

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2015

Istanbul Modern, past exhibition



Turkey: Classical to Cutting Edge

ISTANBUL BIENNALE – GALLIPOLI – BURSA



with Andrew Yip
02–14 October 2015 (13 days)



Turkey: Classical to Cutting Edge

ISTANBUL BIENNALE – GALLIPOLI – BURSA



TOUR LEADER

Dr Andrew Yip is an Australian art historian, writer and producer whose research interests range from 19th century Ottoman and European Orientalism to 21st century Australian art. His major research interest is in the art of war, and he completed his PhD on paintings of Gallipoli. Andrew has published in numerous art journals and museum publications, and is iGLAM Research Fellow at the Art Gallery of NSW and the National Institute for Experimental Arts, UNSW.

Istanbul is a city of contrasts and contradictions, an ancient city whose layered identity is written into its art and architecture. Split down the middle by the great Bosphorus, it is the only city to span two continents, but its cultural complexity runs deeper still. Its origins are shrouded in ancient myth: before it was the capital of the Islamic Ottoman Empire, it was Constantinople, the seat of power for the Roman Byzantine Empire. Before that, it was known as Byzantium, founded in legend by the Greek Byzas of Megara. Today, it is one of the most exciting emerging sites for international contemporary art. The 2015 Istanbul Biennale, curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, promises to be an exciting program that speaks to the city's cosmopolitan diversity. This tour also includes a trip to Gallipoli, a hallowed site which some argue is the birthplace of Australian nationalism and cultural mythology.

At a glance...

- Enjoy nine nights in the heart of Istanbul
- Journey to the Gallipoli Peninsula, including Anzac Cove and Lone Pine
- Travel to Cannakale, Ancient Troy and Bursa, capital of the silk route
- Cruise the Bosphorus and Sea of Marmara
- Discover the vibrant culture, cuisine and lifestyle of modern Turkey



Itinerary

Thu 01 Oct 2015

Depart Australia

Suggested departure from Australia on Singapore Airlines (via Singapore). Overnight in flight.

Fri 02 Oct

Arrive Istanbul

Arrive Istanbul in the early morning and transfer to your hotel in the heart of Sultanahmet, the old town of Istanbul.

This evening, join Andrew Yip and fellow travellers for a welcome briefing and dinner. **D**

Sat 03 Oct

Istanbul

Begin your exploration of Istanbul with a visit to the ruins of the old Hippodrome, the 'Square of Horses', inspired by the Circus Maximus in Rome and the centre of the city in Byzantine times.

Visit the impressive 17th century Sultanahmet Mosque, with its six pencil-thin minarets, commonly known as the Blue Mosque, whose stunning interior is decorated with 21,000 blue Iznik tiles. Continue to Hagia Sophia, Church of the Divine Wisdom. Dedicated by Justinian in 537AD as the cathedral of Constantinople during the Byzantine era, it became one of the most important imperial mosques of Istanbul for almost five centuries, following the conquest of Constantinople in 1453.

After lunch, descend beneath the city to explore the grandest of Byzantine cisterns which served Constantinople, Yerbatan Saray Sarnici. With a capacity of 80,000 cubic metres and 336 marble columns, the area is well lit and furnished with walkways.

Finish the day with a visit to the newly renovated Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts (due to open in March 2015). The museum is housed in the restored Palace of Ibrahim Pasha, a sumptuous residence built by Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent's Grand Vizier. The collection includes notable examples of Islamic calligraphy, tiles, and rugs as well as ethnographic displays various cultures in Turkey, particularly nomadic groups. **B L**

Sun 04 Oct

Istanbul

Begin the day with a visit to the Archaeological Museum and its impressive collection of antiquities, including the splendid 4th-century BC Sarcophagus of Alexander the Great. The museum houses one of the best collections of ancient Mesopotamian art in the Ancient Orient Museum as well as a great selection of Turkish tiles and ceramics in the Tiled Pavilion (Çinili Köşk).

Continue to the Süleymaniye Mosque, the Mosque of Suleyman the Magnificent, where he and his wife, Hurrem Sultan (Roxelane), are buried. It is considered the most beautiful of all the imperial mosques in Istanbul.

Today's tour will leave you at the Grand Bazaar, a city in itself with more than 4000 shops, 2000 ateliers, 500 stalls, 12 storehouses, 18 fountains, and 12 mescits, or small mosques. **B L**

Mon 05 Oct

Istanbul

Continue to marvel at the art and architecture of Istanbul with a visit to Topkapi Palace, including the Treasury and Harem. The residence of the Ottoman Sultans between the 15th and 19th centuries, it includes a spectacular selection of jewelled turban crests, silken caftans, devotional Islamic objects and relics, and the most important collection of Chinese porcelain outside of China, revealing the extraordinary grandeur of a bygone era.

