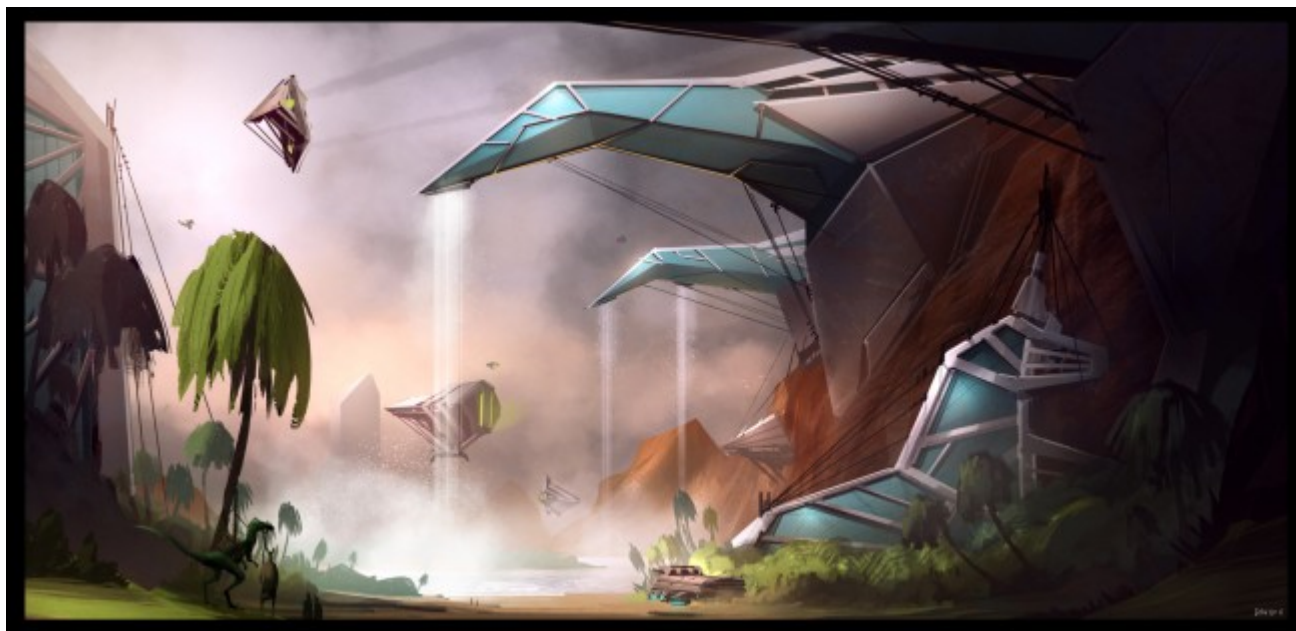


Maekardan

Located in the [Iruotl System](#), Maekardan, or the “Place of Two Homes” in [Saalsari](#), is an arid planet dominated by a massive desert expanse that covers over 50% of the total landmass. It has a single ocean, which is more of a massive landlocked sea, and many islands dotting the interior. Most of the population lives in coastal cities and villages, though the some of the higher peaks in the interior are home to [Ivuori](#) enclaves.



Pictured Above: Airships and caravans are a common sight at the artificial oasis of [Port Zabriss](#). The permanent city is largely underground or built into the rocky cliffs in the low cliffsides, leaving the wider green spaces open for temporary encampments and recreation for the residents. Art by [David Holland](#).

Settlements

[Eyr Ranr](#) city-airships are denoted with MAS (Maekardan AirShip).

Capital Region

Kaeshun City

The capital of the [Iromakuanhe Astral Commonwealth](#), Kaeshun conveys the image of the classic port city, sitting between the foot of a massive plateau and the ocean. However, both airships and watercraft are accommodated by facilities in the city, making it the central point of trade for most ongoing traffic. The architecture is something of a combination of the elegant structuring of the [Ivuori](#), harmonious rusticism of the [Curdatl](#) and open air building of the [Eyr Ranr](#). The [Sund Wakir](#) have established several camps outside the city and a permanent marketplace in the city center. The city is a technological and

architectural marvel, with multiple levels and buildings interconnected by a wide latticework of terraces. Greenery is common, ranging from large trees, to topiary, flowers and even flowering vine plants.

