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Zhytomyr

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 50°15′0″N 28°40′0″E﻿ / ﻿

Zhytomyr (**Ukrainian:** Жито́мир pronounced [ʒɪˈtɔmɪr], **Russian:** Жито́мир, *Zhitomir*, **Polish:** *Żytomierz*, **Yiddish:** זײַטאָמיר, *Zhitomir*) is a **city** in the North of the western half of **Ukraine**. It is the **administrative center** of the **Zhytomyr Oblast** (**province**), as well as the administrative center of the surrounding **Zhytomyr Raion** (**district**). Note that the city of Zhytomyr is not a part of the Zhytomyr raion: the city itself is designated as its own separate raion within the oblast; moreover Zhytomyr consists of two so-called "raions in a city": the Bohunskyy raion and the Koroliivskyy raion (named in honour of **Sergey Korolyov**). Zhytomyr is located at around 50°16′N 28°40′E﻿ / ﻿, occupying an area of 65 km² (25 sq mi).

The current estimated population is 277,900 (as of 2005).

Zhytomyr is a major transportation hub. The city lies on a historic route linking the city of **Kiev** with the west through **Brest**. Today it links **Warsaw** with Kiev, **Minsk** with **Izmail**, and several major cities of Ukraine. Zhytomyr was also the location of **Ozerne** (**airbase**), a key **Cold War** strategic aircraft base located 11 km (6.8 mi) southeast of the city.

Important economic activities of Zhytomyr include lumber milling, food processing, granite quarrying, metalworking, and the manufacture of musical instruments.^[1]

Zhytomyr Oblast is the main center of the **Polish minority in Ukraine**, and in the city itself there is a large **Roman-Catholic** Polish cemetery, founded in 1800. It is regarded as the third biggest Polish cemetery beyond borders of Poland, behind the **Lychakivskiy Cemetery** in **Lviv** and **Rossa Cemetery** in **Vilnius**.

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Geography [edit]

Zhytomyr lies in a unique natural setting; all sides of the city are surrounded by ancient **forests** through which flow the **Teteriv**, **Kamianka**, **Kroshenka** and **Putiatynka rivers**. The Teteriv river generally forms the southern boundary of Zhytomyr, though there are also some small areas of Zhytomyr city territory below the southern bank of the river. The city is rich in **parks** and **public squares**.

Zhytomyr is set out on a mostly radial type of **street** net with the centre at the main public square of the city, named *Maidan Soborny* (or *Soborny Square*, which means *Cathedral Square*). A building containing **courts** and some other institutions is located in the west of the square. Before 1991, this building contained Zhytomyr Oblast Committee of the **Communist Party**. Just behind the building (that is to the west of Soborny Square) a small quiet park is located, bearing the name of *Zamkova Gora* (*Castle Mountain*) and containing a monument-type boulder with an inscription stating that this is a place where Zhytomyr was founded. This historical centre of Zhytomyr is located in the southern part of the city. The old part of Zhytomyr is located on three rocky hills over the river **Kamenka**: **Okhrimova**, **Zamkova**, and **Petrovska**.

The old town is surrounded by new housing estates, the names of which are often borrowed from the former suburban villages or reflect the longstanding occupations common in these places. The main streets connecting Soborny Maidan with the outskirts of Zhytomyr are **Kyivska Street** or **Kiev Street** (going to northeast, to the **railway station** and also to the main **bus station** of the city), **Velyka Berdychivska Street** (going to **southeast**), **Czerniachowski Street** (going southwest, to **beaches** and a forest-type park near the river of Teteriv), and **Peremohy Street** (going north).

The best-known street in the central part of Zhytomyr is **Mykhailivska** (named after **St. Michael's Church** located at the northern end of the street). The street is located about **500 metres** to the east of Soborny Maidan and runs approximately from north to south, connecting some points at the above-mentioned **Kyivska Street** and **Velyka Berdychivska**. **Mykhailivska Street** is for **pedestrian** traffic: **vehicles** are forbidden, with the exception of some slow-moving ones. A puppet theatre is nestled in the middle of the street, while the building of the Zhytomyr City Council is located at its southern end. Several small coffee houses and cafés have sprung up here recently, frequented by locals from all walks of life and of all ages. If one crosses **Velyka Berdychivska Street** from the southern end of **Mykhailivska Street**, then one finds oneself at **Korolyov Square** containing the building of the Zhytomyr Oblast Council. Crossing **Kyivska Street** from the northern end of **Mykhailivska Street**, one can

Zhytomyr Житомир



Kyivska (Kiev) street looking West toward St. Michael's Church. Photo early 1900s.



