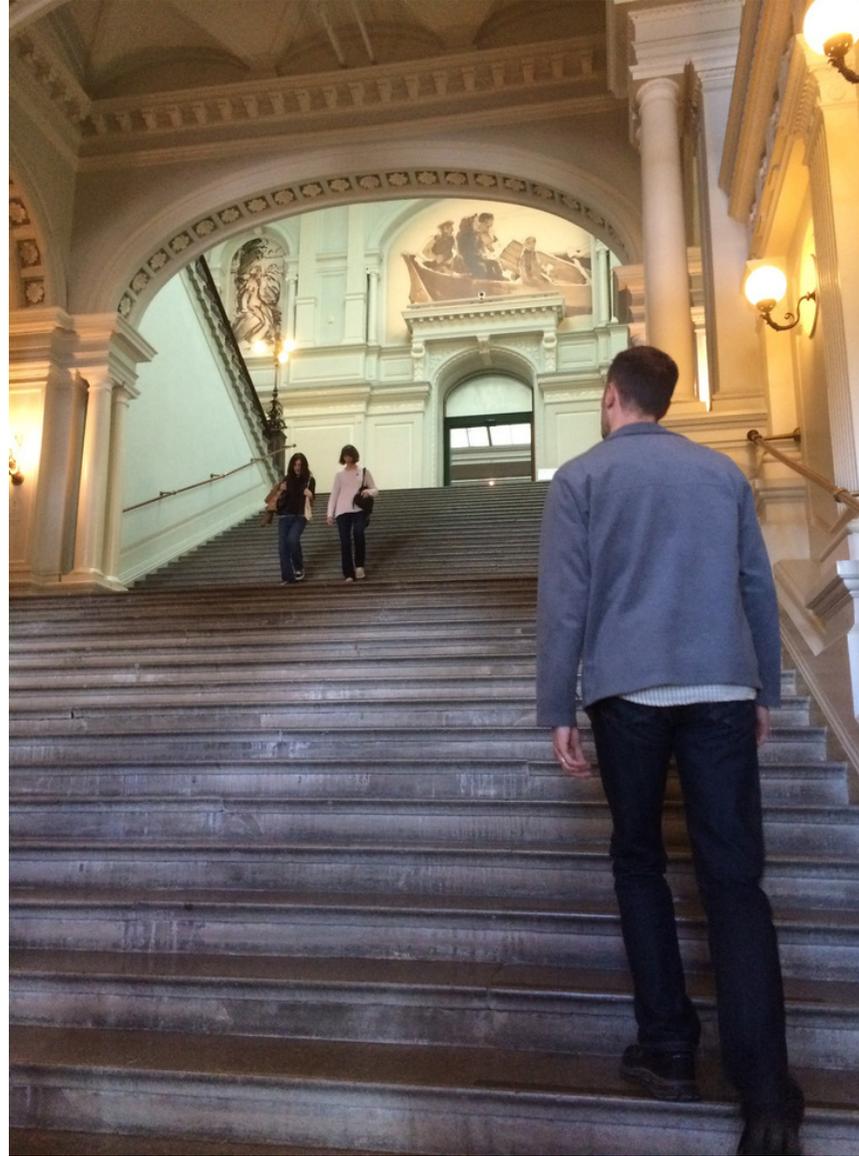


You will get a receipt and a sticker to put on your shirt. Can you guess why they want you to put a sticker on your shirt?