Important Districts

- **Central Gardens:** Houses City Hall, many important governmental buildings and many of the administrative offices belonging to [Solan Starworks](#). The grand plaza in front of the Conclave Security is tight, and well armed.
- **Marketplace:** A buzzing crowd of assorted artisans, merchants and lowlifes crawl down the cramped streets of the Marketplace district. The district is a multi-tiered commercial complex filled with plenty of small and large shops and even more vendors and stalls manning the streets.
- **Bayside:** A busy seaside district is actually grouped into four subdivisions because of the size of the terrain it occupies. North Bayside is an entertainment section, complete with nightclubs and a few more *interesting* places. South is purely industrial, and is the location of one of [Solan Starworks'](#) more important manufacturing facilities. West and East are residential, and are the homes to many of the more affluent people in the city.
- **Temple:** A pilgrimage site for many, the Temple district houses the single largest Dream Cathedral in the Commonwealth, and is a frequent stop for people that intend to travel into the desert. The cathedral itself is a massive tower that juts out into the sky, and houses the dormant body of the Makuori Kanral, who holds weekly Dreamwalker masses with the faithful. It's a beautiful location, though beggars can occasionally be seen wandering around.
- **Starport:** Situated at the top of the plateau much of the city is embedded in, the Starport district is the single busiest piece of airspace on the planet. Airships and spacecraft whiz from terminal to terminal, being moved about on compression-assisted hover platforms. There are three [MASC](#)-based catapults, facing North, Southeast and Southwest, respectively, designed to launch non-VTOL craft.

Sea of Dreams Region

Sea of Dreams Region is the small ocean that extends between the two polar regions, and the accompanying archipelagos. At night, a catalytic reaction between expanse particles and the water of the ocean creates small phosphorescent bubbles which rise up during clear weather and glow at night.

Port Aersin

A major port city out in the archipelagos of the Sea of Dreams, Port Aersin is a primarily [Eyr Ranr](#) settlement built over a controlled, but fairly active volcanic island. Large air service spires, extending deep into the ground stabilize the area and a magma drainage system prevents unexpected eruptions. It is notable for relying exclusively on geothermal power, and has a large number of rather famous mineral-rich hotsprings.

- **The Spires:** Large [Agridinn](#) spires which jut out of the land, designed as a dock for [Eyr Ranr](#) airships and to stabilize the land in the area.
- **Hotspring Resorts:** Famous in the area for their hotsprings, Aersin has an unusual amount of hotspring resorts, as well as public and private bathhouses.
- **[Maekardan Quodr](#) Racing League HQ:** As well, the city plays host to the legal elements of the ethnic

Eyr Ranr's [Quodr](#) races and competition on Maekardan.

Mizar Enclave

A large coastal [lvuori](#) enclave, recognized as a center of the arts and high culture. Among the enclaves, Mizar is especially large, hosting several million inhabitants in an array of golden towers that sit along the coast. The architecture of the city is reminiscent of windmills, as all of the enclave towers have large (shielded) windtrap turbines built into them. The city hosts a large number of theater, musical and art festivals year-round, and relies heavily on tourism income and a large commuter population.

- Jhafijh, Hadris and Ghadram: [Curdatl](#) fishing villages in the nearby countryside, which often host tourists and travelers during the busy festival season. The Mizarans and the fishermen exist on very good terms, and the exchange of [Curdatl](#) festival culture is more than evident.
- [Temple Euphorian Monastery](#): Mizar is the home of the [Vigil](#)-inspired sect of beggar-troubadour monks who, oddly enough, suit the Mizaran [lvuori](#)'s religious affinities.
- Strihdaan Festival: An annual celebration of theater which overtakes the city entirely and often doubles or triples the population.
- Dahrmaan Festival: Dahrmaan is a three month-long celebration of the musical culture of the Commonwealth, with each week focusing on a different genre.

