

Into the Black

A Guide to Below

Table of Contents

Introduction	2	Plants	32	Sewers	57
Subterranean Life	3	Animals	34	Environment	58
Animal Adaptations	3	Rocks and Minerals	36	Plants and Animals	59
Caverns	4	Hazards	38	Rocks and Minerals	61
Environment	5	Crypt Guardian	40	Hazards	61
Plants	6	Hellscorn	41	Barathelar	63
Animals	9	Leytru	42	Ravvimen	64
Rocks and Minerals	13	Silent Reaper	44	Sarrenel	66
Hazards	17	Waking Dead	45	Walking Disease	67
Cave Hermit	19	Mines	46	Wurggis	68
Cavern Giant	20	Environment	47	New Equipment	69
Deviant Mimic	22	Plants and Animals	48	New Magical Items	72
Mal'Orm	23	Rocks and Minerals	48	New Materials	74
Pallemon	25	Hazards	50	New Substances	76
Snailfolk	28	Barangulaak	52	Spells	83
Xastrial	29	Flosid	53	Appendix A	90
Catacombs	31	Gremmin	54	Index	94
Environment	31	Nokker	55		
		Orvender	56		

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Introduction

Below the unsuspecting feet of urban and rural humanoids lies a largely unexplored realm shrouded in perpetual mystery and darkness. Accessible via highly visible portals on the city streets or through hidden or innocuous openings concealed within the wilderness, the doorways into the underground world expose adventurers to a bounty of natural wealth as well as unworldly terrors rarely witnessed on the surface. Dense veins of precious minerals and ancient legends describing the mystical properties of the indigenous plants and animals tantalize avaricious treasure seekers, beckoning them to delve deeper in search of riches irrespective of the perilous risks. Yet, the earth and its covetous inhabitants never willingly relinquish their precious commodities without a struggle. With this in mind, *Into the Black* sheds much needed light on the glorious, natural marvels encountered beneath the surface as well as the intrinsic dangers and monstrous denizens jealously guarding them.

The supplement's first chapter, **Subterranean Life**, provides a general overview of the fascinating adaptations employed by the native plants and animals in a realm completely devoid of natural light. *Subterranean Life* introduces characters to the basic biological features endemic to natural subterranean inhabitants including a discussion of anatomical changes and the troglomorphic characteristics that differentiate these creatures from their surface dwelling counterparts.

The next four chapters, **Caverns**, **Catacombs**, **Mines** and **Sewers** detail the prevailing environmental conditions, significant plants and animals, prevalent rocks and minerals, frequently encountered hazards and the monstrous denizens present within these four locales. The preliminary section, **Environment**, imparts general information regarding climatic conditions including temperature, humidity and barometric pressure as well as atmospheric composition and architectural design in the case of the three manmade habitats. On the other hand, the three subsequent sections, **Plants**, **Animals** and **Rocks and Minerals** deviate from the cursory overview and delve into precise descriptions, details, and significance of the aforementioned life forms and inorganic materials. **Hazards** discusses the inherent dangers present within each habitat including virulent diseases, invisible combustible gases, unstable construction and other various threats posed by the locale itself. Finally,

each chapter culminates with a vivid inventory of benevolent and wicked monsters dwelling within each specific environment.

The following chapter, **New Equipment**, enumerates the various substances and items obtained from each region's native plants, animals and natural resources complemented by an extensive catalog of mundane tools and magical items. The chapter explains the exact properties of the aforementioned equipment in addition to providing their cost and the skills necessary to refine the raw materials into the finished product.

Into the Black's final chapter, **Spells**, completes the subterranean adventurer's arsenal, arming him with a specialized array of magic intentionally suited to meet the challenges posed by the particular locale and to exploit the untapped mystical powers of its indigenous living and inorganic assets. The chapter presents a well-rounded listing of defensive and offensive spells to aid in the exploration of the sunless realm beneath the surface.

Lastly, the appendix appearing at the end of the supplement contains random encounter tables for all four habitats including the plants, animals, rocks, minerals, and monsters previously appearing in each chapter.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this product, please contact us. Many common questions can be answered by a quick visit to our message boards, where the authors of the supplements answer on an almost daily basis. From our website, you can also join our mailing lists, check out our free downloads and web enhancements, and see the large number of products (both print and PDF) that Bastion Press has produced over the past few years.