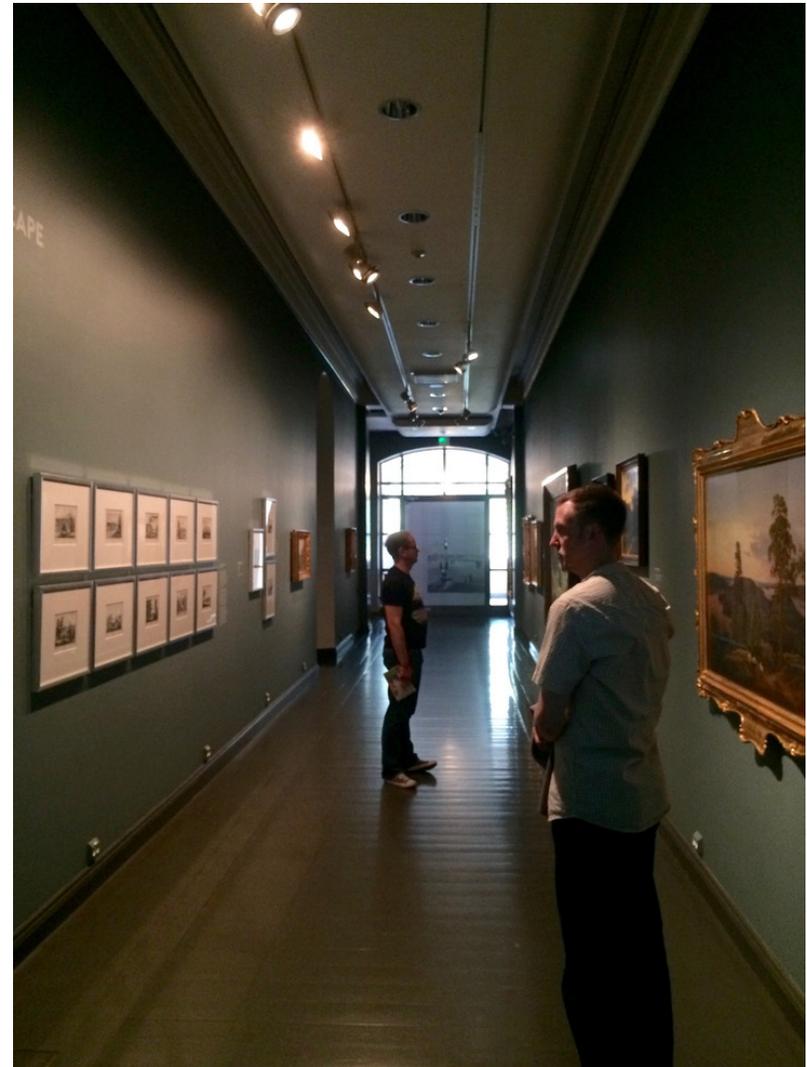
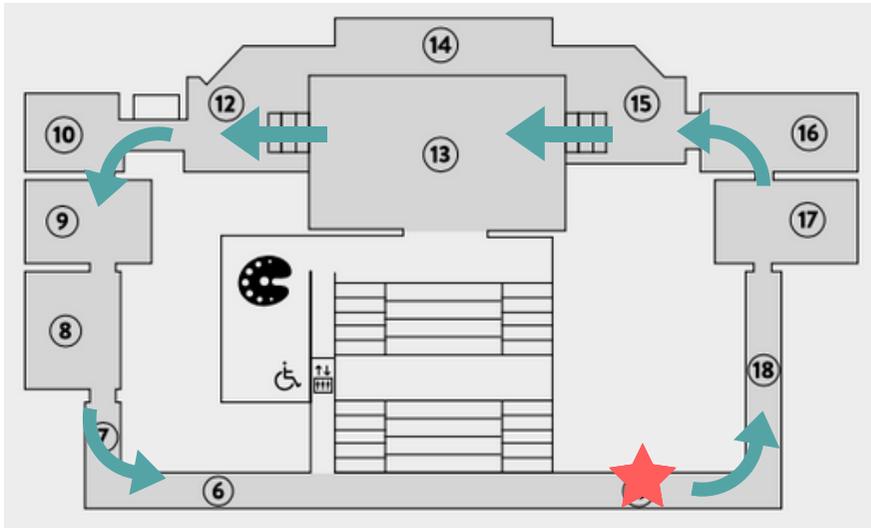
The sticker lets the guards know that you got a ticket!

Once you have a sticker on your shirt you can walk up the stairs to see the art. Don't run!



There are also elevators if you don't use stairs!

The second floor has paintings and sculpture. There are many rooms so stay with your group.



The most important rule to remember is DON'T TOUCH THE ART!

Each room has many paintings. Take your time and look to find your favorite painting!



This lady decided she needed to take a break. She sat down on a bench and is studying the art.

This man found his favorite painting. He is taking his time to get a very good look at it.

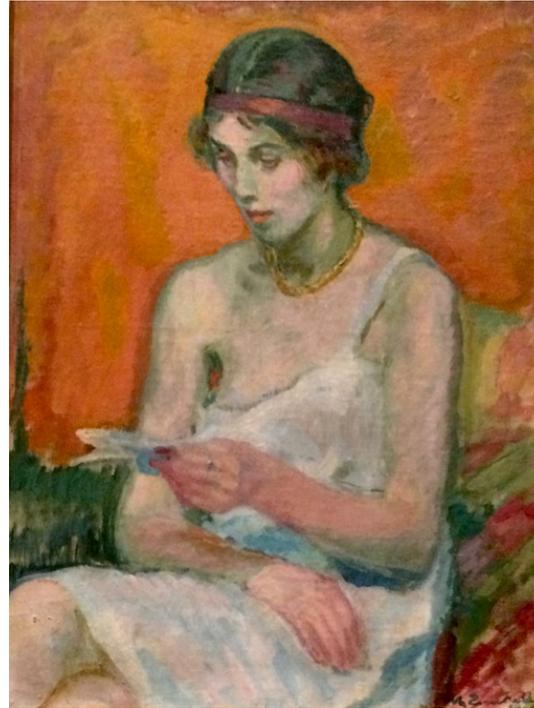


The man follows the rules and does not get too close to the paintings. It is OK to look but not to touch!