Nuocr Expanse Region

The Nuocr Expanse is a famous and dangerous region of Maekardan that is famous as being the home of the dormant Makuori, and the traditional roving grounds of the Sund Wakir on the capital world. While being as a whole one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the Commonwealth, it is a place filled with dangerous and unusual beasts, bandits and the psychoactive particles named after the region.

Maraeck Monastery

Maraeck is a place of study and worship for the traditionally nomadic [Sund Wakir](#), as well as an important pilgrimage site, often said to be the place where the Saali colonists went forth to speak with the Makuori, and under guidance of a nameless Saal warrior poet and [Ruh the Old](#), banded together to save Maekardan from the ruinous Datalri. The monastery itself is a city all on its own, composed of a wind-scoured edifice carved into the side of the mountain, which leads to a large underground city. The population tends to be very young or very old, due to the large number of monastic orders and schools for those [Sund Wakir](#) not old enough to venture out with the caravans. The minority of young adults and middle-aged people are craftsmen and maintenance staff for the environmental control systems for the city.

- Ruh's Hookah: The monastery tower is the primary visible section of Maraeck, named 'Ruh's Hookah' for its elongated shape, extensive water systems and stifling heat when the environmental control malfunctions. While slightly frowned upon by the monks who prefer to call it the Monastery Tower, the name has stuck among most [Iromakuanhe](#), including the entirety of the clergy outside of Maraeck.

- **Dream Cathedral:** Maraeck's Dream Cathedral is unique in that it uses an open-air design, with a retractable enclosure made of a translucent orange glass in a fluted shape.
- **Underground City:** The Underground City is composed of a series of chambers that have been extensively remodeled and built into, with a network of electronically monitored tunnels that lead to a large antechamber, a full two kilometers in height and three in diameter. While not as technologically advanced as one of the enclaves, the underground city is the engineering *magnum opus* for [Sund Wakir](#) builders
- **The Sea of Lights:** An underground lake several times the size of the city extends out into the cave system, acting as a very important (and low tech) heat sink for much of the city, in addition to more conventional air vents and air cooling systems. It experiences a phosphorescent effect very similar to the [Sea of Dreams](#).

Shuokirae Camp

A trader camp that sits at the bottom of a deep ravine in the small range in the center of the Expanse, Shuokirae is an important resting stop for nearly every caravan making any kind of journey across the region. It is also close to the nearby orbital elevator city of [Kuyun](#), resulting in a large number of injured pilgrims wandering into the camp, only to be taken to the city. Grazing fields are especially good, maintained by the Ministry of Faith as an act of goodwill to the Wakir caravans.

Atangr Camp

Atangr sits on the eastern coastal edge of the Expanse, at the foot of a dormant volcano. While the environment itself is quite lush, and the game especially healthy, the dunes can be seen just over the foothills, held back only by a thick greenbelt and water-dispersing pylons. Many youth use the camp as a staging area for adventures into the dunes, testing out liftcycles, dune buggies and newly-trained [Gualmyan](#).

Kuyun, the Great Marketplace

Khuyun is a city that should not exist, sitting in the middle of the desert and playing host to the sky-piercing pillar of the [orbital elevator](#). Because many spacefaring traders come down the elevator, it became the site of an especially large marketplace, gambling houses and state-licensed brothels and Dream Convents. The city boasts large dampening pylons which limit the effect of sandstorms within the confines of Khuyun, and one of the most extensive maintenace drone facilities in an [Iromakuanhe](#) settlement, thanks to the elevator.

- **Great Marketplace:** The marketplace of Kuyun rivals that of Kaeshun, in size the by the exotic nature of the goods. It boasts offering all the same goods (except for fresh seafood), and the finest [Fraxhit Floatcrab](#) in the region.
- **Entertainment District:** The Entertainment District is a general entertainment area, featuring gambling, Gualmyan races and a famous liftcycle circuit that makes heavy usage of an otherwise desolate desert. There is less of an emphasis on the nightclub scene in Kuyun, though there are plenty of religious and secular brothers to be found in the district.

