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SMOKING BONES TRAVEL GUIDES  
**BRANDIMIR**

**ANDREW  
BOSLEY**  
& WILLARD  
BOSLEY

# BRANDIMIR

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THE SMOKING BONES TRAVEL  
GUIDES

**The Smoking Bones Travel Guide:**

**Brandimir** is a small press publication produced by Wits End Studios, the publishing brand of Andrew Bosley. It is part of a larger series of illustrated stories set in the original fictional world of The Smoking Bones, which was imagined and created by Andrew Bosley.

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Worldbuilding and Art: Andrew Bosley  
Wonder Text: Willard Bosley, Andrew Bosley, and Aaron Lambert  
Editing and Book Layout: Andrew Bosley  
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1045 Geneva Dr.  
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www.bosleyart.com  
Email: andrewbosleyart@gmail.com

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To Maren, who makes life  
and all things in it sweeter.  
I love you!



The world is much bigger and older than you know. And far more magical! The question is, do you have eyes keen enough to see it? Or a spirit strong enough to brave it? And most importantly, do you have a captain bold enough to lead you?

Map of mainland Northlands or the Twelve Kingdoms

# WELCOME ABOARD

So, you're thinking about a Grand Tour? You've come to the right place! Whether you're looking to test your mettle in the enchanted wilds of our world or witness the splendor of the magical unknown, the Smoking Bones Travel Company can take you to all the Wonders your imagination can fathom and more. The SBTC is not only the best touring company in the Northlands, but it is also the oldest. Red Jones, founder of the SBTC and captain of the Morningstar, has been exploring the hidden magics of the Twelve Kingdoms for decades. And he brings that experience, and lots of stories with it, to every expedition. But the Smoking Bones is more than just a touring company.

thousand magical places. It's an ambitious goal, to be sure. But you can help. Every Grand Tour booked and every travel guide sold supports Red Jones and his altruistic pursuit. As you read through this travel guide and plan for your next adventure, consider yourself a member of the SBTC and a contributor to the KMP Project. Your support is keeping the Wonders of the Grand Tapestry alive and thriving. Thank you!

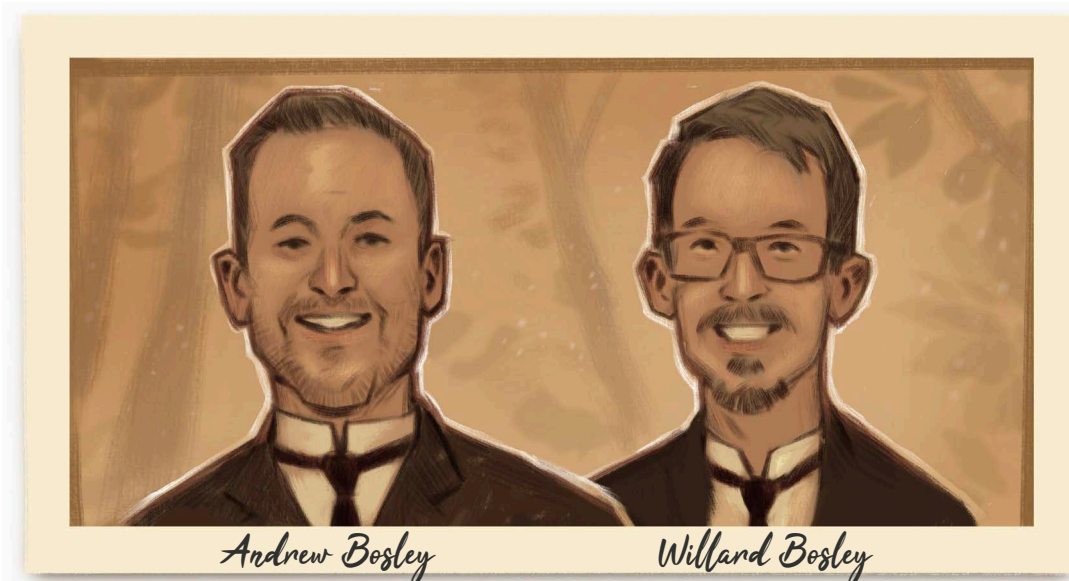
## About This Book

This travel guide, along with others in the SBTC tour collection, is the product of the artists and writers of our Wonders

Department. Led by Andrew Bosley and his son Willard Bosley, the Wonders Department is tasked with promoting the magics of the Northlands.