These are some paintings you will see by Finnish artists.



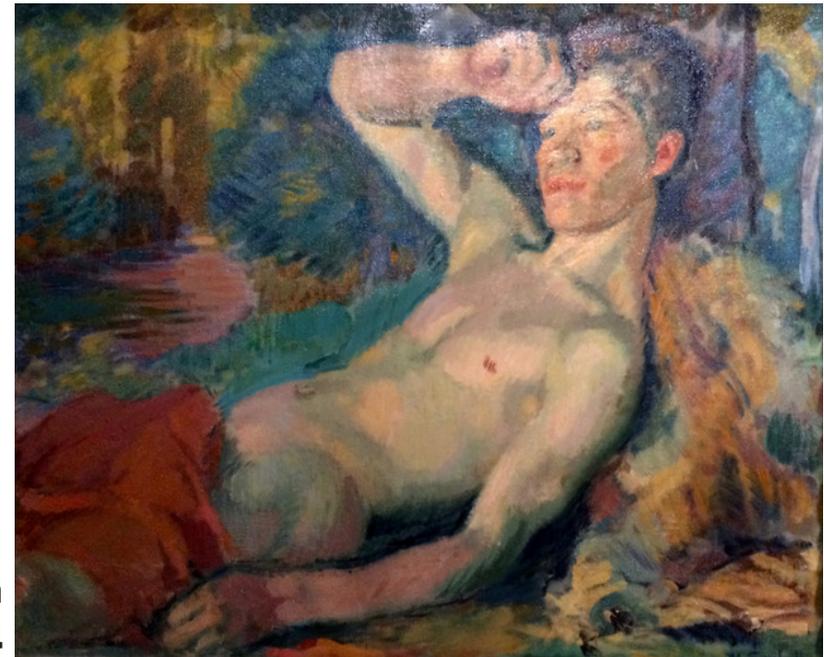
Winter Landscape, after the sunset
-Fanny Churberg 1880



Woman in her Petticoat
-Magnus Enckell 1912



Boys Playing On The Shore
-Albert Edelfelt 1884



Awakening Faun
-Magnus Enckell 1914

There are also statues in the museum. You can look and stand close but don't touch the statues!



Sometimes there are tour groups in the museum. You might be part of a group too. Sometimes you have to wait your turn to stand in front of a painting.



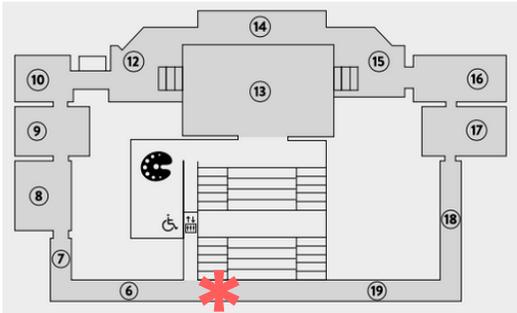
Take a minute to rest if you are feeling tired. These ladies got tired of the crowd so they sat down for a break.

This long hallway only has self-portraits!



Maybe you will see someone who looks like you!

When you have come all the way around to the stairways it is time to go upstairs to the third floor!



These people are following the rules and walking up the stairs.

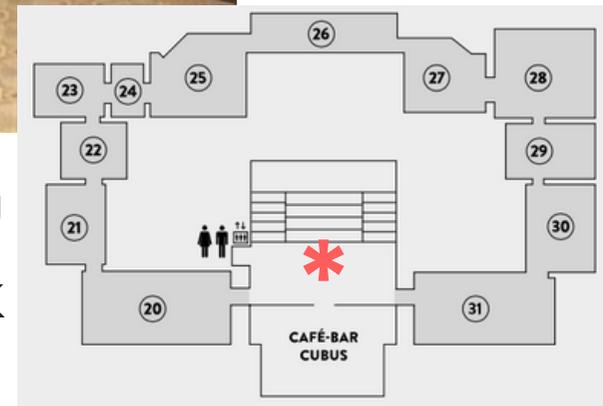


They are having a very good time at the museum.

At the top of the stairs is another place you can sit and take a break. This man and this girl both decided to take a break.