Flag



Coat of arms



Location of Zhytomyr

Coordinates: 50°15′0″N 28°40′0″E﻿ / ﻿

Country	 Ukraine
Founded	9th century
Government	
 • Mayor	Volodymyr Deboi
Area	
 • Total	65 km ² (25 sq mi)
Elevation	221 m (725 ft)
Population (2005)	
 • Total	277,900
 • Density	4,555/km ² (11,800/sq mi)
Postal code	10000 — 10036
Area code(s)	+380 412
Website	Zhytomyr

- 日本語
- Norsk bokmål
- Norsk nynorsk
- بنجابی
- Polski
- Português
- Qırımtatarca
- Română
- Русиньскый
- Русский
- Simple English
- Slovenčina
- Словѣньскъ / Сѣръбѣнскъ
- Српски / srpski
- Suomi
- Svenska
- Татарча/tatarça
- Türkçe
- Українська
- Tiếng Việt
- Winaray
- יידיש
- 中文

[Edit links](#)

continue to go along Shchors Street, another important long avenue of Zhytomyr (going north).

The best-known park of Zhytomyr is named after **Yuri Gagarin**, located in the south of the city, at the left (northern) bank of the Teteriv river. It was formerly owned by the **Baron de Chaudoir**.

Climate [[edit](#)]

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	5.0 (41)	5.0 (41)	12.0 (53.6)	22.0 (71.6)	27.0 (80.6)	29.0 (84.2)	32.0 (89.6)	31.0 (87.8)	27.0 (80.6)	21.0 (69.8)	13.0 (55.4)	7.0 (44.6)	32 (89.6)
Average high °C (°F)	−2.8 (27)	−1.4 (29.5)	3.5 (38.3)	11.9 (53.4)	19.6 (67.3)	22.9 (73.2)	24.9 (76.8)	24.0 (75.2)	19.1 (66.4)	11.9 (53.4)	4.1 (39.4)	−0.7 (30.7)	11.4 (52.5)
Daily mean °C (°F)	−5.7 (21.7)	−4.9 (23.2)	−0.4 (31.3)	7.0 (44.6)	13.9 (57)	17.0 (62.6)	18.9 (66)	17.8 (64)	13.1 (55.6)	7.2 (45)	1.3 (34.3)	−3.2 (26.2)	6.8 (44.2)
Average low °C (°F)	−8.8 (16.2)	−8.3 (17.1)	−3.7 (25.3)	2.6 (36.7)	8.3 (46.9)	11.6 (52.9)	13.3 (55.9)	12.4 (54.3)	8.1 (46.6)	3.2 (37.8)	−1.4 (29.5)	−5.6 (21.9)	2.6 (36.7)
Record low °C (°F)	−35.0 (−31)	−35.0 (−31)	−27.0 (−16.6)	−11.0 (12.2)	−4.0 (24.8)	1.0 (33.8)	5.0 (41)	2.0 (35.6)	−5.0 (23)	−20.0 (−4)	−23.0 (−9.4)	−31.0 (−23.8)	−35 (−31)
Precipitation mm (inches)	32 (1.26)	29 (1.14)	31 (1.22)	38 (1.5)	53 (2.09)	66 (2.6)	78 (3.07)	75 (2.95)	50 (1.97)	41 (1.61)	43 (1.69)	34 (1.34)	570 (22.44)

Source: Sistema de Clasificación Bioclimática Mundial^[2]

Economy [[edit](#)]

Zhytomyr is an important economic center in the region. Enterprises in the city include glass, metal fabrication, electronic devices, screens, fabrics, furniture, shoes and others. In addition, a large pharmaceutical factory is located in Zhytomyr.