Each spread of this travel guide features one of our signature SBTC travel posters and a brief description of the Wonder it illustrates. In addition, look for **T**our Tips, drawings, and important information that will help you plan for your trip. Of course, before booking, make sure to contact an SBTC travel agent for a complete outline of your future excursion's schedule, magical attributes, and potential hazards.

After the Withering War, Captain Jones was shocked to see that Wonders were continuing to disappear as a consequence of the conflict's impact on the magical landscape. So, shortly after forming the SBTC, he also created an initiative with a mission to find every Wonder, chronicle them, and protect them before they are lost. This initiative is called the **KMP Project** and it won't be complete until Red has found one



*Andrew Bosley*

*Willard Bosley*





# THE EMERALD EMPIRE

**F**orests of dreams. Oceans of wonder. And mountains of legend. Not to mention, some of the best magical cuisine of all the Twelve Kingdoms. It's no wonder Brandimir is considered by all to be the hidden gem of the North Sea. With all your senses, you can feel this land calling to you.

In fact, since the end of the Withering War, the Emerald Empire has been calling to everyone! Although the Brandimirians

fought valiantly throughout the war, many in the Northlands have had a hard time forgetting the close ties Brandimir once had with the Withermark. Now, in an effort to rebrand Brandimir, the once-reclusive nation has opened its doors wide in an outreach of goodwill, inviting all to share in its natural treasures. This new outward-facing policy is not only shining light on the beauty and tranquility of this island kingdom, but also on its national sacrifice and global solidarity.

Being isolated from the rest of the Northlands, geographically and culturally, has shrouded this gem in a veil of mystery for centuries. Although Brandimir has a reputation for guarded seclusion, its people are warm and welcoming. For the curious visitor, there is no mystery of the island that they won't freely unlock. Brandimirians are a proud and noble people with a deep love of their ancestry and traditions. They have a rich industry and hearty work ethic, and they are the primary exporters

of crucial commodities like wind and hot tom. As you walk along the cobblestone streets of Endhaven and Seven Sisters – and everywhere in between – you'll find men, women, and children with a passion for life, love, liberty, and their land.

While the landscape of Brandimir is flush with natural beauty, it is its unnatural features that bring most visitors to this isle of wonders. Brandimir is relatively small and is disproportionally blessed with magic in its milder and wilder forms. But, the Smoking Bones Travel Company, along with the rest of the world, has only recently started discovering its secret treasures.

The Wonders included in this travel guide represent only a small sample of the landmarks available in a SBTC Grand Tour. As part of its ongoing KMP Project, and in partnership with the Brandimir Royal Union, the Smoking Bones will continue to explore, record, protect, and promote newly revealed Wonders of Brandimir.

But why wait? As you explore this travel guide, you too will feel the magic of Brandimir, past, present, and future, calling to you. Pack your bags, bundle up warm, and visit your nearest SBTC Travel Office to book your next Grand Tour. It's time for you to answer the call!





