



101 THINGS
TO DO

IN THE SOUTHERN

*SIERRA
REGION*



TENAYA LODGE
AT YOSEMITE

We've created this guide so you can discover the quietly-thriving Southern Sierra region. It's a landscape where nature and history remain well preserved – alive in pristine condition – offering guests a chance to embrace the energy of the Old West. For example, you can come face-to-face with a talking grizzly bear, soar like an eagle on a zip line, pan for gold, relive headlines of bygone eras in a cabin insulated with turn-of-the-century newspapers and go behind the scenes of a classic California cheese factory. Excursions for the brave exist here, too, in mountain reservoirs, along thundering waterfalls, or atop hefty pack mules.

The options are all here, clearly detailed within these pages that also include contact information, driving times and helpful hints – making your journey equally easy and fun. So turn back the clock and prepare to take lessons from history's greatest and oldest teacher around – the Southern Sierra Region.





OAKHURST

SHADOW OF THE GIANTS TRAIL: Nelder Grove is the perfect place to wander among Giant Sequoias. Located north of Oakhurst, off Sky Ranch Road/Road 632. Access to Nelder Grove is seasonal, due to the elevation, and amenities are rustic. NelderGrove.org

ERNA'S ELDERBERRY HOUSE RESTAURANT: Dine in an enchanting, authentic European setting over six-course epicurean delights with French-California flair. This five-star restaurant turns dinner into an unforgettable experience. ChateauSureau.com

THE TALKING BEAR: He's a world-famous bear with something to say. This larger-than-life replica of a California Grizzly promotes forest and wildlife ecology. Facebook.com/TalkingBear

LITTLE CHURCH ON THE HILL: A California Point of Historical Interest, the church was built in 1892 of sugar-pine boards-and-battens from local mills now presides at Oakhill Cemetery. SouthYosemiteMuseums.org

FRESNO FLATS HISTORICAL PARK: Visit the 19th century in this historic village complete with restored homes, one-room schoolhouses, jails and exhibits on the history of eastern Madera County. FresnoFlatsMuseum.org

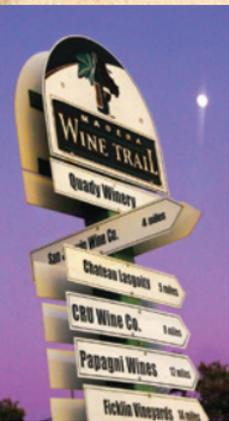
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE SIERRA: Known as the "fascination station", this 4,000-square-foot fun and interactive museum has something to grab the attention of kids of all ages. ChildrensMuseumOfTheSierra.com



The Talking Bear

GOLDEN CHAIN THEATRE: What an amazing opportunity to see local talent at the many live plays performed at Golden Chain Theatre. You won't be disappointed! GoldenChainTheatre.org

FARMERS MARKET: Stroll through an open-air farmers market with fresh fruits and veggies direct from California's produce capital, the San Joaquin Valley, and locally. The market is typically open Thursdays May through October and hosted by True Value.



Madera Wine Trail

RIVER CREEK GOLF COURSE: River Creek is truly a natural oasis. Plan a visit and discover why so many nature lovers and area golfers return to this verdant course. RiverCreekGolfCourse.com

YOSEMITE GATEWAY GALLERY ROW: Home to five outstanding galleries, there is plenty of art and creativity here to appreciate (and acquire). A perfect spot for visitors interested in seeing authentic local art inspired by the grandeur of Yosemite National Park. YosemiteGatewayGalleryRow.com

LEWIS CREEK NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL: Located north of Oakhurst off Highway 41, you can hike to Red Rock Falls and 80-foot-high Corlieu Falls on the historical Madera Sugar Pine Lumber flume route. Great place for spring wildflowers. YosemiteHikes.com

ZIP YOSEMITE: Looking for that perfect daring escape? Zip Yosemite Tours, in the Sierra National Forest, at 5,000 ft., offers an unforgettable experience as you zip line 150 feet off the ground. ZipYosemite.com

YOSEMITE SIERRA WINE ROAD: Take the highways or the scenic byways to experience the artisan wineries of eastern Madera County's Yosemite Sierra Wine Road. Taste authentic craft wines of quality and diversity as you meet the winemakers YosemiteSierraWineRoad.com

IDLE HOUR WINERY: Idle Hour Winery is Oakhurst's first winery and features live music some weekends during the summer. Their wine tasting room is open year-round Wednesday – Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

IdleHourWinery.com

SOUTH GATE BREWING CO AND PUB: South Gate Brewing Company is Oakhurst's first craft brewery and Pub. Their beer is thoughtfully handcrafted and they offer American food and fine Pub fare.

