

Islay by the Sea

Introduction

Located on the southern coast of the Opal Sea, nestled in the **Crown Bay** is the proud maritime city of Islay. 200 years ago Islay was little more than a collection of rival fishing towns huddled together. As the towns grew larger and more prosperous they came closer in proximity and culture. Eventually, a time of mutual hardship the towns came set aside their differences and came under one banner, declaring themselves as the free city of **Islay by the Sea**. Today, it is one of the / prosperous port cities on the southern coast of the Opal Sea, due in part to its reputation as a seafood hub and a major producer of whale oil and salt in the region.

Population and Demographics

Population: 75,856 People, of which **Humans** are a **95%** majority. There are active communities of other races, **Dwarves** and **Half-elves** mainly, inside the city walls. The Peace is kept by **750** trained guardsmen but the city could support a militia of about **3000** if the need arose.

Population (working age): 47,030

Literacy Rate: 57%

Trade

Major Industries: Fishing, Agriculture, Salt, Shipwrights

- **Imports:** Lumber, Metals, Precious Metals, Masonry
- **Exports:** Fish, Whale Oil, Salt, Pearls, Cider, Vinegar, Seafood Delicacies (Eels, Caviar, Shellfish etc)

The city is most known for its high quality seafood and rugged whaling culture

Government & Organisations

Islay Mayoral Council

Islay is governed by a council of mayors, each responsible for one of the city districts, **Llanelly Town**, **Canterford Docks**, **Merribund Boardwalk**, **Baynooth Auld Town** and **Islay City**. The mayor elected for Islay City is also known as the **Majordomo**. The Majordomo acts as head mayor and de facto governor of the city. Though most decisions regarding the city are submitted to the council, the Majordomo have the final say in any decision to be made. The Majordomo is chosen by the council by way of vote from candidates chosen by the mayors, usually those who used to hold a mayoral position in the city. The mayors themselves are voted in by their districts and keep the title until someone else is elected or they choose to retire.

(Fluff)

Current Mayors:

Llanelly Town: **Stephen Hooke**

Orphaned young, Stephen was raised by the ladies of the Our Lady of Mercies almshouse. His experiences there drove him to pursue his role as Mayor. He is currently working on changing public opinion of the undesirable races of the city and to give the downtrodden in the city a future. However his brashness and naivete don't do him many favours during council meetings. He is a tall, broad shouldered man of plain looks and chestnut hair in his early thirties.

Canterford Docks: **Miranda Bale**

'Lady Ironside' Miranda Bale won her seat by

Merribund Boardwalk: **Vaelas Candor**

Vaelas won his seat on the council through sheer force of personality and no one has yet to replace him as the face of Merribund. He is a blonde, pale and slender half-elf in his mid forties. he is known to be a bit of a nancy and he has a habit of being condescending but he is dedicated to his work. His work has revitalised Merribund Boardwalk and it is now one of the most beautiful areas in the city

Baynooth Auld Town: **Isaac Shaw**

Isaac, retired whaling captain and former

being more stubborn than anyone else alive. She is fearsome, formerly a captain of the city guard before she decided to pursue politics. Her obstinacy serves as more of a harm than a help at the council and it is thought to be the reason she is unwed though she has had lovers. She rules the docks with an iron fist, cracking down on dishonest traders and smugglers before they can even disembark their ships. She is olive skinned with long black hair, curvaceous and in her mid forties.

leader of the salt traders guild, governs his relatively poor district with wisdom and pride. Always the voice of reason at council meetings, his experience with the trade guilds help the council guide the economic future of the city but he struggles to not come off as a bitter old man. He is tall and well built even in his old age, his unkempt mane of silver hair, long beard and diagonal face scar give him a very distinct and rugged look.