Transport [[edit](#)]

In ancient times, the city was located on the important road from Kiev to the city of Brest-Litovsk. Now this road is of international importance: M-E 06 40 Kyiv — Chop. Some other roads: M-21 E 583 Zhytomyr - Mohyliv-Podilskiy (through Vinnytsia), H-03 Zhytomyr - Chernivtsi (through Khmelnytskyi), R-18 Zhytomyr - Stavyshe (through Skvyria), R-28 Zhytomyr - checkpoint "Vystupovychi" of the Ukrainian-Belorusian border (through Korosten, Mazyr and Minsk).

Railways connect Kazatin with Zhytomyr (through Berdychiv), Korosten, Novohrad-Volynskiy, Korostyshiv and Fastiv. In 2011 a stretch of the Fastiv — Zhytomyr rail line was electrified. Zhytomyr is located about 131 kilometers from Kiev (by road 140 km, by rail 165 miles).

The following passenger trains pass through Zhytomyr train station: Zhytomyr - Baranovichy (Belarus); Chisinau (Moldova) - St. Petersburg (Russia); Odessa (Ukraine) - St. Petersburg (Russia); Zhytomyr – Simferopol (Crimea, Ukraine).

The city has an airport (however it is not currently being used for passenger transport; it is intended for the use of strategic bombers, though not currently being used).

Zhytomyr has three bus stations connecting it with many other cities and villages in Ukraine and abroad. Zhytomyr has fifteen bridges and junctions built over rivers and roads. There is a 30-kilometer ring road around Zhytomyr. The most interesting bridge in Zhytomyr is one over the Teteriv River in Gagarin Park.

Public city transport [[edit](#)]

Common kinds of **public transport** shuttling within Zhytomyr are **trolleybuses**, **buses**, and **minibuses**. There are also electric **trams**, but on one route only. Earlier there were several tram routes in Zhytomyr, but all excepting one were canceled during a period of domination of the opinion that a tram is a bad kind of **transport**. Trams began to shuttle in Zhytomyr in 1899. Thus Zhytomyr became the 5th city with electric trams within the territory of present-day **Ukraine**. Trolleybuses appear in Zhytomyr in 1962. The total length of Zhytomyr city electric transport routes (trolleybuses and trams) is 275 km. Since 17 March 2011 trolleybus/tram **fare** in Zhytomyr is 1.5 **hryvnias** for one **passenger** (for any **distance**).^[3]

History [[edit](#)]

Legend holds that Zhytomyr was established about 884 by Zhytomyr, prince of a Slavic tribe of **Drevlians**. This date, 884, is cut in the large stone of the ice age times, standing on the hill where Zhytomyr was founded. Zhytomyr was one of the prominent cities of **Kievan Rus'**. The first records of the town date from 1240, when it was sacked by the **Mongol** hordes of **Batu Khan**.

In 1320 Zhytomyr was captured by the **Grand Duchy of Lithuania** and received **Magdeburg rights** in 1444. After the **Union of Lublin** (1569) the city was incorporated into the **Crown of the Polish Kingdom** and in 1667, following the **Treaty of Andrusovo**, it became the capital of the **Kiev Voivodeship**. In the **Second Partition of Poland** in 1793 it passed to **Imperial Russia** and became the capital of the government of **Volhynia**.

During a brief period of Ukrainian independence the city was for a few weeks in 1918 the national capital. From 1920 the city was under **Soviet** rule. Under Soviet rule a German National District was set up in the area for the German minority, according to Soviet minorities policy before the **World War II**.^[*citation needed*]

During **World War II** Zhytomyr and the surrounding territory came for three years under **Nazi German** occupation and was **Heinrich Himmler's** Ukrainian headquarters. The Nazi regime in what they called the "Zhytomyr General District" became what Wendy Lower describes as "a laboratory for... Himmler's resettlement activists... the elimination of the Jews and German colonization of the East—transformed the landscape and devastated the population to an extent that was not experienced in other parts of Nazi-occupied Europe besides Poland. [While]... [u]ltimately, the exigencies of the war effort and mounting partisan warfare behind the lines prevented Nazi leaders from fully developing and realizing their colonial aims in Ukraine... In addition to the immediate destruction of all Jewish communities, Himmler insisted that the Ukrainian civilian population be brought to a 'minimum.'"^[4]

From 1991, the city has been part of the independent Ukraine.