SouthGateBrewCo.com

OAKHURST MET CINEMA: The Met Cinema is a Movie Heroes Membership Theater that also sells Day Passes and movie tickets to guests. MovieHeroes.com.

SIERRA ART TRAILS: Held annually the first weekend in October, Sierra Art Trails includes over 100 artists and open studios where visitors can view demonstrations and see the creative process at work. SierraArtTrails.org

BASS LAKE

FARMERS MARKET: Stroll through an open-air certified farmers market with fresh fruits and veggies direct from California's local produce. Seasonal market is typically open Wednesday May through September from 4 – 7 PM.

A DAY AT BASS LAKE: Take a day to spend time in nature at this pretty mountain reservoir with fishing, boating, water skiing, barbecuing and many other activities available. BassLakeChamber.com

Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad



VISIT AN OLD MOVIE FILM SITE: Hollywood has long loved Bass Lake for its "star" qualities. Come see Bass Lake where movies like *Leave Her to Heaven* and *The Great Outdoors* were filmed.

BOAT RENTAL AND WATER SPORTS: Located at Ducey's on the Lake in Pines Village, Bass Lake Water Sports and Boat Rentals offers multiple ways to get around on the water from tubing to paddle-boarding and more.

BassLakeBoatRentals.com



Boat Rentals at Bass Lake

CRUISE THE BASS LAKE QUEEN: Bass Lake's very own paddle wheeler cruises the lake all summer long, re-creating those lazy days from a bygone era. Private charter cruises are available the rest of the year.

BassLakeBoatRentals.com

DINE ON THE LAKE: Savor exceptional cuisine while overlooking beautiful Bass Lake at Ducey's on the Lake, a fine dining restaurant or casual dining at Ducey's on the Lake Bar & Grill. BassLake.com

EAT A FAMOUS 'FORKS' BURGER: Sit down to a meal and experience old-fashioned, friendly hospitality at family-owned Forks Resort on Bass Lake, and indulge in their famous hamburgers. The Forks Resort also offers boat rentals. TheForksResort.com

ENJOY MILLER'S LANDING RESORT: Take a day to visit this lakefront resort on Bass Lake and have fun on the water with boat rentals, Jet Ski rentals, paddle boards and banana boat rides. MillersLanding.com

HIKE BASS LAKE: The Bass Lake area is filled with wonderful trails leading to such scenic points as Angel Falls, beautiful cascades and deep pools, and picnic-perfect summits that look out on grand Sierra views. BassLakeCa.com/trails.html

BEASORE ROAD: An area, located just above Bass Lake, ideal for hiking, fishing and four-wheeling. Maps and guides are available at the Bass Lake Ranger District in North Fork.

HIKE THE WAY OF THE MONO TRAIL: Explore the culture of the Mono Indians on a self-guided half-mile trail detailing the lives of the Western Mono Indians. Find several prehistoric bedrock grinding rocks and enjoy splendid views of Bass Lake. BassLakeCa.com/trails.html

CATCH A MOON RISE OR SUNSET ON BASS LAKE: For Bass Lake's lunar and solar times and weather visit BassLakeCa.com

FISH CAMP

YOSEMITE MOUNTAIN SUGAR PINE RAILROAD: These powerful Shay locomotives once hauled massive log trains through the Sierra. Today, they haul visitors on an exciting narrow-gauge journey through the forest, and back in time. They also offer special seasonal events: Moonlight Melodrama and the Moonlight Special, which features a BBQ dinner, train ride and entertainment YMSPRR.com

GOLD PANNING: Become a part of the rush, and pan for real gold at Gold Rush City. Learn the right technique and find the yellow treasure just like the ol' forty-niners. YMSPRR.com