Current Majordomo: **Valena Seaworth**

Valena rose to prominence early in life becoming the youngest mayor in Islay's history at the age of 23. During her time as mayor she discovered that the then Majordomo was involved in corruption at the highest levels, conspiring with a notoriously crooked trade guild to sap the city's funds for themselves. She narrowly escaped an attempt on her life, clubbing her would-be assassin with a candelabra in her bedchambers. Within the week, she had all the evidence she needed to depose the former Majordomo and after 10 years as mayor of Llanelly Town district she was elevated to Majordomo. Valena is of average build, with brown hair often tied back and tomboyish looks and manner. Her quick wittedness and cheerful manner belie her crippling self-doubt and she is known to drink excessively after a particularly stressful meeting.

The City Guard

The Islay City Guard are the upstanding men and women who keep the citizens of Islay safe. Each armed and armored with the city's best, wearing overcoats over their armour emblazoned with the city's crest they watch over the citizens, beating out crime wherever they find it. The city guard has offices in every district but its headquarters is Castle Islay, an Island fort connected to the mainland by a sturdy stone bridge that serves as a HQ and a high security prison. **The Guard High Marshal** is a grizzled veteran named **Ezekiel Traynor**. A stubborn old dog with a hard attitude, a bear of a man with a salt and pepper beard, nearing sixty.

Hearthfire Dwarf Community

When the city was still young, a company of dwarf traders enamoured by the simple pleasures of the crown bay decided to settle down in Islay. They were given a parcel of land and the blessing of the first majordomo to settle among them in

return for a substantial injection of silver into the city's economy. The community colloquially referred to as 'Dwarf Town' is now home to almost 2000 individuals at the heart of the city and one of the most important trade guilds. The head of this community is **Bronn Thuurgrimson**, a cheerful, family oriented and fiercely proud dwarf of middling years, with fiery hair and beard, both neatly plaited. The community will often get a vote on laws to be passed that affect them directly and are allowed a tiebreaker vote in the Majordomo election.

Trade Guilds

The city's trade guilds form an integral part of the city's infrastructure. Trade guilds consolidate the city's various businesses in their industries into economic powerhouses. Each has hundreds of honest tradesmen on their payroll and is always looking to grow. However the effective monopolies established by these guilds ensure that individual traders are often swallowed up or pushed aside.

- Silver Sails Trade Company
- Islay Whalers' Guild
- Brine Salt Traders
- City Tradesmens' Guild
- Heathfire Community Traders
- Shipwrights of Islay
- Mother of Pearl Luxury Traders

Black Market Traders

In the darker corners of the city are secret traders that peddle weapons, drugs and other dubious ends that no self respecting trader would get involved with. Though these traders have never been caught, their existence is undeniable. It is rumoured that they can be found in the slums of some of the districts, particularly in the Backwaters neighbourhood in Llanelly or the Old docks in Baynooth.

Gangs

Misguided youths will often find their way into the clutches of one of the cities' gangs or worse resort to piracy. Within the inner city the gangs aren't much more than a band of petty thieves, con artists or thugs. however when you leave the city walls it's a slightly different story. there are rumours of organised gangs butting

heads with trade guild security and a infamous sneak-thief that people are calling the '**Ghost of Islay**'

Temples and Charitable Organisations

The people of Islay are quite religious and most of them are pledged to primal gods. **Mordrannic** is feared and revered by seamen and often a crew about to undertake a long journey under dubious conditions will make a substantial offering to one of his temples in the inner city.

The Our Mother of Mercies Almshouse is a unique building in Llanelly Town. Years ago, a priestess of **Chandis** and her small group of followers bought a run down abbey near the backwaters neighbourhood. They began to shelter, feed and clothe anyone who needed it from those walls and slowly it became a special part of the district. Serving as orphanage, shelter and hospital they rely heavily on their benefactors, although **Stephen Hooke** a former almshouse orphan being elected mayor of Llanelly has been a massive windfall for them. The current almshouse matron superior is a harkon priestess named **Kamari Al-Balbad**, tall and slender with yellow eyes, brownish-red and curved horns with ornamental carvings. She is kind and very popular among the people despite her infernal heritage.