Continue to the Spice Market, built in the 17th century to finance the upkeep of the nearby Yeni Cami mosque. The market is one of the largest covered markets in the city. Lunch at a local restaurant above the market.

Following lunch explore the Eminönü district including a visit to the Rustem Pasha Mosque, built by celebrated architect Sinan in 1561 for the Grand Vizier, Rustem Pasha. Its façade and small, but attractive interior are decorated with the finest examples of Iznik tiles. This is the heart of the walled city of Constantinople, and covers the area on which ancient Byzantium was built. **B L**



Tue 06 Oct

Istanbul – Canakkale

Depart Istanbul early for the drive to the Gallipoli Peninsula (approx. 5 hr).

Early afternoon arrival in Gallipoli. See the Ari Burnu Cemetery, Anzac Cove, Beach Cemetery and John Simpson's grave (*The Man with the Donkey*). Low and steep slopes of the shore, beautiful wavy coves, long shores, thickly wooded hills, and valleys of the Gelibolu Peninsula, now hide a bloody battle ground where the lives of so many Australian, New Zealand and Turkish soldiers were lost.

Continue across the peninsula to Canakkale. **B L D**

Wed 07 Oct

Canakkale

This morning visit the Canakkale Naval Museum, beautifully positioned within the Cimenlik Castle which dates back to 1461. Continue to the site of the ancient city of Troy. The remains of the city were uncovered by the German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, who used Homer's *Iliad* to locate the site. Excavations have delineated nine periods (layers) of settlement as well as a temple of Athena (from Augustan times), a much earlier sanctuary and altar, a small theatre (odeion) and houses dating as far back as the 3rd millennium BC.

Early afternoon return to Canakkale. **B P D**

Thu 08 Oct

Bursa

Depart Canakkale and travel to Bursa. Today, Bursa is a modern city situated below the soaring peaks of Mt Uludağ, Turkey's premier ski resort. The first Ottoman capital and the birthplace of the Ottoman Empire, Bursa was famous as a silk trading centre during the Byzantine period, and continued to flourish during the Ottoman Empire when the Sultans controlled the trade routes between Europe and Asia.

This afternoon take a walking tour of Bursa, including the Grand Mosque, built between 1396 and 1399, boasting 20 domes and two minarets. Continue to the Green Mosque and Koza Han Silk Market. **B D**



Anzac Cove, Gallipoli

Fri 09 Oct

Bursa – Istanbul

Depart Bursa and return to Istanbul. Afternoon at leisure. **B**

Sat 10 Oct

Istanbul

Beginning with a visit to Istanbul Modern (Turkey's centre of contemporary art) spend the day visiting Biennale pavilions and events throughout the city. The 14th Istanbul Biennale will be curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev. **B**

14th Istanbul Biennial

Saltwater: A Theory of Thought Forms

"The 14th Istanbul Biennial looks for where to draw the line, to withdraw, to draw upon, and to draw out. It does so offshore, on the flat surfaces with our fingertips but also in the depths, underwater, before the enfolded encoding unfolds. This international exhibition of art will present new works by over fifty visual artists and other practitioners, including oceanographers and neuroscientists, in a city-wide project on the Bosphoros that considers different frequencies and patterns of waves, the currents and densities of water, both visible and invisible, that poetically and politically shape and transform the world. With and through art, we mourn, commemorate, denounce, try to heal, and we commit ourselves to the possibility of joy and vitality, leaping from form to flourishing life." by Christov-Bakargiev



Bursa Grand Mosque

Sun 11 Oct

Istanbul

Spend the day visiting Prince Islands, a chain of nine small islands situated in the Sea of Marmara off the coast of Istanbul. A short ride by boat, the islands were used as an exile post for princes and other royalty, giving them their present name. In the 19th century, the islands became a popular resort for Istanbul's wealthy, and Victorian-era cottages and houses are still preserved on the largest of the Islands.

The islands have no traffic and are incredibly peaceful, the only transport being bicycles and horse-drawn carts. Enjoy a horse-drawn carriage tour passing grand houses and mansions, pine forests and cliffs. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and transfer back to your hotel early afternoon. **B L**

Mon 12 Oct

Istanbul

After a morning talk, begin with a visit of Dolmabahçe Palace. This rococo 19th century residence of the Ottoman Sultans is the place where the founder of Modern Turkey, Atatürk, died in 1938. Beautifully situated with a frontage on the Bosphorus, it boasts an impressive ballroom. Situated in the *Veliht Dairesi* (Heir's Room) of the Palace is the Museum of Painting and Sculpture.