YOSEMITE TRAILS SADDLE AND SLEIGH COMPANY: Hit the trail with the Yosemite Cowboys for horseback rides or a magical winter sleigh ride. YosemiteTrails.com

COARSEGOLD

COARSEGOLD HISTORIC MUSEUM: Full of artifacts from the 1880s, this museum is a history lover's must-see. Authentic and inviting museum buildings are as old as the furniture in them. CoarsegoldHistoricSociety.com



Coarsegold Rodeo

COARSEGOLD RODEO: Since 1952, this annual May event has entertained all with the thrills and spills of professional rodeo. TheCoarsegoldRodeo.com

CHUKCHANSI GOLD RESORT & CASINO: With an incredible 56,000-square-foot gaming floor, 1,800 slot machines, and 42 table games, Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino is one of the most exciting gaming destinations in California. ChukchansiGold.com

COARSEGOLD HISTORIC VILLAGE: The Village is home to a unique community of shops for local artists, events and services. Many of the artists produce their arts and crafts on-site. Open year-round. CoarsegoldHistoricVillage.com

NORTH FORK/SIERRA VISTA SCENIC BYWAY

EXACT CENTER OF CALIFORNIA: In picturesque North Fork, a genuine logging town with an early-1900s feel, you can stand at the exact geographic center of the Golden State. NorthForkCommerce.com

LOGGERS JAMBOREE WEEKEND: Check in at this early July weekend event that celebrates the local industry with free concerts, parades, games and logging skills competitions. NorthForkCommerce.com

MOUNTAIN BIKING: From easy to challenging, these trails are full of thrills. A vast network of trails, fire roads and old railroad grades affords cyclists wide-open spaces far from concrete and urban noise.

BE A ROCK HOUND: The study and hobby of collecting rocks is known as "rockhounding," and the rich geological history of the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway is a haven for this activity.

MANZANITA LAKE: Stocked with rainbow trout in the summer months, this small and scenic lake is a comfortable, secluded spot for picnicking as well as family fishing. NorthForkCommerce.com

REDINGER LAKE: Boating, hiking, fishing, and horseback riding are just a few of the outdoor adventures available at this man-made lake that is part of the Big Creek Hydroelectric project. SierraVistaScenicByway.org

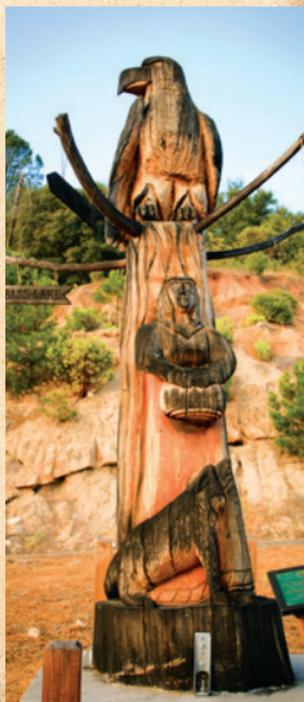
SIERRA MONO MUSEUM: This museum is home to the largest displays of Mono Indian basketry in California. The Museum displays many artifacts and baskets donated, and on loan, by members of the Mono Tribe. Their annual events, Indian Fair Days and Annual Pow Wow, are held the first weekend in August. SierraMonoMuseum.org

PACK IT IN: The Minarets Pack Station offers extended trips into Ansel Adams Wilderness where trusty mules pack in your gear. Have a fun and engaging experience with these gentle, sure-footed animals. HighSierraPackers.org

SIERRA VISTA SCENIC BYWAY: Drive through 100 miles of scenic beauty on this six-hour loop road. See unparalleled views of the Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin River Valley as well as historic sights and picnic spots. SierraVistaScenicByway.org

READ THE WALLS OF ROSS CABIN: Located on the Scenic Byway, pioneering rancher Jesse Ross's cabin was insulated with newspapers, giving visual meaning to "if walls could talk!" The oldest known residence still standing in Madera County, the Ross Cabin. SierraVistaScenicByway.org

North Fork Totem Pole





THE FRENCH TRAIL: Start your journey at Ross Cabin where you'll follow a Native American trade route from 1879 that's now part of the Ansel Adams Wilderness area.