City Planning

The city is broken into five districts, three inside the main walls (the inner city) and two outside them. Four of the districts are named after the original villages that came together to form Islay. Each still has its own unique personality and culture to it despite them all being parts of the same city.

Llanelly Town District

Llanelly District is the most residential district in the city of Islay. It lays outside the main city walls and about 30,000 people live here making it a fairly large town in its own right. It is also the first part of town travellers come into contact with if travelling from Kaastark. It is home to the Almshouse as well as the City Tradesmen's Guild which provides most of the odd jobs for the city (carpentry, masonry, smithing etc.)The City Tradesmen's guild head, a no nonsense stout blonde dwarf named **Bjorn Flamestoker**, occasionally oversees construction projects from the mayor personally. The Laughing Carp is a popular destination for westbound travellers looking to stop in Islay for a couple of days.

- Llanelly Town Centre
- Islay Constabulary Llanelly Branch
- Llanelly Local Market
- Our Lady of Mercies Almshouse
- The Laughing Carp Freehouse and Tavern
- Hooke Street (Common Traders)
- Backwaters Neighbourhood (Slums)
- City Tradesmens' Guild

Baynooth Auld Town District

The poorest district, relatively, Baynooth is outside of the city walls on the far side of the city. Due to its relative lack of importance it has been mostly neglected by the other members of the council but it is still steeped in a deep history. Brine Street is the historic home of Islay's Salt workers. The head of the Salt Traders, **Elio Cantos**, a sneering man with a hook nose, has tried numerous times to use his alchemical talents to create new salts and other mineral benefits, leaving tradition behind to kickstart a salt renaissance much to mayor Shaw's disapproval. There is also a sandy beach near the Old Docks district called Baynooth beach walk.

- Baynooth Town Centre
- Islay Constabulary Baynooth Branch
- Brine Street (Salt Traders)
- The Old Docks (Slums)

- Rusty Anchor Freehouses
- Baine Street (Common Traders)
- Baynooth Common Market
- Baynooth Beach Walk

Canterford Docks District

Canterford Docks is the beating heart of Islay. The docks bring in everything that the city needs to survive and then some. Apart from the major docks it houses the Shipwrights Guild under **Liam Maynard**, a 9 fingered rugged ginger man in his forties who fusses over everything and the Whaler's Guild under **Lucius Bale**, the mayor's cousin; a well built olive skinned man with green eyes with a habit for living dangerously. In addition it houses the Canterford fish market, famed for miles as the place to get the freshest fish this side of the opal sea. Islay Castle sits on its island vigilantly defending the bay from invasion with watchtowers and trebuchets. Crown High Street a very popular shopping destination for those who pass by the port.

- Canterford Town Centre
- Shipwrights of Islay
- Islay Docks
- Islay Whalers' Guild
- Islay Castle
- The Humpback Inn on the Docks
- Canterford Fish Market
- Warren Street (Common Traders)

Merribund Boardwalk District

Merribund is the feather in the cap of Islay, a beautiful district town with flower bushes aplenty, parks like the large Magdalena Green, lavish domiciles and, of course, the Merribund Boardwalk. The larger festivals and celebrations are held in the Merribund, the most important one being the Honor Harvest festival where festival barges are moored along the boardwalk each with different jubilant distractions such as games, dancing, music, feasts and what have you. It is also home to the Mother of Pearl Luxury Traders. The Luxury Traders take advantage of the natural abundance of oysters and other delicacies and pearls for jewelry in the crown bay use them to make profit elsewhere in the lands of lords. The owner of the is trade guild is **Bario Lorentz**, a portly man with an expensive taste in clothes who wears a lot of powdered wigs.