- The Orbital Elevator: The elevator is a massive tower composed of the incredibly durable composites and metamaterials of the previous space age, mastered before the advent of faster-than-light travel or advanced energy weapons. Connected to the solar collection rings above the planet, the elevator provides a nigh-infinite supply of electricity to the city, and the surrounding countryside.

Fingers of the Sky Region

The Fingers of the Sky are a mountain range that cut across the western edge of the Nuocr Expanse, creating an effective barrier for the spread of the desert to the fertile plains on the western coast of the continent.

Zharin Enclave

Zharin is a mountaintop enclave set atop one of smaller mountains of the Fingers, renowned as an exceptional center of science. [Solan Starworks](#), [Ahmida Civiltech](#) and [Altjira Biomedical](#) all have offices in the enclave, and typically announce especially auspicious new products or technologies at Zharin. Because it is in the sub-temperate band, the winters aren't particularly harsh, but it does snow from time to time, rare for most settlements outside of the polar regions.

- [OGNEIR.net Original Annex](#): Zharin contains the original relays and annexes left over from the creation of the [OGNEIR.net Commonwealth Communications Grid](#). There was no master annex ever produced, however, the NI Lakshmi is notably influential among the other constructs, and the denizens of the enclave.

Port Zhabris

Although one would think that the mountain ranges would be a poor place for Eyr Ranr airship because of the hazards of flying through the rocky highlands, places such as Port Zhabris and its sister city of Port Avynna remain important regional port cities, providing an important halfway-point between between the two halves of the planet's single massive continent.

Port Zhabris is a city that lies at the bottom verdant Domoro valley near the southern tip of the fingers, sheltered from the howling desert winds and able to maintain a stable ecology with only minimal effort because of the weather barrier provided by the mountains. Because the valley's three navigable entrances are too narrow for most city-airships to pass, it tends to see more traffic from recreational flyers and light trading vessels. because of its close proximity to the Domoro settlement, it often acts as a relay for traders and caravaneers bringing supplies to and from Port Avynna.

Port Avynna

After languishing for seven centuries as little more than a small monastery of wind-riding ascetics and a government outpost from which Astral Vanguard patrols launched rescue operations into the deeper

parts of the mountains, Port Avynna has grown to become one of the most important port cities on the planet. Its high altitude and year-round clear skies have allowed a number of solar-powered [MASC catapults](#) to be constructed at one of the summits, which led to the establishment of a large and technologically-advanced city around the launch site and into the mountains underneath, comparable to Khuyun.

When the nomadic peoples who frequented the outpost were displaced by settlers, a series of landing terraces and yurt camps rose up in the foothills around the city and those of its surrounding settlements. Despite this, access to the main of Avynna is considerably easier with the development of high-speed rail infrastructure that connects the outlying villages in the equatorial environs of the *Fingers*.

- MASC Catapult: Avynna is one of five sites where spacecraft that cannot reach escape velocity can be launched into orbit, the others being Kaeshun, Khuyun, Mizar and Eklo Argyre

Domoro Valley

Enclosed within a flourishing valley at the northern tip of the *Fingers*, Domoro Valley is a sort of sprawling oasis city, protected by a belt of giant fungi to the south and condenser arrays that keep the valley lush and verdant. The city is considered a major center of agriculture, providing no less than ten percent of [Maekardanii](#) agricultural production and approximately eight percent of all food consumed on the capital world. Although once a pristine glacial valley, terraforming projects in the valley has seen the construction massive agricultural complexes built into terraces cut into the valley walls, and the creation of a dense boreal forest surrounding a lake maintained by the artificial water table sustained by the condenser arrays and agricultural facilities.

Floating above the enclosed green of Domoro Valley is the advanced airborne city of Domoro, which houses the automated maintenance and weather control systems that maintain the ecosystem and the terraforming devices in the local area. The city, perhaps twice the size of the largest true airship and housing several millions of [Iromakuanhe](#), is considered to be the largest airborne settlement in the Commonwealth. Similar cities have cropped up in other regions, mimicking the balanced ideal of ecology and technology that was established in the city.