Population history [[edit](#)]

Year	Inhabitants
1861	40 564

1891	69 785
1926	76 700 (of whom 10 500 were Russians) ^[5]
1939	95 100 ^[6]
1941	40 100 (Russians along with Poles, Jews, and Germans in minority) ^[6]
2005	277 900

Jews in Zhytomyr [edit]

Zhytomyr apparently had few [Jews](#) at the time of the [Khmelnysky Uprising](#) (1648), but by the time it became part of [Russia](#) in 1778, it had a large Jewish community, and was a center of the [Hasidic](#) movement. Jews formed nearly one-third of the 1861 population (13,299 in 40,564); thirty years later, they had somewhat outpaced the general growth of the city, with 24,062 Jews in a total population of 69,785. By 1891 there were three large [synagogues](#) and 46 smaller *batte midrash*. The proportion of Jews was much lower in the surrounding district of Zhytomyr than in the city itself; at the turn of the century (circa 1900) there were 22,636 Jews in a total population of 281,378.

In [Imperial Russia](#), Zhytomyr held the same status as the official Jewish center of southern part of the [Pale of Settlement](#) as [Vilnius](#) held in the north. The printing of [Hebrew](#) books was permitted only in these two cities during the monopoly of Hebrew printing from 1845 to 1862, and both were chosen as the seats of the two [rabbinical](#) schools which were established by the government in 1848 in pursuance of its plans to force secular education on the [Jews of Russia](#) in accordance with the program of the Teutonized Russian [Haskalah](#) movement. The rabbinical school of Zhytomyr was considered the more Jewish, or rather the less Russianized, of the two (*Ha-Meliz*, 1868, No. 40, cited in *Jewish Encyclopedia*). Its first head master was [Jacob Eichenbaum](#), who was succeeded by [Hayyim Selig Slonimski](#) in 1862. The latter remained at the head of the school until it was closed (together with the one at Vilnius) in 1873 because of its failure to provide rabbis with a secular education who should be acceptable to the Jewish communities. [Suchastover](#), [Gottlober](#), [Lerner](#), and [Zweifel](#) were among the best-known teachers of the rabbinical school at Zhytomyr, while [Abraham Goldfaden](#), [Salomon Mandelkern](#), and [Abraham Jacob Paperna](#) were among the students who later became famous in the Jewish world.

The teachers' institutes which were substituted for the rabbinical schools were, in the words of the *Jewish Encyclopedia* "scarcely more satisfactory" (The *JE* refers to the teachers' institute at Zhytomyr as "probably the worst-managed Jewish institution in Russia of which there is any record", citing Prelooker, *Under the Czar and Queen Victoria*, pp. 8–21, [London](#), 1895). It was closed in 1885, succeeded by a [Talmud Torah](#), a "government school" for boys, a girls' school, and several private schools for both sexes that the *JE* describes as "admirable", with comparable praise for other Jewish institutions of Zhytomyr circa 1900.

While "never a center of rabbinical learning" (*JE*) Zhytomyr boasted a few rabbis of some note: Rabbi Wolf (died 1800), author of the *Or ha-Meir* (Koretz, 1795), and Rabbi [Aharon of Zhitomir](#), author of *Toledot Aharon*, disciples of Rabbi [Dov Ber of Mezeritch](#) and early Hasidic *rebbe*s (leaders), and Abraham Bär Mavruch, *rosh bet din* or acting rabbi of Zhytomyr in the first half of the 19th century and author of the *Bat 'Ayin* (Zhytomyr, 1850).

The Jewish community of Zhytomyr suffered [pogroms](#): 1) on May 7–8, 1905, when the section of the city known as "Podol" was devastated, 20 were killed within the city, 10 young Jewish neighbors were killed when they came to defend, and the [Christian](#) student Nicholas Blinov, also attempting to defend, likewise lost his life; on January 7–10, 1919; 3) and beginning on March 22, 1919, when, according to witnesses, the 317 deaths were a lesser number, due to both Christian sheltering efforts and the return of the [Bolshevik](#) troops within a few days.^[7]

