



UAE DIPLOMATIC CORPS PRESENTS

A GUIDE TO VISITING THE BANU
PROTECTORATE



WHY VISIT THE BANU?

THE BANU ARE NOT ONLY THE FIRST ALIEN SPECIES THAT HUMANITY HAD CONTACT WITH, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN A CONSISTENTLY PEACEFUL AND RESPECTFUL NEIGHBOR WHO HAVE FOSTERED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UEE AND HER CITIZENS THROUGH ECONOMIC TRADE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE. ON TOP OF ALL THAT, THEY ARE A RICH AND VIBRANT PEOPLE WELL WORTH A CLOSER LOOK. KNOWN BEST FOR THEIR INDUSTRIOUS NATURE, BANU PRIDE THEMSELVES ON THEIR ARTISANAL CRAFTSMANSHIP AND ASTUTE BUSINESS ACUMEN. RATHER THAN THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY UNITS OR CORPORATIONS TYPICALLY FOUND AMONG HUMANS, THE BANU INSTEAD HAVE A SOCIETAL STRUCTURE THAT COMBINES BOTH INTO ONE SINGLE UNIT – THE SOULI. OFTEN TRANSLATED AS ‘GUILD,’ THE SOULI IS THE FOUNDATION FOR LIFE IN THE PROTECTORATE, WHERE BANU WORK AND LIVE TOGETHER. EACH SOULI SPECIALIZES IN A SPECIFIC INDUSTRY AND CAN VARY WIDELY; FROM A SHIP MANUFACTURING SOULI, TO A TRADE SOULI, EVEN A SOULI THAT RAISES BANU YOUNG. THERE IS A SOULI FOR EVERYTHING. THIS REGIMENTED DIVISION OF LABOR TRANSLATES DIRECTLY INTO THE SKILLED EXPERTISE PRESENT ON BANU WORLDS, MARKETS AND TRADE-VESSELS MAKING FOR A MEMORABLE VISIT.



WHERE TO GO?

TRAVELLING THROUGHOUT THE BANU PROTECTORATE OFFERS A VARIETY OF EXOTIC SIGHTS AND SOUNDS. FROM THE FLOTILLAS OF YULIN TO THE HALLOWED HALLS OF TRISE, YOU CAN FIND ADVENTURE AND MYSTERY AROUND EVERY CORNER. SO WHERE DO YOU EVEN START? WE'VE ASSEMBLED A HANDY GUIDE OF SOME OF THE SYSTEMS TO MAKE PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY EVEN EASIER.

- BACCHUS II – SKIP BETWEEN THE THOUSANDS OF ARCHIPELAGOS AND ISLANDS ACROSS THIS VAST OCEAN WORLD TO EXPERIENCE WHAT MANY CONSIDER THE QUINTESSENTIAL BANU WORLD.
- GEDDON I – FANCY A LITTLE DANGER? VISIT THE ARCOLOGIES AMONG THE BEAUTIFUL DESOLATION OF THIS GEOLOGICALLY ACTIVE VOLCANIC WORLD TO SEE HOW MINING SOULIS ARE HARVESTING PLANETARY RESOURCES FOR TRADE GOODS.
- GLIESE IV – EVER WONDER WHAT AN UNINHABITED PLANET LOOKS LIKE? TRAVERSE THE UNKEMPT WILDS OF GLIESE IV, PERFECTLY HABITABLE TO HUMANS AND BANU, BUT COMPLETELY UNOCCUPIED.
- KINS II – FOR YOU HISTORY BUFFS, NO TRIP TO THE BANU PROTECTORATE WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT SEEING THE ANCIENT STRUCTURE ON KINS II. COMPLETELY DEFYING ANY EXISTING BANU ENGINEERING STYLES, THESE SITES HAVE LONG BAFFLED XENDARCHAEOLOGISTS ABOUT WHO (OR WHAT) BUILT THEM.

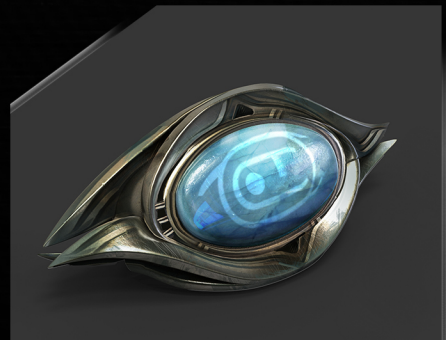


WHAT TO DO WHEN I GET THERE?