Northern Prairies Region

The Northern Prairies are a region of smooth flatlands stretching out over northern central regions of the continent. This region originally a crisscross of verdant hills snaked by swamps and rivers, but planetary bombardment during the initial stages of the [Datalri](#) attacks destroyed the original ecology and left it flat and blasted. In an interesting twist, the damages also exposed (and frequently destroyed) a large number of ruins of an unknown origin, that had been completely buried by debris over what was likely centuries.

Restoration attempts managed to reseed the earth, but the original fauna and flora were lost forever. Today, what remains is an endless sea of golden grasses prowled by desert animals that were reengineered to tolerate a wetter and more abundant environment.

Irsepelas

Irsepelas is the regional capital of the Northern Prairies, a city built into the sinkholes created when the large aquifers that used to lay throughout the region were depleted and collapsed. It is research hub famous for its advances in ecological engineering and genetics, and many of the technologies that allowed the [Domoro Valley](#) and [Kuyun](#) to exist and thrive were pioneered by Irsepelas. The city is one of the most populated in its immediate region, and a few days travel to Kuyun by hovercraft or high-speed rail.

- [Altjira Biomedical](#), Maekardan Division: Although Altjira does maintain offices in the Capital, its main facilities on Maekardan are located at Irsepelas, where it maintains a number of offices and research facilities spread out throughout the city boroughs.
- Windtraps: Impossible to miss, the sail-like windtraps that rise up over eight stories from the ground around the sinkholes collect moisture and provide ventilation for the deeper areas of the city. They also provide visual keys for land vehicles crossing the back-country to avoid crashing through the city's bellow-ground airspace.

Copan

One of the sites of archeological interest in the Prairies, Copan is an outpost at the mouth of a great delta that was dessicated when the valley containing the river that fed it was collapsed. The resulting change in the hydrosphere caused the local flora to die. Eventually, the topsoil was eroded by winds and rain, exposing a complex network of ruins that might have once stood atop the soft silt and porous sedimentary stone.

Copan was founded when the flooded valley was designated to be used for commercial pisciculture, and survey teams eventually caught sight of the stone heads and zigurats poking out of the dried mud.

Sunstripped Spring (Arctic) Region

The Sunstripped Spring is the temperate northernmost region of Maekardan, and the most colonized continental region of the planet. Although the Capital is deeper to the south near the ocean, nearly 30% of the planet's population live here. It is a land of cascading valleys and soggy lowlands, fed by glaciers that cut through the cold and rocky highlands near the extreme polar region. The glaciers are prone to the [Static Storm](#) phenomenon, limiting expansion into the highlands.

Kuur Shilaku

Kuur Shilaku is one of Maekardan's definitive megacities, a sprawl of glass towers and golden pavilions built along the full length of the Kuur Valley. One of the original settlements on the planet, its existence is largely because of an abundance of iron ore coupled with a gentle climate and a workable supply of fresh water from outlying reservoirs. Because the land was not as carefully planned as other, more modern cities, the districts are a jumble of self-contained habitation complexes, suburban residences and

temporary homes criss-crossed by waterways, roads and skyscraper zones kilometers wide.

Kuur Shilaku is notable for a presence of industrial corporations specializing in energy, mining and energy, and a strong festival culture.

- Valley Wall District: The Valley Wall is a rich neighborhood rife with spires and skyscrapers inhabited by the wealthy and influential, and a number of high-class retailers and services. High Wall residents are the members of distinguished families, while Low Wall tend to be newly rich or the lucky few to operate a business in the High Wall.
- Kuur Waterfront: The Waterfront is perhaps one of the few definitive ghettos in [Iromakuanhe](#) society, a place where many Outer System [Cohroni](#) were resettled after the [Second and Third Outer System Conflicts](#). Many subsist off government aid, while a happy majority of the original immigrants have moved on to better areas of the city. Smugglers and outlaws staying in Kuur Shilaku are said to prefer remaining at the Waterfront to the actual spaceport.