- Merribund Town Centre
- Merribund Boardwalk
- Merribund Constabulary
- Magdalena Green
- Mother of Pearl Luxury Traders
- Crown Street(High Street)
- Five Crowns Inn
- Cramberly Street (Common Traders)

Islay City District

The Islay City District sits in the geographic centre of the city and Houses the main government building of the city, the grand City Hall, where the council take their meetings and the official home of the Majordomo. It also houses the Dwarven community of Hearthfire. Their close proximity to the heart of the city gives the dwarves a definite sense of belonging. The **Silver Sails Trade Company**, the primary transportation company of Islay is based here, headed by **John Baine**, a strapping, arrogant young man with long golden hair who inherited the company fully from his predecessor.

- Islay City Hall
- Islay Courts of Justice
- Hearthfire Community Center
- Trader's Row (Common Traders)
- Silver Sails Trade Company
- Magdalena Street (High Street)
- Silver Sails Tavern

Outside the City

Beyond the districts are many family-owned orchards and farms that supply the city with produce to complement its large seafood industry. The countryside near Islay is also home to a famous Cidery, **Crawley&Dalton's** which uses apples and pears from the local orchards to create cider by the barrel and cider based vinegars to be sold in town and distributed along the land of lords.

History and Background



For generations, the humble fishing villages of Baynooth, Merribund, Llanelly and Canterford feuded amongst themselves over the unusually fertile lands and abundant fishing grounds that brought them to settle so close to one another. The fighting only got worse as the years passed and as the towns grew so did the number of transgressions.

Often the people of the towns would come to blows over the smallest squabbles and the losers would retreat, bloodied and sour, but no one would die. This shaky truce was broken when one day a group of youths from Merribund arrived at a Canterford's only tavern, looking for trouble. The leader of this band of troublemakers was the only son of Merribund's elderly Mayor.

After a night of unwelcome revelry and disturbance, the boys were confronted by a brave young man in the street. In haze of anger of alcohol the leader of the ne'er do wells stabbed the young man to death as the townspeople looked on, horrified. In the confusion they escaped back to their own town. The people of Canterford, furious, demanded retribution but the mayor would not give up his only son. This started a blood feud that eventually engulfed all four towns.

Preoccupied with one another and weakened by decades of infighting the towns were underprepared to deal with coastal raiders. A particularly ambitious dread pirate captain, Harold Pyke enslaved the villages and used them to supply his rapacious campaign of terror along the south coast of the opal sea.

His reign of tyranny continued on until the founding father of Islay, William Baine stopped him. He rallied a resistance from the villagers that still had the will to fight and mounted a daring offensive against the pirate garrison while Harold was away from shore. They captured and executed the land bound crewmen to the last man and then the villagers set a trap for Harold upon his return. William slew the dread pirate personally, pinning him to the deck of his flagship using a whaling harpoon.

Shortly afterwards, William, with the help of the village elders, began to rebuild what was lost. The mutual suffering people of the four villages brought them

together and a new town began to form between them as a monument to their newfound relationship, this town was called Fourton Port.

William was given the title of Majordomo, the first of his kind, a title he carried with him till his eventual death. In his lifetime he saw Fourton grow into a small city as their whaling, fishing and salt trades boomed. At the end of his natural life, he looked out onto the sea and declared that they were no longer four towns but one free city of Islay by the Sea. Since then the city has grown with the help of great trade boons and the master craftsmanship of the dwarves of hearthfire.

Trivia

- The city crest is three golden salmon superimposed over a shield of deep-blue green representing the sea and a silver-grey bend representing the flow of silver trade.
- The city colours are teal and grey
- The city's bird is the seagull
- The city's flower is lavender

Beginning at 1st level, you have significant experience studying, tracking, hunting, and even talking to a certain type of enemy commonly encountered in the wilds. Choose a type of favored enemy: beasts, fey, humanoids, monstrosities, or undead. You gain a +2 bonus to damage rolls with weapon attacks against creatures of the chosen type. Additionally, you have advantage on Wisdom (Survival) checks to track your favored enemies, as well as on Intelligence checks to recall information about them. When you gain this feature, you also learn one language of your choice, typically one spoken

*by your favored enemy or creatures associated with it.
However, you are free to pick any language you wish to learn.*