OF COURSE, THE BANU DON'T SPEND ALL THEIR TIME WORKING AND TRADING. WITH A STRONG BELIEF THAT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS LIVE IN THE MOMENT AND FOCUS ON THE PRESENT, THEY TAKE THEIR RELAXATION ALMOST AS SERIOUSLY AS THEY TAKE THEIR WORK. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM WHEN IT COMES TO DIVERSIONS AND THERE'S SURE TO BE SOMETHING TO MATCH ALMOST ANY TASTE. MAYBE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY YOUR HAND AT ONE OF THE BUSTLING GAMBLING HALLS WHERE GOODS ARE EXUBERANTLY EXCHANGED IN GAMES OF CHANCE. IF YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT SPORTS, THE BANU HAVE TAKEN A STRONG LIKING TO THE HUMAN GAME OF SATABALL WITH MANY ARENAS TO BE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE PROTECTORATE — JUST BE WARNED THAT IT'S COMMON FOR BANU TO CHEER FOR BOTH SIDES IN A MATCH!

FOR MANY WHO VISIT THE BANU, THE BIGGEST DRAW WILL BE THE MARKETS WHICH MANY CONSIDER TO OFFER SOME OF THE BEST SHOPPING ANYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE. NOT ONLY CAN YOU PERUSE THE ELITE CRAFTSMANSHIP OF THE VARIOUS SOULI, BUT BECAUSE THE BANU TRADE WITH MANY OTHER SPECIES, YOU CAN OFTEN FIND EXOTIC GOODS FROM ALMOST EVERY CORNER OF KNOWN SPACE AND SOME ITEMS FROM EVEN FARTHER THAN THAT. WANDERING DOWN THE CROWDED STALLS OF A BANU FLOTILLA CAN BE A TREAT FOR THE SENSES, BUT TO GET THE FULL EXPERIENCE YOU WILL DEFINITELY WANT TO HAVE THE FUN OF PURCHASING AN ITEM OF YOUR VERY OWN. FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR JUST A SMALL KEEPSAKE OF THEIR TRAVELS, A POPULAR ITEM TO PURCHASE IS A THOLD, A SMALL THREE-SIDED TOKEN REPRESENTATIVE OF CASSA, THE BANU PATRON OF LUCK.

THESE TRINKETS ARE SOLD AS DECISION-MAKING DEVICES, SO ASK A QUESTION, THEN ROLL THE THOLD TO GET A 'YES,' 'NO' OR (WHAT ROUGHLY TRANSLATES TO)'RUN' AS AN ANSWER. TRADE-VESSELS MAKING FOR A MEMORABLE VISIT.



AND AFTER ALL THAT EXPLORING AND SHOPPING, MAKE SURE TO STOP BY ONE OF THE DINING SOULI TO EXPERIENCE SOME OF THE BANU'S HOSPITALITY FIRSTHAND AND PARTAKE IN ONE OF THEIR LARGE COMMUNAL MEALS. WHILE BANU TYPICALLY EAT WITH THEIR HANDS, SOME PLACES THAT CATER TO HUMANS WILL HAVE SILVERWARE AVAILABLE.

IN THE MARKETPLACE

WHEN VISITING ANY BANU POPULATION CENTER, FROM THE SMALLEST ENCLAVES TO THE THRIVING CITIES, YOU WILL NOTICE ONE THING: THEY ARE ALWAYS BUILT AROUND A CENTRAL MARKETPLACE. HUMAN ANTHROPOLOGISTS THEORIZE THAT EARLY BANU SOCIETIES MUST HAVE GROWN AROUND CROSSROADS, PLACING THEMSELVES ALONG THE CONFLUENCES OF TRAVELLERS ALLOWED THEM TO MAXIMIZE THEIR EXPOSURE TO GOODS MOVING AROUND THEIR PLANET. THE MORE POPULAR CROSSROADS ATTRACTED MORE AND MORE BANU UNTIL PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE AROUND THEM. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THESE ARE JUST THEORIES AND NOT EVEN BANU ONES. THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIANS OF THE BANU CULTURE ARE ACTUALLY HUMANS AND THAT ONLY GOES BACK AS FAR AS OUR FIRST INTERACTIONS WITH THEM. THE BANU BELIEF THAT ONE SHOULD ALWAYS LIVE IN THE PRESENT HAS CREATED A CULTURAL MENTALITY THAT DISREGARDS FACTS OF THE PAST. TO THAT END, WHILE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE WILL BE PRESERVED (UNTIL THEY COME ACROSS A BETTER DESIGN), ALL OTHER FACTS (HISTORICAL FIGURES, KEY EVENTS, EVEN THEIR OWN HOMEWORLD) HAVE BEEN LOST TO THE AGES. SO, WHILE HUMANS PLACE GREAT VALUE ON DEEDS AND NOTEWORTHY ACTIONS, TO THE BANU IT IS THE ACCUMULATION OF MATERIAL GOODS THAT TRULY REPRESENTS A LIFE WELL SPENT. NO WHERE IS THIS CLEARER THAN IN THEIR MARKETS.