Gallach

Gallach is a tower city located along a ridge of glacier-carved highlands known as the Gallach Reaches, known for its abundant supplies of fresh water, fist fighters and fine distilleries. Gallach whiskey is famous for its taste and body, and possesses a strong folklore of healing properties (and more rational beliefs in its powers as an antiseptic). Gallachian [Maekardanii](#) are reputed to be excessively polite and loquacious, and have a penchant for using cane fencing to resolve arguments.

Sidarth

Sidarth is a smaller highland settlement that presents a stark contrast to Gallach. It is a hermitage of sorts, where [Iromakuanhe](#) of diverse origins live in seclusion away from all the unnecessary technologies of the current era. Although they make use of conservation and transportation technologies, they produce little more than what they need and have a strong culture of handmade goods and artisan foods that has made them more popular in recent times.

Corum

Corum is a lowland mining town that was once the site of a reasonably large [Veyrinite](#) deposit, that was discovered several centuries ago. Deposits are few and far between, but usually of a size ensure a rush of migrant workers for a decade before the supply runs out, and another prospector spends decades in the deep looking for another cache, restarting the cycle. Strangely, the deposits discovered were of an exceptional purity, hinting at the possibility of the recovered material being wreckage.

Sunbathed Spring (Antarctic) Region

The Sunbathed is the southern temperate pole of Maekardan and the second most settled region on the planet after the northern sup-polar band. Heavier glacial melting in this area has produced a very lush

forest environment hydrographically locked from the rest of the biosphere by a mountain range that cuts across the southern tropics. Most of the land is covered by mossy coniferous rainforest, with a large region of plains stretching out near the exposed coastline. Unfortunately, heavy tectonic activity in the region (which caused the glacial melt in the first place) prevents major settlement without prior geological stabilization.

Alweid

Alweid was settled in the late the AR 600's during the second wave of emergent biotechnologies and biotech engineering hit Maekardan. Actually a cluster of macroscale organisms using [organoid](#) architecture, the city is a gleaming pearl-white marvel of biological engineering. With its curvy skyscrapers adorned with thick self-repairing biopolymer windows stretching miles into the sky and abundant skyways and canals, Alweid is typical of the cities built during the short-lived biotechnological renaissance.

Tureis

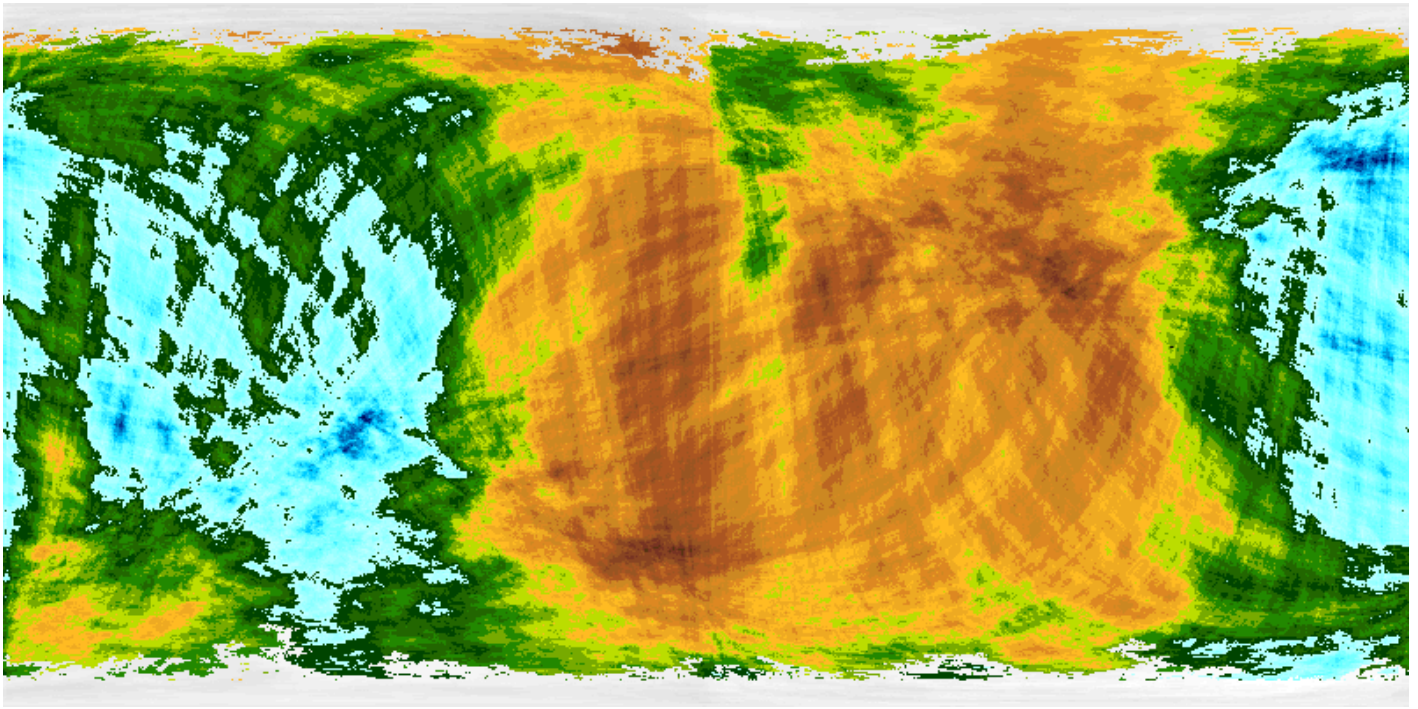
Tureis is one of the oldest settlements on Maekardan and dates back from the original colonization, a vast sprawl of ruins and historical cruft that has held the city's expansion into a proper in check for centuries. As much an archeological digsite as it is a settlement, Tureis has over a millenia and a half of history buried in its extant geological strata. Partially as a consequence of needing to expand eventually, the city has recently authorized the construction of tethered floating superstructures in outlying suburbs of the city to lay the foundation for new districts, although the project remains under consideration until power systems would make such projects rentable.