THE  
**WONDERS**  
OF BRANDIMIR

BLACKVALE  
GREENVALE

MARTINGTON

ANTHEM

THE AZURE SEA

BARIGOLD BAY

FLUBSDUB FIRTH

THE MAUGHAN FJORDS

Ironside

OLD GATE

Onyx City

SEVEN SISTERS

Maier

Knowlton

THE

GHEORGHE ARCH

WITHERMARK

BRANDIMIR

BARIGOLD

MARIGOLD

WILLOWHORN  
ELDERBOTTOM

THE NORTH SEA

Sanctuary

OAKSPAN  
MEADOWLOCK

RIVER BOUNDLESS

GREY LAKE  
MAIDENS GREEN

BRETTBURN

PENUMBRAL PEAKS



CERULEAN

Weeping



BONECUTTER

Hildigard

Bilberry

Heavenell

Finlie

GOLDENGROVE RIVER

MARN MEADOWS

Terracotta

ENDWELL

Westwind

Westmount

Luna

Nathans Vale

SUNEWATER RIVER

DUNCILY

Peskport

Bowman

Silvermist

Callister

Tipton

THE HAVENS

Summerfell

Hallow

Weatherford

Wayferry

WHISPER BAY

Redstock  
Barigold Bay

THE WATERS OF MALINDO

Flatland Falls

TAIT TREE

Dewbrook

Brazinan

BREAKWATER BAY

VONMINDONS

Fantasia

Wild Ridge

Skytide

GREAT WINDHAM

Tottenberry

Lower Wits End

MILLEN LAKE

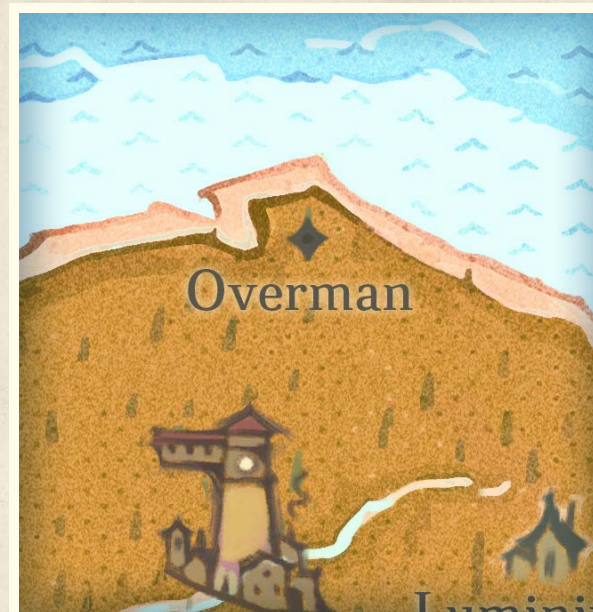
THE MAREN LAKES



Creating art for the Smoking Bones Travel Company is not always comfortable. Artist Andrew Bosley, with canvas and supplies, spent a total of 28 hours in the cramped quarters of a diving bell in order to capture the full brilliance of the Jellyfish Sea.

# DIVING IN THE JELLYFISH SEA

Overman, Brandimir



**A**daptation is an important part of nature. Prey may change over time to continue the survival of the species, but predators adapt just the same to keep up with their prey. This type of magical evolution is in full display in the waters of Overland.

The Jellyfish Sea is filled with bedazzling jewels that grow in size and value the deeper you go. These gems are shed from the bodies of fantastical jellyfish that make the sea floor their home, and they're as glorious as they

are valuable. But chasing riches too greedily will only pull you into the clutches of this mega predator.

The Haka Jellyfish, or Lunar Princess, is the largest species of jellyfish in the world. Their glowing hoods can reach diameters of 30 feet and their paralyzing tentacles extend up to 50 feet. The Haka grow faceted pink crystals at the base of their bodies, but shed them gradually when they move. When thousands of jellyfish glide as a group, the result is a glittering cascade that fills the deepest parts of the sea with treasure. The shiny gems serve as a lure to the Haka's natural prey (seals, whales, and giant squid), but they've been known to hook ambitious treasure hunters too.

You can see the bounty of this biomagical wonder without getting your ankles wet. Tiny deposits of Haka gems are scattered across the coast like glitter. But with every step away from shore, the hope of something greater pulls you further still. While the SBTC will provide you with the gear to dive as deep as you want, only you can decide how far to press your luck.