The museum features many works by Turkish artists from the 19th century onwards.

After lunch at leisure continue with a walking tour along Istiklal Avenue, stretching from the Tunel area to Taksim square and one of the city's focal points for shopping, entertainment and promenading.

Dominating the skyline is Galata Tower. Capped with a conical tiled steeple and gold finial, the 67-metre (220 ft) stone tower was built by the Genoese in 1348. The tower, to which the Ottomans added two stories, was converted to a prison before being again used as a fire watch tower in modern times. There is an elevator to the tower, but you have to walk up the last two floors to the observation desk.

Evening at leisure. **B**



Tue 13 Oct

Istanbul

On your last morning in Turkey enjoy a private cruise along the Bosphorus. One of the most beautiful sights in the world, the Strait runs a winding course between Europe and Asia from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea.

Following the cruise, visit the Sadberk Hanim Museum which displays a fascinating collection from Anatolian, Ionian, Hellenic and Roman civilizations, as well as exhibitions of coins, Islamic art and women's costumes from bygone eras.

After an afternoon at leisure, celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a special farewell dinner. **B D**

Wed 14 Oct

Depart Istanbul

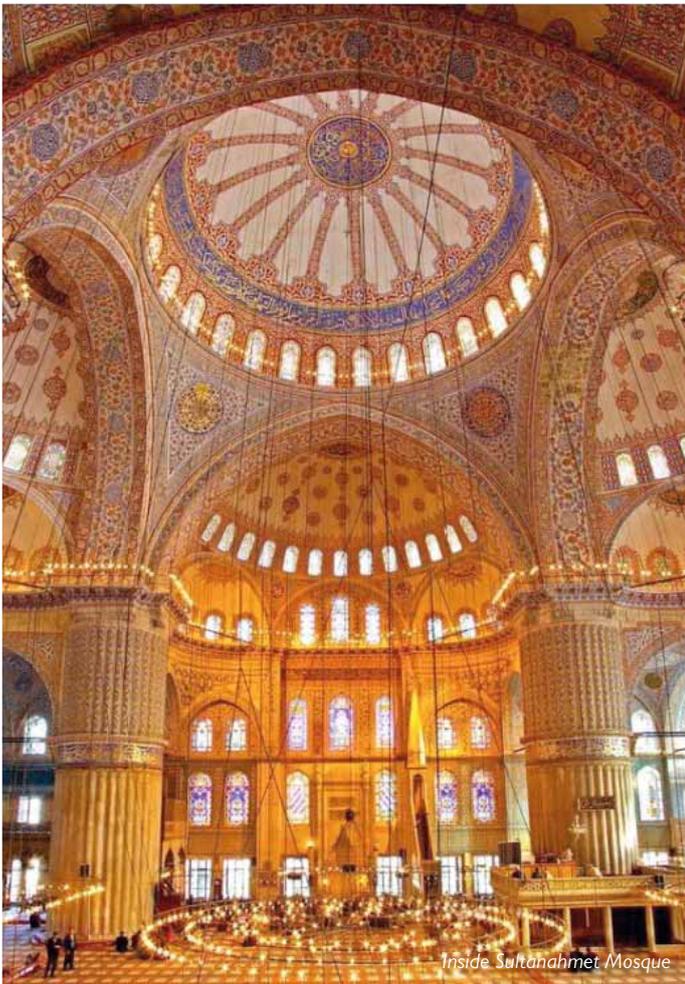
Tour arrangements conclude with a transfer to Istanbul Airport for early afternoon departure on Singapore Airlines (via Singapore). **B**

Thu 15 Oct

Arrive Australia

Evening arrival in Australia.





Inside Sultanahmet Mosque



Galata Tower on the background

Tour prices

Per person, twin share	AUD 6,350
Single supplement*	AUD 1,600
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	01 August 2015
Early booking reduction**	– AUD 250 per person

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking

**Save AUD250 per person if you book and deposit by Friday 27 February

Tour code AGI515

Fitness level Above Average
Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Suggested airline Singapore Airlines
Please contact Renaissance Tours for current fares and bookings.