TAKE A TRIP TO MAMMOTH POOL: Beautiful and remote, this reservoir offers breathtaking views of the Sierra National Forest and its jagged rock outcroppings, as well as unique boat-in campsites.

SierraVistaScenicByway.org

EAGLE'S EYE VIEW: Take a 40-minute hike to the top of Fresno Dome for a mesmerizing view filled with purple mountain majesty and golden fields of grain.

SierraVistaScenicByway.org

YOSEMITE ART HISTORY: Passing through on a cattle-crossing excursion, famed Yosemite artist and rancher, Jane Judd Gyer, etched a map of this area right on the wall of the Minarets Pack Station. HighSierraPackers.org

SEE JACKASS DOME AT SUNSET: A natural wonder any time of day, the view gets even better towards sunset at this dramatic outcropping near the summit of the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway. SierraVistaScenicByway.org

MILE HIGH VISTA OBSERVATION SITE: For spectacular views along the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway, this is the stop to make. From here, you can see almost 20 named peaks over 10,000 ft. elevation that make up the "Heart of the Sierra Nevada." SierraVistaScenicByway.org

AHWAHNEE & RAYMOND

GRUB GULCH: Famous for the rough-and-tumble legacy of its Gold Rush days. Ol' timers wink and say that whiskey was once more plentiful here than water, so that's what the local fire department used. Highway 49 and Road 600.

WASSAMA ROUNDHOUSE: One of only two authentic ceremonial roundhouses still standing, this historical site was where spiritual traditions were celebrated. Visit the gathering area, cemetery, early housing and roundhouse of the Miwok Indians.

Parks.ca.gov



KNOWLES GRANITE QUARRY: With walkways, walls and chimneys still standing, history is rock-solid at this old granite quarry. Located near Raymond.

GENERAL STORE IN RAYMOND: Once known as the transfer point from the Southern Pacific Railroad to the Wildcat Stagecoach Station in Yosemite, Raymond also became a major freight distribution center for the southern San Joaquin.

RAYMOND MUSEUM: The first agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad, Charles Miller, called this place home. Come recall a slower time and learn why "all roads lead to Raymond." SouthYosemiteMuseums.org

MARIPOSA

BRICEBURG CANYON: Once home to gold mines, it's still possible to dip a pan in the river and try your luck. Take time to get to this cool river and dip your toes in, too. BLM.gov



VISIT HISTORIC TOWN OF MARIPOSA: With its historic architecture, and wonderful arts, crafts and antique shopping, California's first capital is still authentic and always original. MariposaChamber.org

TAKE A SCENIC FLIGHT: Flightseeing charter tours offer a unique perspective on the gorgeous peaks and valleys of the Sierra Nevada range. Contact the Mariposa-Yosemite Airport for more information. MariposaCounty.org

TAKE THE HISTORIC WALKING TOUR: Be your own guide when you visit many of the structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. MariposaMuseum.com/town-of-mariposa/historic-tour-map

OLDEST COURTHOUSE WEST OF THE ROCKIES: Tour Mariposa Courthouse, the oldest courthouse still in operation west of the Rockies. MariposaMuseum.com

ONE OF THE OLDEST JAILS IN CALIFORNIA: Locals guarantee that one night in this granite-block jail built in 1860 would set anybody straight. Don't believe them? Pay a visit and discover what they're talking about. MariposaCounty.org

WILDFLOWER WALKS: Wildflowers virtually carpet the rolling hills of Mariposa County every spring. Come enjoy Columbine, Indian Paint Brush, Dogwood and more. Maps available at the Mariposa County Visitors Center. MariposaChamber.org

Yosemite Valley and Half Dome from Glacier Point



HITE'S COVE TRAIL: The 70 different wildflowers you'll see on your three-and-a-half-mile hike lead to an exciting discovery – historic Gold Rush-era ruins. YosemiteHikes.com

MARIPOSA MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER: The historic relics and buildings of the past make this museum one of the best small museums in America, according to the esteemed Smithsonian Institute. MariposaMuseum.com

