



Thalassian


In the emerald light beneath shallow seas, sunken metropolises reach toward the surface. Their walls rise from the waves like a great mesa, and offer safe harbor against the crashing surf. In these towering cites live the Thalassian people. They thrive in mountain lakes, shallow seas, estuaries, or on beaches, islands, and shorelines. Theirs is a culture torn between two worlds. Above water, it is a cosmopolitan and bustling society which is energetically engaged with the outside world. Below water, their submerged civilization lies unreachable to most, and hums with mystery.

Shimmering Complexions

Thalassians are immediately identifiable by their vibrant multicolored skin. They can have almost any pigmentation but greens, blues,

silver, oranges, yellows, and reds are common. Most thalassians also have dramatic and brilliant stripes, spots, speckles, rings, ripples or other patterns. Some thalassian's patterns are especially striking such as dazzling iridescence, shining metallics, or colors so luminous and reflective they seem to have a fluorescent glow.

Instead of hair on their heads, thalassians have long feathery fins or crests. Similar fins extend from their forearms to elbows, and from the back of their calves. These fins, along with their webbed fingers and toes, allow powerful swimming. Instead of lungs, Thalassians have specially adapted gills that allow them to breathe both air and water. They breathe in through their nose and mouth, and out through soft gill slits on the side of their torso. Water pressure prevents them from diving much deeper than 600 feet.



Thalassians usually stand from barely 5 feet to well over 6 feet tall, and they weigh between 100 and 220 pounds. Males are significantly taller and heavier than females. They age at about the same rate as humans, and live a little over 100 years. Rather than give live birth, Thalassians lay a single large soft egg which must be kept in well circulated water at all times. For this reason, Thalassian communities are rarely seen far from large bodies of water.

Exuberance and Enterprise

The Thalassians are an optimistic people, who approach life with vigorous gusto. Most are individualistic, confident, and unbound by traditions. They are open to new ideas and constantly on lookout for opportunities. They are gregarious and love conversation with new peoples, and thus freely discuss all manner of topics with strangers. However, thalassians view themselves as somewhat distinct from other races, and this causes them to be protective of their underwater homes. Therefore, Thalassians hesitate to speak about internal affairs below the waves to people they do not trust.

Thalassians are the gatekeepers to the waterways, and this gives them a position at the center of commerce. Their society has thus

Gregarious and Cordial

Thalassians have contact with all manner of people who wish to use rivers, lakes, and oceans for trade or transport. Their attractiveness and charisma usually make relations easy.

Humans: “Their ambitious lives make humans strong allies, challenging competitors, and fierce enemies. Which one describes any individual or kingdom? You’ll have to find out for yourself. Ignoring humans during your endeavors would be a serious mistake, both in terms of rewards and consequences.”

Elves: “They think they are better than everyone else, and foolishly live in isolation from the rest of the world. Still, they have valuable knowledge in many subjects. Their pride is hard to break, but elf friendship is worth the effort and long lasting.”

Dwarves: “They have an impressive work ethic and are very tough, but are limited by stubborn traditions. They can be solid allies if you earn their trust. They are very rich and always worth trading with. Hilariously, they are afraid of water, but don’t tell them I said that.”

evolved a heavy emphasis on merchant trade and shipping. Through their daily experience of bargaining and negotiating, Thalassians become skilled in convincing and eloquent expression.

Thalassians' highly enterprising and individualistic personalities often make them competitive and prideful. This normally manifests as friendly rivalries, but sometimes

escalates into antagonism and ruthlessness.

Thalassians usually prefer diplomacy to resolve disputes, but some do not hesitate to resort to coercion or cunning if the situation warrants it.

Coastal Cosmopolitans

Thalassians live in and along the coasts of lakes, estuaries, islands and shallow seas where they farm aquatic plants and livestock. The natural bounty of the sea allows Thalassians to lead relatively labor free lives with plenty of free time for arts, athletics, magic, industry, and leisure. Many devote their extra hours to all manner of professions to distinguish themselves in the eyes of others, to compete for prestige, or simply for the enjoyment of them.

The highly fertile aquatic ecosystems also support very dense cities that can tower from the sea floor all the way to above the surface. These metropolises are powerful enough to control the area around it for many miles, effectively forming a city-state. City-states are often governed by coalitions of trade guilds, who are continually jockeying with each other for power. Many Thalassians join these guilds to give each other protection and representation.

Their vertical cities are built out of many of the same materials found on land. Instead of wood, however, they use unique underwater materials such as coral, whale bones, giant seashells, or even living giant sponges. Some houses are woven out of living kelp with different rooms suspended along the plant like a string of pearls. The walls of thalassian cities are strong and robust to provide refuge from waves and currents. They also provide piece of mind against the unknowable horrors of the abyss, whose haunting calls can occasionally be heard for hundreds of miles in the water.

Almost all thalassian settlements have a large port district that is above water, either built on top of other buildings, floating on barges, or on the shoreline. These areas are the most important part of the city as they serve as harbors and market places that connect it to the

outside world. Here, terrestrial races of all kinds reside with thalassians where they live and do business. Thus, thalassians learn to coexist with many other races and cultures.

Thalassians frequently venture far outside their own territories as merchants, explorers, and entertainers. They are often employed by other races as diplomats, negotiators, and managers.

Opportunity in the Great Unknown

More than the other races, Thalassians adventure for their own personal benefit. Their enterprising, individualistic, and competitive culture drives many to test themselves in a heroic life. Thalassian adventurers seek to bring home vast treasures and secrets, or to earn glory and respect. Thalassian cities have a unique institutional motivation for adventuring; Merchant shipping companies offer contracts to any who will map vast frontiers and secure trade routes to foreign lands. Most importantly, Thalassian adventurers seek to satisfy a restless

craving for exploration, discovery, and the great unknown.

Thalassian Names

Thalassian children are called by a nickname by their community. Once they reach adulthood, each thalassian chooses a new name according to his own personal taste.

Male Names: Aramis, Typhon, Salas, Avris, Reco

Female Names: Ishka, Felem, Ari, Amy, Vesta, Nami, Nesoi, Cosi, Kiora

Family Names. Anosa, Corselle, Morea, Soreen, Sarvonian, Tharian

Thalassian Traits:

Your Thalassian character has many distinguishing traits. Some are derived from ancestry, while others are produced through culture.

Ability Score Increase. Your Charisma score increases by 2, and two other ability scores of your choice increase by 1.

Age. Thalassians reach maturity in their





late teens and live about 100 years.

Alignment. Thalassian's individuality allows them to be any alignment, but their exuberance causes the neutral alignments to be a definite minority.

Size. Thalassians vary widely in height and build, from barely 5 feet to well over 6 feet tall. Regardless of your position in that range, your size is Medium.

Speed. Your base walking speed is 30 feet.

Darkvision. You have superior vision in dark and dim conditions. You can see in dim light within 60 feet of you as if it were bright light, and in darkness as if it were dim light. You can't discern color in darkness, only shades of gray.

Aquatic Adaptation. You can breathe water as well as air. Whenever you make athletics checks for swimming, you are considered proficient in the athletics skill and add double your proficiency bonus to the check, instead of your normal proficiency bonus.

Silver Tongue. You are proficient in the persuasion skill.

Skill Versatility. You gain Proficiency in one skill of your choice.

Languages. You can speak, read, and write Thalassian, Common, and one extra language of your choice. Thalassian is a soft flowing language that makes minimal use of hard consonants and vowels. Native speakers of thalassian flair their sentences with variations in pitch and emphasis and they sound almost like singing rather than speaking.

