

Bexley Lake and Its Surroundings

The vast and pristine Bexley Lake dominates the local landscape, reflecting the clear skies and the surrounding mountains. This lake is the heart of a secluded and sublime area marked by the harmony between its inhabitants and the lush nature that surrounds them. At the heart of this region is Lakeside, the largest and most vibrant settlement on the eastern shore of the lake.

Economy and Commerce

The fertile lands around Bexley Lake are known for their abundance. The inhabitants of Lakeside and the surrounding villages grow and export fresh and dried fruits such as plums, apples and pears—harvested with care during seasonal festivals that celebrate the bounty. In addition, the woodlands surrounding the lake provide high-quality charcoal made from aromatic woods, while a few fields of grain wave in the wind, ready to be harvested and shipped south.

Much of this produce is transported to Tarnia, from where it goes to Castle Cypher, the largest trading post in the area, and from there it finally reaches Portsmouth, the heart of the southern trade. However, the central road that runs through the region is also vital, allowing the flow of goods to the villages of Daurne, Rivermeet and Abbotsford. In these northern towns, the focus is on the exchange of smoked meats, abundant game and finely worked hides, which arrive in caravans to Lakeside and beyond, full of stories and spices.

Traditions and Customs

Despite the flourishing trade, the inhabitants of Bexley Lake are known for their simple life and customs. They believe that the lake is a gift from the ancient gods of the land and water, and the elders call it the "Mirror of the Seasons", because it is said to reflect not only the sky, but also the moods of the weather and the people. Local fishermen, for example, perform small rituals before casting their nets, throwing flower petals into the water as a sign of respect. Seasonal festivals dot the region's calendar. The most popular is the Lakeside Dawn Festival, held in spring, when boats decorated with humble lanterns float across the lake at dusk, accompanied by singing and dancing by the water's edge. Harvest Day brings together all the villages for a grand fair in Lakeside, where candied fruits, aromatic wines and ancient grain breads are exchanged for produce from villages further afield.

The People and Their Beliefs

The residents of Lakeside are considered the most cosmopolitan of the region, known for their hospitality and skill in negotiation. They manage most of the trade that flows out of the lake, but they still preserve the tradition of sharing stories around communal campfires. These stories often tell of the Mysteries of the Lake—legends of an island that disappears

and reappears depending on the phase of the moon, or of aquatic creatures that only appear under the light of the stars.

A Peaceful Oasis

Far from the big cities and hidden by valleys, the Bexley Lake region is a true refuge. Here, time seems to flow differently, following the slow rhythm of the seasons. The residents live in harmony with nature, and the tranquility that permeates the area attracts weary travelers in search of rest.

With its natural beauty and rich traditions, Bexley Lake is more than just a dot on the map—it is a place of balance between the human world and the wild, a hidden gem in the Dales that is a land untouched by war.