CYCLE COUNTRY ROADS: Rolling country roads dotted with stately oaks and ranch-land scenery help create a memorable fat-tire tour of Mariposa County. Maps available at the Mariposa County Visitors Center. MariposaChamber.org

MARIPOSA ARTS COUNCIL: Beautiful paintings, unique sculptures and an array of pottery are displayed and sold at the Treetop Gallery in this vibrant arts community. MariposaArtsCouncil.org

ANTIQUING: Historic downtown Mariposa offers many unique antique and craft shops. MariposaChamber.org

SILVER FOX VINEYARDS: Proudly producing award-winning red wines, this family-operated vineyard in the Mariposa foothills offers tastings and tours by appointment. SilverFoxWine.com

CALIFORNIA STATE MINING AND MINERAL MUSEUM: Those in search of the historic 49er Trail will enjoy this museum of dazzling exhibits and displays, including an authentic 1860s-era operational gold-processing stamp mill. Parks.ca.gov





MARIPOSA CREEK PARKWAY: Take a relaxing stroll along a paved pathway that runs the length of Mariposa Creek in downtown Mariposa. YosemiteHikes.com

MUSIC ON THE GREEN: Jazz, blues, folk, Mexican and Native American music fills the air every Friday and Saturday night in downtown Mariposa. MariposaArtsCouncil.org

MERCED RIVER TRAIL: A rough-hewn and unshaded 18-mile trek for hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders follows the old Yosemite railroad grade from the Briceburg Visitor Center to the Highway 49 Bridge at Bagby.

BUTTERFLY CREEK WINERY: You're invited to enjoy a picnic lunch on the banks of Butterfly Creek, accompanied by a bottle of the vintner's best. YosemiteWine.com

MARIPOSA HOTEL INN: Once a primary stopover for visitors during the 1900's known as the LeGrand Stage Stop, today this B&B inn welcomes visitors with historic accommodations. MariposaHotellnn.com

MARIPOSA COUNTY FAIR: Become a kid again and take in the down-home charm found here. Cotton candy, a Ferris wheel, prize livestock and cultural displays create a fun setting for all ages. This event is held annually on Labor Day weekend. MariposaFair.com

ZIPLINING: A thrill for ages 3 to 93, Yosemite Ziplines and Adventure Ranch is Mariposa's latest attraction and your ticket to thrilling zip line adventures. YosemiteZipTours.com

RIVER RAFTING: Head out on a Merced River rafting trip with O.A.R.S. or Zephyr Whitewater Rafting on trips that can be tailored for first-time rafters or advanced thrill-seekers. Oars.com or ZRafting.com

WILDFLOWERS AND WILD WATERS: Witness a bursting celebration of blossoms and waterfalls during the late spring and early summer in and around Yosemite National Park. NPS.gov/yose

DRIVE ALONG THE SCENIC MERCED RIVER: See one of the few rivers that flow wild and undammed in California. The Merced River originates in Yosemite on the crest of the Sierra Nevada at an elevation of 11,000 feet.



Hite's Cove Trail

COULTERVILLE

VISIT THE GOLD RUSH TOWN OF COULTERVILLE: Stroll through this town's rich Gold Rush heritage, and you'll quickly discover why the entire town has been named a California State Historical Site.

CoultervilleHistoryCenter.org

NORTHERN MARIPOSA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER: Put yourself in the shoes of a real-life forty-niner with this complete collection of memorabilia, models and exhibits. CoultervilleHistoryCenter.org

THE HISTORIC JEFFERY HOTEL: Follow in the footsteps of John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt, both past guests of this designated landmark. The hotel was first built in 1851 to aid stagecoach passengers on their way to Yosemite. HotelJeffery.com

SPEND THE DAY AT LAKE MCCLURE: Water sports of all kinds are available at Lake McClure, with camping and RV accommodations available to complete the experience. LakeMcClure.com

SWIM, SURF AND SUN ON LAKE MCSWAIN: The sister lake to McClure, Lake McSwain is a water enthusiast's dream, with house boating, waterskiing, sailing and Jet Skiing. Regular stocking of trout keeps the fishing poles bending all year long. LakeMcClure.com

ON YOUR WAY TO AND FROM TENAYA LODGE

Hit the road ready for an adventure that begins the second you start your car. On the roads to and from Yosemite, there's so much to take in that even car rides are fun and exciting. Sit back, relax and buckle up – your journey is about to begin!