Tour price includes

- 12 nights' accommodation with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L = Lunch, P = Picnic, D = Dinner). Wines with welcome and farewell dinners.
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on suggested group flights
- Comprehensive sightseeing, including entrance fees as per itinerary, in comfortable air-conditioned coaches
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- International airfares
- Visa for Turkey (current cost USD60, obtained on-line in advance or on arrival)
- Alcoholic drinks with meals (except welcome and farewell dinners)
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, room service etc.
- Travel insurance
- Airport portorage

Your hotels

Istanbul – Hagia Sophia Hotel Old City ★★★★★

Canakkale – Kolin Hotel ★★★★★

Bursa – Divan Hotel ★★★★★

Istanbul – Divan Hotel ★★★★★

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payments are accepted in cash and by cheque, bank transfer, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by

Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter,

mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

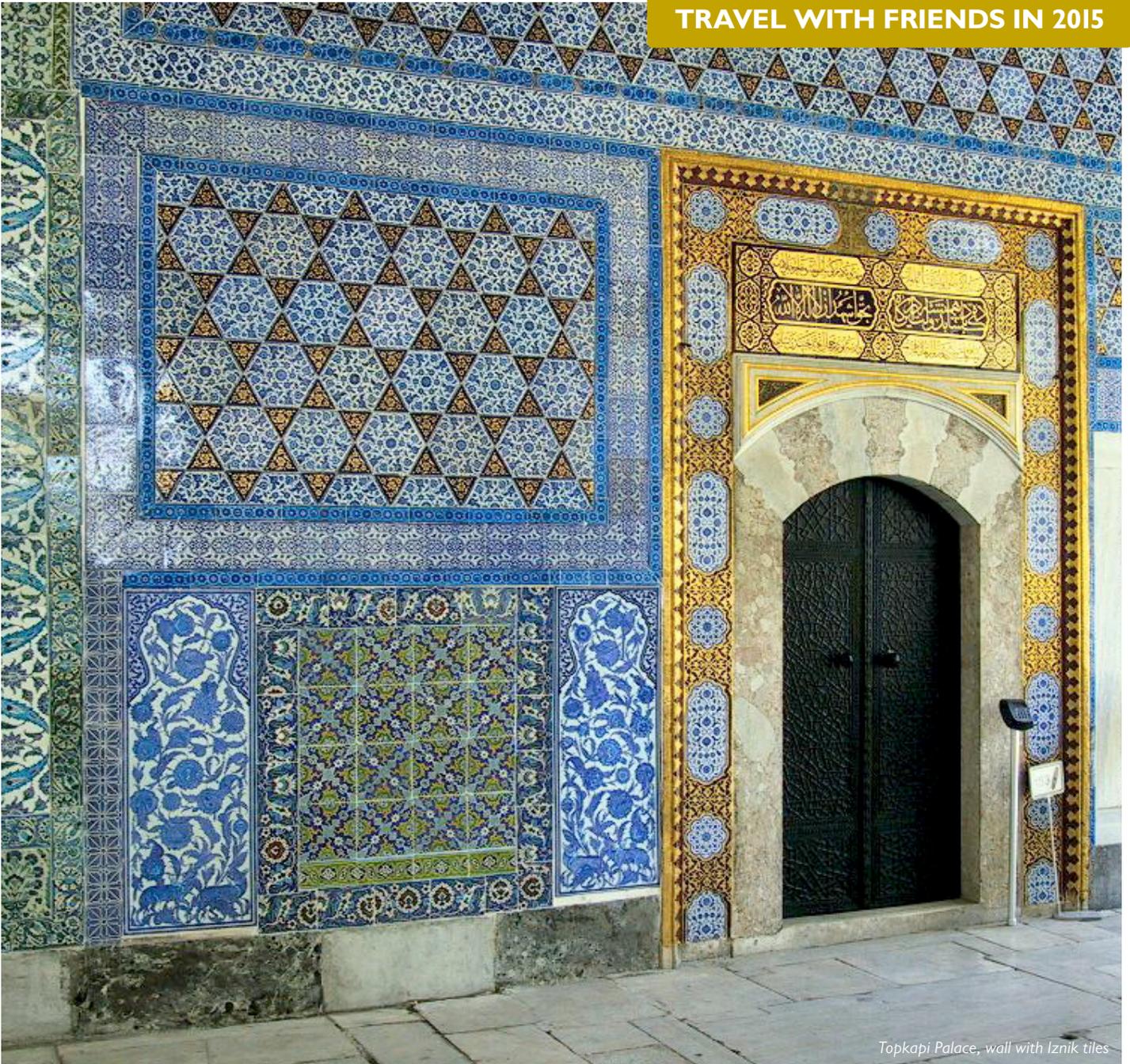
You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form.

They can also be found at

www.renaissancetours.com.au/booking-conditions

or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.





Topkapi Palace, wall with Iznik tiles

R
Renaissance
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