So, this adventure offers the greatest

challenge of all: the challenge of will! Can you keep yourself from being tempted by the larger and brighter gems in the deeper seas? It's up to you to prove yourself not just in skill, but in steadfastness! - WB

**T**The Smoking Bones tour also allows visitors to enter the deep seas via group diving bell, allowing you to witness the gem jellyfish colony up close, without being in danger.

*Diving bells can accommodate up to 8 people and can reach almost to the sea floor.*





# MADAME MAREN'S TOMTOM FESTIVAL

Meridian, Brandimir




For fifty-one weeks of the year, Maren keeps an elusive and mysterious lifestyle. Her handcrafted delicacies are distributed throughout the island, though she rarely makes an appearance in person. But on that fifty-second week, she plays host to an elaborate celebration of sweetness. Invitations are hard to come by, but Captain Red can get you in. Welcome to the most exclusive chocolate party of the year: the Great Tomtom Festival.

Sugary specialists from across the Twelve Kingdoms gather here, setting up tents, stands, coaches, boats, and even stranger avenues to showcase their mouthwatering morsels. The selection of treats is a dazzling display of culinary culture and all are free.

But these offerings are only a prelude. The preliminaries before the main event. Situated in the center of all the festivities is Maren's signature contribution to the event: the Titanic Tomtom Tower. This chocolate spire is the centerpiece for a number of performances and activities throughout the week. But on the last day of the festival, Madame Maren uses the magical, explosive properties of the Tomtom to light the tower and shower her guests with a chocolate

spectacle. The design of the tower and the nature of the magical display changes from year to year and remains a guarded secret until the festival's conclusion.

If you've got a sweet tooth and a love of splendor, this festival is for you. And if you're coming to the festival, you'd better come on an empty stomach. - WB

 Select dishes may contain nuts.



*Hot Tom, the original tomtom delicacy, is one of the most popular drinks in the world and a specialty of Madame Maren's.*



This commemorative poster was commissioned to celebrate the Festival's 25th anniversary. The beautiful Maren was kind enough to stand for the painting along with her favorite miniature horse, Sebs.



## THE LONG FOLDS OF BRANDIMIR

The caravan traders of the Red Way are legendary throughout the Northlands. Until Brandimir opened its borders, they were rumored to be anything between highway bandits and treasure seeking entrepreneurs. Reality proved to be somewhere in the middle.

# THE RED WAY CARAVAN

## The Long Folds of Brandimir



Of the many trade routes that weave through the Northlands, there are plenty with local significance, each holding their own history and mystique. Only a few passages have achieved international fame and importance. And of these, there are none as mysterious and magical as the Red Way.

Connecting many of the most wild Wonders on the Isle of Brandimir, the Red Way follows a natural belt of magic that spans from coast to coast and beyond. It received its

name anciently, owing to the brilliant red mushrooms that dot the rolling hills of the Long Folds. At its height, it was the primary route used by traders to traffic the island's most important magical exports and imports. As a result, it also became the cultural pipeline for the kingdom, bringing news and ideas from the outside in. In the busiest spots, the Red Way is paved with golden cobblestones. But in the wilder parts of the island, it's barely more than ruts in the dirt.

Of those who still consider the Red Way their home and the life blood of their trade, none are more famous and experienced than the Red Way Caravan Guild. This band of wagon merchants has driven along the road for generations, selling their wares all across the isle. The group varies in size based on the season, ranging from a half dozen wagons to hundreds moving as one. Under normal circumstances, chance encounters with the Caravan is a rare event. But the Smoking Bones Travel Company is here to provide an exclusive meetup with these ancient nomads at one of the many established camps along their circuit!

