

SKY ARK

Sky Ark is a unique and vibrant place filled with the life of Earth. Several amazing research projects are ongoing here, drawing a wealth of talented and experienced scientists. It is also the largest draw for exoplanet tourism.

A NEW TERRA

<From “Sky Ark: A Tamer’s View,” posted on Biology Blogs>

Sky Ark is a world early in its evolutionary history. It possesses a humid but breathable oxygen atmosphere and abundant microscopic life in the shallow seas that cover slightly more than half of its surface. Though there is native life, the most advanced are primitive plants similar to Earthly mosses and lichens. Due to its favorable terrestrial environment, TerraGenesis chose Sky Ark for its project to reconstruct the lost life of Earth, establishing the exoplanet as a preserve for terrestrial life. Though this project has been protested by astrobiologist and preservationist coalitions that wished to study a world this early in its development of life, support arose from reclaimer groups and others interested

SKY ARK

Type:

Terrestrial (Earth-like)

Primary Star:

G6V (Yellow Dwarf)

Gravity:

0.88 g

Diameter:

11,100 km

Atmospheric Pressure:

0.9 atm

Atmospheric Composition:

78% Nitrogen, 14% Oxygen, 2%

Neon, 2% Water Vapor

Surface Temperature

(Min/Mean/Max):

-70 C/24 C/75 C

Day Length:

21 hours

Orbital Period:

212 days

Satellites:

Two

Gate Access:

Vulcanoid Gate

in seeing the legacy of Earth continuing on—and flourishing.

The world’s eastern and western hemispheres are divided by a narrow sea that rings the planet from pole to pole. Opposition to the preserve has so far limited the recreation of Earthly life to the eastern hemisphere. The western hemisphere remains a wilderness of moss and lichen and is home to two separate research stations. The eastern hemisphere is where the action is. Here, TerraGenesis and its partners funded a massive, continent-wide effort to resurrect every Earthly ecosystem that they can manage. After several years, the project remains ongoing. The major work being done now involves recreating the South American rain forests and populating the arctic tundra and taiga.

The newsfeeds back in the solar system tend to focus on recreating the animals and plants and getting them all settled, but that’s only half of the effort. TerraGenesis is also engaged in a major terraforming operation here, working to transform the world even closer to Earth-like conditions. Terrain sculpting, building rivers, and designing other



THE FROZEN ZOO



To: Durschmid
From: Gordon

We've confirmed the coordinates and we have reliable orbital imagery indicating that the frozen zoo located in Sharjah is still intact. Consider this a confirmation on the mission and an order to proceed. To reiterate the details, your team will penetrate Earth's defenses, locate the genetic archives, and loot everything that is still a viable sample. An advance has been deposited in the escrow account, per instructions. Additional rewards will be compensated once the haul is appraised, per our previous rate discussion. A resleeving bonus will also be paid for any members of your team that fail to return.

Good luck. If you pull this one off, I can guarantee you more work. I've done some tracing back up the chain, and I'm very confident that our employer has significant ties to TerraGenesis. You know what that means. So get to work and don't fuck this one up. ❁

landscape features is big business here. I'm told that using fusion bombs to create a real volcano was the most impressive thing they've done so far. The entire terraforming and preserve project employs almost 3,000 people. If you've got the skills, the pay is high. Geologists and terraforming engineers are currently in high demand, but a good biologist can write their own ticket.

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

In addition to resurrecting Earthly life that went extinct during the Fall, the research teams working on this project have been reconstructing animals that went extinct hundreds, thousands, or even tens of thousands of years ago. The dodo, aurochs, stellar sea cow, and moa are their most widely known successes. Their most recent projects, however, are far more ambitious.

A Venusian hypercorp team, Millipore, leads the effort to reconstruct a number of Pleistocene creatures by reassembling DNA fragments found in their remains. They have already resurrected imperial mammoths, woolly rhinoceroses, and ground sloths, and are currently attempting to create glyptodonts and dire wolves. Another team is working on reconstructing dinosaurs. Given the lack of DNA, these researchers are using current data to attempt to create entirely new transgenic and neogenetic creatures whose skeletons and other physical features are identical to those known for dinosaurs. Several biologists that I talked to here dismiss this entire project as vanity and said that all that is being created are our ideas of dinosaurs, but the results certainly are

FUGITIVE PRESERVATIONIST



To: <encrypted>
From: <encrypted>

Stellar Intelligence has confirmed that Rei Coronado has indeed passed through the Vulcanoid Gate to Sky Ark using a fake identity. Contrary to initial reports, efforts to eliminate Coronado three months ago on Vo Nguyen only succeeded in killing a beta fork. Though her backups, held in a reclamer black body bank, were confiscated, we verified that her alpha darkcast to Gerlach beforehand. Subsequent trailing identified her new guise as Elizabeth Erin, a paleontologist/biogeneticist with a forged history. Using this ID, she took on freelancer work with a hypercorp engaging in pteranodon resurrection efforts, which relocated her to Sky Ark. She has subsequently gone missing.

We consider it highly likely she has achieved contact with an eco-terrorist cell local to Sky Ark. Given her proficiency in organizing heavy-impact attacks, we consider it only a matter of time before this cell strikes. ❁

still impressive. I have no idea if a real allosaurus looked like what I've seen here, but the one they've created could still eat any morph I've seen in two bites or less.

THE TOURIST ZONE

Terraforming and genetic research are expensive, but TerraGenesis and their hypercorp partners know that there are many people who want to experience a trip through the Pandora gates and who also either miss Earth or want a taste of exotic wildlife. These folks, and any other gatecrasher who has some spare funds, can go romp in the wilderness among the animals. A 100-square-kilometer area along the coast, near the equator, is offset by a huge fence with defense beacons. All of the large animals in this area are fitted with neural implants that cause them to become docile and non-aggressive if they come within 30 meters of a tourist. You can watch all of the animals go about their lives, and you can even walk right up and pet a lion or a mastodon. There's even a 10-square-kilometer area where there are a hundred or so recreated dinosaurs that have all been chipped. I'm told that some people enjoy riding a T. Rex—given that they smell like week-old carrion, I fail to see the attraction. The only problem with the tourist zone is that a few tourists ignore the warning and go out and try to pet unchipped animals outside the TZ. I've heard several locals talk about orbital footage that revealed that a single tiger ate at least three of the six tourists who have gone missing this way.