Orcanus

Please refer to the following information when composing your work, or editing pre-existing work to meet our parameters. Works do not necessarily need to take place on the planet's surface, so long as the world or system are integrated into the body or background of the story.

The World

Orcanus is a mid-sized planet in the Anhedral System, a seven world, two sun solar system far beyond our sky. The atmosphere is predominantly nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and oxygen; the gravity is similar to that of Earth's. No other planets in the system are capable of supporting life without technological aid, but are rich in mineral value.

Some common geographical features of Orcanus include:

★ Mountainous amalgamations of crystals that have grown for millennia, broken and shifted by tectonic movement to form huge, expansive ranges.

★ Desolate salt flats, remnants of vanished seas.

★ Deep, maze-like canyons that conceal more than just the last vestiges of once rushing rivers.

★ High-altitude steppes where the air is thin and cold.

★ Sloping valleys with walls of sheer, fractured stone that often lead to crystal cave systems.

★ A small, inland sea with plunging, dark trenches.

★ Rolling dunes of finely-crushed crystal instead of sand.

★ Eroding pillars of ancient rock that rise from flat plains and may be extraterrestrial in origin.

★ A slowly shrinking ice desert at the southern pole.

The Weather

"Daytime" is a long affair on Orcanus. The suns, Anhedral Alpha and Anhedral Beta, are almost always in the sky; the short and infrequent nights are lit by Orcanus' single moon, Kleodora.

Some common weather patterns or events may include:

★ Endless, cloudless skies lit by two roving suns.

★ Long, arid spells that crack the fields of feldspar.

★ Powerful winds that whip up mobile storms of roiling crystalline fragments and dust.

★ Rare, slow drizzles of rain that may come and go intermittently.

★ Morning fog, deep in ravines, canyons, and valleys. It is known to be twinged strange colors.

★ Scorching heat spells that cause the air to ripple and waver.

★ Storms of thunder and dry lightning.

The Wildlife

There are no known sentient races inhabiting Orcanus, although some rock formations may hint at a long deceased ancient people. Due to the predominantly dry and barren nature of the planet's surface, most life resides below the surface, close to buried aquifers and shade from the suns.

Some common adaptations that might be found in organisms:

★ Hooded eyes or lack of eyes entirely due to the extreme and constant glare from the suns and crystal mountains.

★ Limbs or heads suited to digging.

★ Photosynthetic organs to capitalize on the powerful sunlight.

★ Diets that can consist of or be supplemented by salt.

★ Hollow bones, air bladders, or other methods of keeping oneself light and agile.

★ Frequently shedding skin, leaves, or outer layers that have been damaged due to sun exposure.

★ Hives, colonies, or symbiotic groups that share resource-rich osases to assure mutual survival.

★ Asexual reproduction or self-pollination.

★ Efficient respiratory systems to metabolize thinner air.

★ "Vampiric" tendencies or parasitic methods of stealing water from other organisms.

★ Seismic sensitivity.

★ Etc...

Editor's Conclusion

As with all outlines, this information is meant to inspire and guide rather than limit. You are under no obligation to follow it exactly, nor exclusively use the ideas we have presented here. We specifically did not include any information on potential human settlers because we want to see your own creative visions of arrival, survival, and life on this strange world. But don't feel obligated to work with humans— we love unique aliens, and stories told through the eyes (or other senses) of creatures different from us. Regardless of your vision, we hope Orcanus has inspired your sense of exploration, and that you feel compelled to add to our growing, collaborative collection.