Upon your first meeting, you'll find that all representatives of the Caravan are humble,

hard working, and friendly folk, happy to sit with fellow travelers to share a warm meal, news of the world, and stories of old. With very little prompting, guild members will regale you with spectacular tales of wonder and adventure throughout the Red Way, consisting of both their own experiences and those of their predecessors. But when everyone's cups are drained, the members of the Red Way Caravan will need to part ways—unless you have an exclusive Caravan guest invitation! For the first time ever, the Red Way Caravan Guild is giving SBTC tourists the opportunity to join the Caravan! For two days, you can ride along the Red Way with the Caravan in your own private wagon, visiting Brandimir's magical sites along the way with the island's most knowledgeable local guides as your companions. Whether you're looking for a short visit or a long immersive journey, the Red Way is your chance to touch history! - WB

**⚠** Buyers beware! Any purchases or barter made are irreversible once the Caravan has departed. Neither the Smoking Bones Travel Company nor the Red Way Ranger Association take any responsibility for regretful purchases made by participating adventurers.

# THE GUARDS OF WHITHAM GATE

Paisley, Brandimir



enemy fleet was a symbolic attack more than a strategic one. After the shelling was done and the warships were gone, all that was left of the former capital were craters and dust. Eventually, the city was rebuilt on top of the ruins, but the central castle was not. The shattered, floating stones of the Gate remain a testament to the resiliency of this great nation and a reminder to never surrender.

Here, despite little more than a floating archway remaining, the Guards continue to watch over what is left of a once fantastic castle. Every noon and every midnight, guests may witness the legendary Changing of the Gate. Like clockwork, armed sentries step down from their posts, marching along invisible steps to and from the gate, to be replaced by a fresh appointment of soldiers.

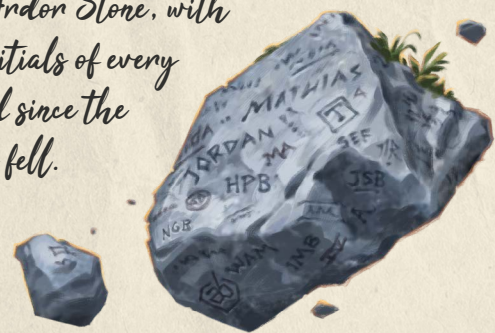
Some say that the guards have been born with magical powers of flight and levitation, while others believe that they are so devoted to their roles, that they have mastered the ability to walk on the mere memory of the steps that were once there. Nonetheless, the guards are honor-bound to keep watch over the gate, and are meticulous in their duties. As such, whether they are leaving their post or keeping watch, they will refuse to speak

to visitors. We ask that any travelers with the company refrain from pestering the guards; while it will have no effect, doing so would still be quite rude and would be an embarrassment for oneself and the Smoking Bones as a whole. Furthermore, the guards are willing to battle anyone who crosses the line from annoyance to threat.

So, if you're a fan of pomp or moved by history and tradition, the majesty of the ceremony is sure to inspire those with the conviction to preserve the sacred remnants of our history. - WB

**T** The Changing of the Gate is a very popular event. The noon-time observance is obviously the most crowded. If you want a good view, make sure to come early.

*the Andon Stone, with the initials of every guard since the castle fell.*



The Guards of Whitham Gate



COME TO OLD WORLD  
**PAISLEY**



The city of Paisley's ceremonial colors are purple and yellow. In recent years, many social movements with more traditional sensibilities have adopted purple and yellow as symbols of courage and resiliency.

# ALL THE WONDERS

GREAT AND SMALL



This illustration was the first created by long-time Smoking Bones artist, Andrew Bosley, and features 5 time hunt champion, Magnus Mundy, with his trusted steed, Titan.

## THE GREAT FIREFLY HUNT

Velvetine, Brandimir



In the Highmoor Woods, you'll discover a world abounding with experiences you never thought possible: bounce across patches of giant mushrooms, slip down dew-slick blades of grass into cool streams (beware of fish!), or soar on the winds while clinging to a cluster of dinflower seeds. The whole woods are your playground!

While the Highmoor Woods has much to offer those with a daring sense of adventure, there's one experience sure to thrill folks of every kind: The Great Firefly Hunt. This annual event is a spectator sport to rival all others, known to bring crowds not just from Brandimir, but from all across the Northlands. In fact, you're likely to spot your favorite celebrity in attendance.