There is also a cafe on this floor if you need a snack or a drink

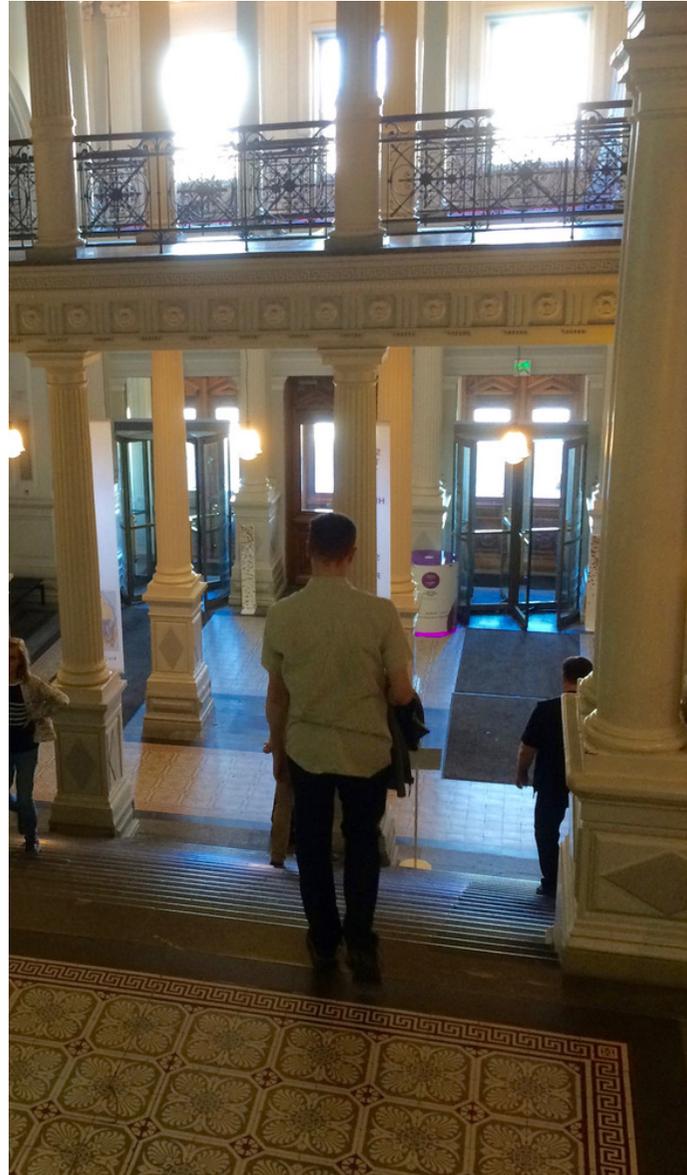


Have fun at the Alteneum Art Museum. I know you will see some art that you really like.



Remember to take your time, sit and rest if you need a break and have a good time!

When you are done looking around on the third floor you can just walk down the same stairs you walked up.



Be careful on the street when you exit the building!

Tips For Visiting the Ateneum Art Museum.

The Ateneum is near Helsinki Central railway station. Be prepared for the busiest place in Finland! Traffic zips down the street between the Ateneum and the train station. Make sure your students are ready with good street-crossing skills!

If new situations are difficult for you or your students I'd suggest just visiting the area in advance and take a walk around Rautatientori square. If you segment your trip, giving the student a chance to learn each step of the trip in advance, they will be building on their prior successes. Trip three to the train station might be a piece of cake and then you can add the museum to your outing.

Be prepared for nudity in the museum. If a museum includes nudity I try to include it in the books so that parents and teachers have a chance to address it beforehand.

Noted works of the Ateneum collection:

Vincent Van Gogh's Street in Auvers-sur-Oise (1890)

Paul Cézanne's The Road Bridge at L'Estaque (1879/1882)

Amedeo Modigliani's Portrait of the Artist Leopold Survage (1918)

Akseli Gallen-Kallela's Aino Myth, Triptych (1891)

Eero Järnefelt's The Yoke (Burning the Brushwood) (1893)

Edgar Degas' Woman Caught Unawares: Woman Taken (1919)

Joan Miró's People in the Garden (1951)



**Marc Chagall
The Mandolin Player (1914)**

You can buy tickets and print maps in advance on the museum's website. The museum shop sells postcards of the collection and make great souvenirs!

Ability Guidebooks are step-by-step instructions on how to access community destinations. For many people with autism and neuro-diversity, new situations can cause stress and discomfort. Ability Guidebooks help prepare people for new experiences. This is why I emphasize the places to sit and areas to relax.

This book will also help general ed teachers prepare their young students for a visit to the museum.



Can You Translate?

If you can translate this book into Finnish or any other language I would love to hear from you!

Brett Bigham is the 2014 Oregon State Teacher of the Year and an NEA National Award for Teaching Excellence winner. Bigham is the first Oregon Special Education teacher to win these awards.

Bigham was named a Global Fellow by the NEA Foundation and traveled to Peru as an ambassador of that program. This allowed Bigham to create his first international Ability Guidebook for the Museo de Inka in Cusco, Peru. He has since made books for Greece, Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Montenegro.

Text and Photos by Brett Bigham unless otherwise noted.

**Thank you to the city of Helsinki and the staff of the Ateneum Art Museum.
Special thanks to Mike for giving up part of his weekend for proofreading.**

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