GOLDFEST AT IRONSTONE VINEYARDS: This vineyard festival is a mother lode of fine art exhibits, demonstrations, storytelling, fiddling and more, all of which serve to commemorate the Gold Rush era. Highway 49, Murphys. IronstoneVineyards.com

THE ORIGINAL GHIRARDELLI CHOCOLATE FACTORY: Not much more than a ghost town now, Hornitos was once the site of a Ghirardelli warehouse long before the name became synonymous with San Francisco and chocolate. Hwy 140, Hornitos.

YOSEMITE SIERRA FLY-FISHING: The best place for top-quality and fully guided instructional fly-fishing can be found here on some of the world's most beautiful waters. Hwy 120, Evergreen Road. YosemiteSierraFlyFishing.com

MILLERTON LAKE LEGACY: Step into the past and explore the historic buildings of Millerton, a bustling gold rush town that once sat along the banks of the San Joaquin River. Highway 41/Road 145, Friant.

Merced River Whitewater Rafting





KERCKHOFF RESERVOIR: The reservoir/lake welcomes visitors year-round for outdoor recreation including fishing and picnicking. (above Millerton Lake)

LUCKY TABLE: There's always a hand or two to play (and 2,000 slot machines!) at Table Mountain Casino in Friant. Highway 41/Road 145, Friant. TMCasino.com

HETCH-HETCHY RESERVOIR: This treasure is worth visiting in all seasons. Its lower elevation provides one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite, with varied trails and expansive vistas for all. Highway 120, Buck Meadows. NPS.gov/yose

BODIE GHOST TOWN: This town looks the same as it did more than 50 years ago. In fact, it's rich with perfectly preserved history. Oh, and the occasional ghost. Hwy 395, Bodie. Parks.ca.gov

CASTLE AIR MUSEUM: Stand beneath the wings of one of the museum's warbirds and let your imagination take flight back to the days when the skies were filled with these planes as well as enemy fighters. Highway 99, Atwater. CastleAirMuseum.org

HILMAR CHEESE COMPANY: Cheese is more than party-tray fodder – it's basically a food group! Learn how this edible gold is made, watch Daisy's "moovie" and see employees package the "big cheese" – 640 pounds of it. Highway 99, Hilmar. HilmarCheese.com

FORESTIERE UNDERGROUND GARDENS: Take a subterranean journey to the Mediterranean in the middle of California! This hand-built network of underground rooms, courtyards and passageways is reminiscent of the ancient catacombs. Highway 99, Fresno. UnderGroundGardens.com

THE FOSSIL DISCOVERY CENTER: At the site of the largest middle-Pleistocene fossil excavations in North America, there is a lot the earth can teach us about the past and what the future has in store for us. Highway 99, Chowchilla. MaderaMammoths.org



MADERA WINE TRAIL: Madera County is known for world-class wine that reflects the region's splendid weather and terroir. Swirl and sip for yourself! Madera County. MaderaWineTrail.com

HOME GROWN CELLARS: Stop at Home Grown Cellars to see firsthand the versatility of the pomegranate. Shop in the country store featuring numerous pomegranate items like pomegranate honey, jelly and of course, pomegranate juice. Highway 99, Madera. HomeGrownCellars.com

LOCAL NUTS: Valley Pistachio Country Farm in Madera is a great energy stop for local and organic nuts, dried fruits and more. Highway 99, Madera. ValleyPistachio.com

Disclaimer: Information and activities subject to change without notice.

Approximate Drive Time from Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite

Atwater	1 hour 54 minutes
Ahwahnee	27 minutes
Bass Lake	26 minutes
Coarsegold	29 minutes
Coulterville	1 hour 36 minutes
Fresno	1 hour 13 minutes
Madera	1 hour 14 minutes
Mariposa	55 minutes
North Fork	41 minutes
Oakhurst	20 minutes
Raymond	56 minutes
Turlock	2 hours 13 minutes



TENAYA LODGE. AT YOSEMITE

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Find us at TenayaLodge.com



Hospitality by Delaware North.

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