During the week-long series of competitions, jockeys ride trained steeds of their choosing (be it mouse, lizard, or, in one case, a bat) in a mad dash to catch the most fireflies with their pole nets. While the arena – much like everything in the woods – is quite large, members of the audience will have the perfect view from grandstands carved high up in the trees. Bringing or buying a pair of binoculars is also recommended. This world-renowned contest is held in honor of the great explorer

Cormish Velt, the first person to both chart the woods and also return to share his knowledge. According to legend, during one particularly perilous night, he managed to lasso three fireflies, which served as both a distraction to predators and a source of light, leading Cormish to safety. In fact, you can still view his tiny lassoes at the Velvetine Museum, as well as some of his early maps and other sketches from the woods.

**T** A word of caution while making travel plans to see The Hunt: even returning fans have been known to get lost on their way and, as Cormish discovered, the woods are no place to go stumbling about in the dark. Luckily, Smoking Bones has you covered. Their partnership with AniTran, the world's best animal transport service, will provide you with an affordable chance to ride along in the painted beetle caravan. You'll arrive in comfort, having enjoyed a few notable stops along the way to view some of the greatest vistas around. For those given to flights of fancy, we recommend AniTran's royal bee-line. You'll arrive on time and in style, with a complementary honeycomb platter. - AL

In the end, the Highmoor Woods is one big adventure you won't soon forget.

# HYDE PEAK WIND HARVESTING

Verdant, Brandimir



is rare. It takes grit and a stout heart to collect it.

“Wild” wind can be collected in multiple isolated locations in the Northlands, but the Hyde Peak Co. has stationed itself at the apex of a veritable wild wind whirlpool in the Verdant Mountains, making it one of the most iconic and most profitable harvesters in the business. Their signature sled-like mills and bright balloons are the hallmarks of an entire industry.

Though the process of collecting, refining, and shipping wind is fascinating in its entirety, it's the “baggers” that get most of the attention. Starting from the top of a harvester mill, baggers ascend long wires tethered to the ballons above. As they climb, they check the status of special bags collecting wind along the line. When a bag has reached its full capacity, it is disconnected from the tether and replaced. Then, with agility and grace (and nerves of steel), the bagger uses the filled bag to free fall down to the base of the mill, where the refining stage begins.

There's so much to take in at Hyde Peak! Witness the harvesting in person as baggers

rise and fall as they capture and tame the magical winds. Or explore the factory itself, where magical wind is refined into a solid and packaged for export. Or, for the truly adventurous, try your hand at harvesting. What you catch, you keep! - WB

**T** By special contract, the Smoking Bones Travel Company is the only provider of civilian tours for this location. Access to restricted areas is limited; some areas (e.g. factory floor, wind balcony) can only be entered during scheduled tours, and further sections of Hyde Peak are completely prohibited.



*A standard wind bag, about the size of an adult man, is able to harvest up to sixteen Swells (sw) of wind.*



The Hyde Peak Wind Harvesting Company has been around since the introduction of the wind engine itself. Because the raw wind they collect is already of a superior quality, their refined and packaged exports consistently receive Grade A ratings or better.



# TIPTON

THE HOT SPOT OF BRANDIMIR



Fire water, like that found in Tipton, can be harvested and refined into a source of energy, but it's an ancient magical fuel. It's only used in its milder form among more traditional communities in the Northlands.

# THE FIRE SPRINGS OF TIPTON

Thornwatch, Brandimir



Mountains, lies a huge network of craters and waterfalls flowing with boiling fire water. You have undoubtedly seen this enchanted substance in many places as a source of fuel, but here, the fire water is untamed and vicious – glowing in harsh, vibrant reds and yellows – bubbling ferociously, as though it were magma with a barely-hidden temper.