The Jewish community of the region was largely destroyed in [the Holocaust](#). In the four months beginning with Himmler's 25 July 1942 orders, "all of Ukraine's [shtetls](#) and [ghettos](#) lay in ruins; tens of thousands of Jewish men, women, and children were brutally murdered by stationary and mobile [SS](#)-police units and indigenous auxiliaries."^[4]

Today, the Zhytomyr Jewish community numbers about 5000. The community is a part of the "Union of Jewish Communities in Ukraine" and the city and district's rabbinate Rabbi Shlomo Vilhelm serves as rabbi, who came to the city as a [Chabad emissary](#) in 1994. Other Jewish institutions are also active in the city, such as the [Joint](#) and its humanitarian branch "Chesed" and the [Jewish Agency](#).

The community has an ancient [synagogue](#) in the city center which has a [mikveh](#). [Chabad](#) operates in the city various educational institutions which have residence in a village next to the city.

Sister cities [edit]

Zhytomyr is [twinned](#) with:

- [Kutaisi, Georgia](#)
- [Montana, Bulgaria](#)

Famous people from Zhytomyr [edit]

- [Ossip Bernstein](#), French [chess](#) player
- [Hayyim Nahman Bialik](#), [Hebrew poet](#), born in [Radi, Volhynia](#), educated in Zhytomyr
- [Adolpho Bloch](#), [Brazilian](#) entrepreneur, founder of Bloch Editores, Manchete magazine and [Rede Manchete](#)
- [Tadeusz Borowski](#), Polish writer
- [Anastasiya Chernenko](#), a professional triathlete
- [Jarosław Dąbrowski](#), Polish-French [Paris Commune](#) revolutionary
- [Oleksii Doroshenko](#), a drummer of a band [Druha Rika](#), once famous in early 21st century
- [Luis Filcer](#), Ukrainian/Mexican painter
- [Samuel Freedman](#), Canadian judge, Manitoba Chief Justice
- [Yakov Gamarnik](#), Soviet Communist militant and military commander
- [Alexander Godin](#), (1909-?), author of "My Dead Brother Comes to America"
- [Aharon David Gordon](#), [Hebrew writer](#) and thinker, founder of the spiritual [Zionism](#), born at Troyaniv, near Zhytomyr, settled in [Palestine](#)
- [Alex Gottlieb](#), Hollywood film director and screenwriter
- [Moisei Kasyanik](#), weightlifter
- [Feitel \(Philip\) Kazatzkin/Kaskin](#), Rabbi who later founded one of the first Synagogues in Philadelphia, PA
- [Alexander Kipnis](#), German then US opera singer (bass)
- [Volodymyr Korolenko](#), [Ukrainian](#) writer

- **Sergey Korolyov**, prominent rocket engineer and designer, the head of the **Soviet** space program
- **Boris Abramovich Kruhliak**, Ukrainian historian
- **Inessa Lee**, singer known as Singing Doll
- **Keni Liptzin**, Jewish actress in **Yiddish theatre**
- **Boris Lyatoshinsky**, Ukrainian composer
- **Julian Movchan**, Ukrainian writer/journalist
- **Leah Nickel**, Israeli painter
- **Franciszek Niepokólczycki**, Polish soldier
- **Oleh Olzhych**, Ukrainian writer and nationalist militant
- **Mieczysław Pawlikowski**, Polish actor
- **Sviatoslav Richter**, Soviet pianist
- **Mikhail Rostovtzeff**, Russian Archaeologist
- **Maryna Shulga**, volunteer and **AIDS** activist
- **Phineas Smoller** (1903-1952), founder and vice president of Avukah (American Student Zionist Federation) and College of Jewish Studies in Los Angeles, rabbi, author^[8]
- **David Borisovich Sterenberg**, Russian painter
- **Mykola Stsiborskyi**, prominent leader of the **Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists** and close ally of **Andrii Melnyk**
- **Vladimir Veksler**, a Soviet physicist, pioneer of **particle accelerator** technology
- **Yuliya Yelistratova**, a professional triathlete
- Alex Yuno, a Ukrainian poet, a musician and a teacher of English, in 1994 a founder of a project 'Kontraband' together with Dmytro Kosishchev^[citation needed]
- **Kazimierz Zagórski**, (1883 Żytomierz – 1944 Leopoldville, Kongo)Polish photographer active in central Africa 1924-44, author of the "L'Afrique qui disparait", former Colonel of the tsar Air Force
- **Juliusz Zarębski**, **Polish** composer

Popular culture [edit]

Zhytomyr (spelled Zhitomir) is mentioned as the site of a particularly violent battle between Ukrainian government forces and infected civilians in Max Brooks' horror novel **World War Z**. **Chemical weapons** were heavily used in the battle, only to discover that zombies are not particularly affected by nerve agents and other chemical weapons.