Fal Muzraim (Lunar) Region

Starwinds (Elevator Colonies) Region

Star Islands (Orbital Colonies) Region

Planetary Data



General Information

- Type Arid/Tropical
- Orbital Radius 22.4×10^7 (1.5 AU)
- Period 11.3×10^3 Hours (1.3 Earth Years)
- Hydrosphere 87 % Water, 13 % Ice
- Atmosphere Standard Breathable
- Biosphere Complex Fauna and Flora
- Gravity 8.8 m/s^2 (.89 Earth)
- Moons 2; 1 Volcanic, 1 Arid/Tropical

Practical Information

- Day Length 30 Hours
- Year 474 Days
- Seasons 4; Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall

Key Features

The Nuocr Expanse

The massive, inhospitable continental region between the two poles and the shores of Maekardan's singular ocean, called the Nuocr Expanse, is the most sacred place in known space to the [Iromakuanhe](#). It is the home of the sleeping Makuori, and of the wandering [Sund Wakir](#) people. The air over this region are filled with the particles of a noxious hallucinogen, that effects non-Iromakuanhe and foreign species.

For these reasons, access is expressly forbidden to outsiders.

The air is prevented from spreading thanks to a combination of a natural mountain range that prevents the particles from spreading, and the oddly hydrophobic qualities they have.

Static Storms

Static Storms are electrostatic phenomenon that occur around Maekardan's poles. Metallic impurities on the surface ice and in the air cause charge buildups, which eventually culminate in massive electrostatic ripples across the icy fields of the northern and southern polar regions.

Moons: Saerla and Fal Muzraim

Two moons orbit around Maekardan, the larger, volcanic one being Searla, and the arid, semi hospitable one is Fal Muzraim. Searla is a mass of molten rock with a cracked, burnt surface and a dense, metallic core. It is roughly 3/10 the size of Maekardan, and is the larger of the two moons. During the night, it emits a sort of dim, cracked, deep red glow. Fal Muzraim is small, semi-habitable moon with an environment similar to that of Maekardan. This moon is very dense, giving it nearly the same gravity as the mass it orbits, despite only being 1/5 Maekardan's size. At night, it resembles a massive blue sphere, with bands and tufts of white clouds circling around the atmosphere.

Places of the SARPiverse

Place Categories	planet
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