In fact, the people who lived here in ancient times thought that the souls of the dead came here to leave their anger behind before passing on to the next life. Some might call it superstition or even a fairy tale, but those who have long studied the springs know just how much the springs abhor the living.

And yet, despite this, the springs are home to some of the most beautiful wildlife imaginable. The beautiful origami trees take root along the fire water's edge. They seem barren and take on a dark gray hue, indistinguishable from the rocks around them, but once day breaks, their leaves unfold from their branches to take in the sunlight. And speaking of rocks, be wary of which ones you pick up; you may find yourself holding a newly awoken (and likely unhappy) pumice toad! Their size, texture, and static nature may seem like mere camouflage at first

glance, but this is also how they've adapted to the fire water over many years. Adventurers can even see them floating on the water, catching the metallic steelflies that foolishly flit too close.

Despite the hostile environment, the Fire Springs are filled with a vibrancy obvious to anyone with the eyes to see it. - WB

**T** For your own safety, please remain on the designated paths. The springs are hot enough to cause burns just from putting one's hand over them, and falling in will kill a human within seconds. Furthermore, please be wary of the wildlife. It's not wise to agitate animals capable of surviving volcanic temperatures.



*The toxic Pumice Toad has developed a thick, rock-hard upper surface from laying in the springs belly up.*

At the highest plateau of the Tipton

# THE GAZE OF THE CHIU ORACLE

Luminivera, Brandimir



Once a month, when the full moon is at its zenith, this stoic, stone sage begins to hum. In this state, the Chiu Oracle is ready to impart its mysteries and those brave enough to touch the Oracle are quickly overwhelmed with visions, voices, and promptings leading to knowledge and insight, both deep and intimate. The Oracle does not tell the future, but impresses upon the mind personal truths that are often too subtle or revelatory to grasp unaided. The wisdom it bestows is neither good nor bad, but simply correct. And not all who find themselves under the penetrating gaze of the Oracle's eyes are ready for the secrets it unlocks.

The Oracle is beyond ancient and not much is known about how the Oracle was sculpted into its current form. Legend has it that Cressida III, the ancient queen of Luminivera, discovered the unsculpted, humming rock and relocated her royal residence to a small hovel nearby so she could glean as much as she could. She disbanded all of her advisors and hired expert craftsmen to mold the truth-telling stone into the form of her long-dead father. Eventually, she abandoned her kingdom without a care and dedicated her life to the pursuit of greater self-realization. Fact or fiction, the story rings true to all who

have experienced the gaze of the Chiu Oracle themselves.

And now it's your turn. While an SBTC tour will get you close to the Oracle, the last mile must be traversed by foot...and it's not easy. But, upon reaching the summit, most people feel like the trek was preparing them for what was to come. In that exhausted, humbled state, truthseekers are ready to comprehend the unknowable and ponder the unthinkable.

So, are you looking to know your truest self? Or for closure to a personal mystery just out of reach? Or answers to your life's most perplexing questions? All of it (and perhaps more) can be found through the Chiu Oracle's gaze. - WB

**Tr** While the Oracle itself is harmless, many visitors end up unnerved by the visions they witness. If you wish to seek the wisdom of the Oracle, you must be prepared for what you may find, and accept that the answers you receive might not be the ones you wish for. The Smoking Bones Travel Company is not responsible for distressing visions, long-term mental cataclysm, failed prophecies, or feelings of melancholy that may result from interaction with the Oracle.



The likeness of the Chiu Oracle has been a symbol of the region for thousands of years. Depictions of it have been included in local coinage, stamps, and government coat of arms.



Thank you for supporting the SBTC! This travel guide has been made by the Smoking Bones Travel Company as part of its ongoing KMP Project. To learn more about and support this initiative, please contact your local SBTC travel agent.

Be on the lookout for more of the Smoking Bones Travel Company's Grand Tour Collection featuring travel guides to the following locations:

**BARIGOLD  
ENDWELL  
GREAT WINDHAM  
RED RISE  
THE CINDERS  
FALAS**

Coming soon!