FROM STALLS PACKED TO THE BRIM WITH ODDS AND ENDS TO THE IMMACULATE SHOWROOMS ABOARD A MERCHANTMAN, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN TRADING WITH THE BANU:

- NEGOTIATING IS A MUST. IT IS CONSIDERED VERY STRANGE TO ACCEPT AN INITIAL OFFER
- EVEN THOUGH AN ITEM OR A SHIP CAN LOOK THE SAME ON THE OUTSIDE, IT'S WORTH TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AS BANU MANUFACTURING CAN VARY WIDELY FROM SOULI TO SOULI. IT MAY BE WORTH SHOPPING AROUND TILL YOU FIND THE ONE THAT MATCHES YOUR PRICE AND QUALITY STANDARDS.
- AS TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO SPECIES GROWS, MANY BANU ARE MAKING PRODUCTS SPECIFICALLY TO CATER TO HUMAN TASTES. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE NOW NUMEROUS SHIP SOULI WHO ARE CONSTRUCTING HUMAN FLIGHT READY VERSIONS OF SHIPS LIKE THE MERCHANTMAN AND DEFENDER.
- IT IS TRADITIONAL FOR BANU TO OFFER HOSPITALITY WHILE NEGOTIATING AND YOU WILL OFTEN SEE TRADERS GATHERED AROUND A SLOMADDON, A LARGE ORNATE BREWING VESSEL, EACH OF THEM HAVING CONTRIBUTED AN INGREDIENT TO THE DRINK, SLOMA.
- IF YOU ARE OFFERED A CUP, BE POLITE AND TAKE A SIP, BUT MAKE SURE
- TO DRINK RESPONSIBLY — SLOMA CAN SOMETIMES BE QUITE POTENT. MOST BANU WILL CONSIDER A DEAL FINAL ONCE THE TRANSACTION IS COMPLETE. MAKE SURE YOU INSPECT EVERYTHING CLOSELY AND DOUBLE CHECK THE TERMS OF YOUR AGREEMENT BEFORE LEAVING.
- A GOOD TIP FOR FINDING A REPUTABLE DEALER IS WATCHING WHERE OTHER BANU SHOP. IF A SOULI DOESN'T HAVE VERY MANY CUSTOMERS THERE MIGHT BE A REASON FOR IT.
- IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKE, GO AHEAD AND BUY IT! BANU TRADERS ARE OFTEN TRANSIENT AND MAY NOT BE THERE NEXT TIME YOU RETURN.



SAFETY AND SECURITY

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS AND POINTERS TO KEEP IN MIND DURING YOUR VISIT:

- MANY HUMANS FIND THAT BRINGING EARPLUGS OR OTHER HEARING PROTECTION CAN BE HELPFUL SINCE THE BANU'S HEARING ISN'T AS SENSITIVE AND NOISE LEVELS CAN GET QUITE HIGH.
- WHILE MANY BANU WILL DEAL WITH YOU HONESTLY, THEY HAVE WHAT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A LAX VIEW OF CRIME AND EXPECT VISITORS TO LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES, SO KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU AT ALL TIMES. SOME TRAVELERS FIND HIRING LOCAL BANU MERCENARIES OR DEFENDER ESCORTS TO BE A SOUND INVESTMENT. IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A CRIME, YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO HIRE A SECURITY SOULI TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER FOR YOU. IN CASES OF THEFT, MANY ARE WILLING TO TAKE A PERCENTAGE OF THE RECOVERED GOODS AS THEIR FEE.
- ONE OF THE BIGGEST DANGERS THAT HUMANS CAN ENCOUNTER IN THE BANU PROTECTORATE IS SLAVERY. WE STRONGLY ADVISE PEOPLE AVOID THE "SERVANT MARKETS" OF KINS II FOR THIS REASON. HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU ARE CAPTURED BY BANU SLAVERS YOU WILL MOST LIKELY BE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE YOUR OWN FREEDOM. THERE ARE FEW COMPANIES THAT OFFER TRAVELERS SLAVERY INSURANCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE MANY VISITORS HAVE READ THE POPULAR BOOK A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE, WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND PEOPLE THAT THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION AND SHOULD NOT BE COUNTED ON AS AN ACCURATE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THE BANU.

