

# PHANTOM REEF'S DEPTHS

*Phantom Reef's Depths is a labyrinth of coral castles and shadowed canyons, perpetually bathed in an ethereal glow from the bioluminescent algae. Ancient ruins, remnants of a forgotten alliance, are now contested ground, pulsing with the energy of the blooms and guarded fiercely by the Tideguard, who see themselves as the reef's rightful protectors.*

## ADVENTURE HOOKS & RUMORS

- Whispers circulate among the reef's inhabitants of a Tideguard patrol that went missing during the last great bloom, presumed lost to the currents and the creatures it attracts – a stark reminder of the dangers lurking within the reef's depths and the Tideguard's overreach.
- A desperate plea reaches out from a small, independent settlement on the reef's edge, claiming the Tideguard are deliberately disrupting the algae blooms to weaken their rivals and seize control of a newly discovered cache of ancient artifacts, fueling the central conflict.
- A grizzled scavenger speaks of a hidden chamber within the ruins, said to contain the key to restoring the old pact – but the path is guarded by both the Tideguard and monstrous denizens drawn to the pulsing energy of the blooms, making it a perilous undertaking.

## LOCATIONS

### 1. The Glimmering Maw

The entrance to Phantom Reef's Depths is a colossal archway carved into a coral cliff face. Bioluminescent algae clings to the stone, casting an eerie, pulsating glow that illuminates a swirling vortex of water. The currents here are unpredictable and powerful, capable of sweeping intruders into the deeper, darker sections of the reef. The air is thick with the scent of salt and something else... a faint, metallic tang that hints at ancient conflict.

### 2. Coral Labyrinth

Navigate twisting coral pathways while avoiding sudden shifts in the bioluminescent algae's intensity.

### 3. Sunken Observatory

Decipher ancient astronomical charts to unlock a hidden passage revealing a forgotten history.

### 4. Echoing Grotto

Solve a sonic puzzle using resonating crystals to dispel a localized algae bloom.

### 5. The Sunken Accord

This vast chamber is dominated by a crumbling amphitheater, once used for ceremonies by the forgotten alliance. Tideguard warriors stand in rigid

## ENCOUNTERS

Name	Details
Tideguard Patrol	A group of Tideguard warriors, suspicious of intruders, demands proof of allegiance or attacks.
Bloom	Infused Leviathan A monstrous sea creature, empowered by the algae blooms, attacks the party.
Ritualistic Cleansing	Tideguard initiates perform a ritual to purify a section of the reef, hindering progress.
Ancient Guardian	A stone construct animated by the pact's energy defends a crucial pathway.

## TREASURE

- Lumina Shard:** A fragment of bioluminescent crystal that grants temporary underwater breathing, but attracts deep sea predators.
- Pactstone Amulet:** An amulet imbued with the pact's energy, offering protection from the algae blooms, but slowly drains the wearer's life force.
- Coral Key:** A key carved from living coral, unlocking a hidden chamber containing historical records, but its touch causes painful coral growths.

## NPCs

- Kaelen Vane:** Tideguard Chieftain, fiercely loyal to the reef's protection and wary of outsiders.
- Lyra Meadowlight:** A reclusive surface dweller, knowledgeable about the ancient pact and seeking to restore harmony.
- Vorlag Stonehand:** A disgruntled Tideguard elder, believing the current leadership is weak and misguided.

## PLOT RESOLUTIONS

- The adventurers could choose to side with Kaelen Vane, the Tideguard Chieftain, and help reinforce the Sunken Accord, solidifying the Tideguard's control over the reef. This would grant them powerful allies and access to the reef's resources, but also bind them to the Tideguard's often-heavy-handed methods, potentially alienating other inhabitants.
- The PCs might decide to aid Lyra Meadowlight in restoring the ancient pact, risking the wrath of the Tideguard and potentially unleashing unpredictable consequences from the dormant alliance. Success could bring harmony to the reef, but failure might worsen the escalating conflicts and unleash ancient, powerful forces.
- The adventurers could align themselves with Vorlag Stonehand, the disgruntled Tideguard elder, and attempt to overthrow Kaelen Vane, hoping to guide the Tideguard towards a more peaceful resolution. This path offers the chance to reshape the reef's future, but carries the risk of plunging the reef into civil war and further destabilizing the already fragile ecosystem.