Gallery [edit]



The Theatre and Concert Hall in Zhytomyr.



The National University of Agriculture in Zhytomyr.



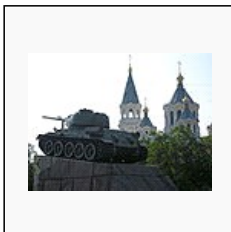
The Space Museum dedicated to Korolyov in Zhytomyr.



The Korolyov Museum.



Victory Square with tank monument and Hotel Zhytomyr in the background.



Victory Square with tank monument and Cathedral in Zhytomyr.



Cathedral, St. Michael's Church.



The Catholic Church of St. John in the centre of Zhytomyr.




A place in Kiev Street (previously known as Lenin Street).


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- This article incorporates text from a publication now in the **public domain**: Herman Rosenthal and Peter Wiernik (1901–1906). "Zhitomir (Jitomir)" . *Jewish Encyclopedia*.
 - Wendy Lower, *Nazi Empire-Building and the Holocaust in Ukraine*, 2005, University of North Carolina Press. **ISBN 0-8078-2960-9**. **Introduction (online)** accessed 19 July 2006.

(English) Find out Zhytomyr @ [Ukrainian.Travel](#) [↗]

- [Zhytomyr Journal - news, photo, map and other](#) **(Russian)** [↗]
- [hotels of Zhytomyr](#) [↗]
- [Trindelka - portal of Zhytomyr](#) **(Russian)** [↗]
- [interesniy.zhitomir.ua](#) [↗] - a blog about history of Zhytomyr **(Russian)**
- [Zhytomyr map - cafes, bars, restaurants](#) [↗], everything about the city **(Russian)**

 Look up **Zhytomyr** in Wiktionary, the free dictionary.

 Wikisource has the text of the 1911 *Encyclopædia Britannica* article **Zhitomir**.

VTE		 Administrative divisions of Zhytomyr Oblast	
Administrative center: Zhytomyr			
Districts	Andrushivka Baranivka Berdychiv Brusyliv Cherniakhiv Chervonoarmiisk Chudniv Korosten Korostyshiv Luhyny Liubar Malyn Narodychi Novohrad-Volynskiy Olevsk Ovruch Popilnia Radomyshl Romaniv Ruzhyn Volodarsk-Volynskiy Yemilchyne Zhytomyr		
Cities	Regional	Berdychiv Korosten Malyn Novohrad-Volynskiy Zhytomyr	
	District	Andrushivka Baranivka Chudniv Korostyshiv Olevsk Ovruch Radomyshl	
Urban-type settlements · <i>Category:Zhytomyr Oblast</i>			



VTE		 Administrative divisions of Ukraine	
Capital: Kiev			
Oblasts	Cherkasy Chernihiv Chernivtsi Dnipropetrovsk Donetsk Ivano-Frankivsk Kharkiv Kherson Khmelnytskyi Kiev Kirovohrad Luhansk Lviv Mykolaiv Odessa Poltava Rivne Sumy Ternopil Vinnytsia Volyn Zakarpattia Zaporizhia Zhytomyr		
Cities with special status	Kiev Sevastopol		
Autonomous republic	Crimea		
Administrative centers	Cherkasy Chernihiv Chernivtsi Dnipropetrovsk Donetsk Ivano-Frankivsk Kharkiv Kherson Khmelnytskyi Kiev Kirovohrad Luhansk Lutsk Lviv Mykolaiv Odessa Poltava Rivne Sevastopol Simferopol Sumy Ternopil Uzhhorod Vinnytsia Zaporizhia Zhytomyr		

Categories: [Zhytomyr](#) | [Cities in Zhytomyr Oblast](#) | [Shtetls](#)

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