

Thalagos Cavern

Situated partly below the Temple of Transformation at Threshorsh in Artemisia, this is the place newly-emerged young adult Swamp Dragons from the Transforming Chambers come to prepare themselves for their new lives out in the wilds of the great, tropical, Leminish swamplands that surround the Threshorsh area, and extend for huge distances beyond. Such fresh Dragons are led down the 10 feet high (3 metres) sloping Cavern Access passage from the Chambers into the southeastern middle side of this Cavern complex. Steep steps at the lower end of the passageway bring the new Dragons down to the floor of **Main Cavern**. As with most of the cave floors here, this is somewhat irregular in nature, and is further strewn with loose rock debris from the walls and ceilings, knocked away down the years by careless draconic playfulness, along with some growths that survive in little to no light. Light only really enters the Cavern when Lizardfolk from the surface world come down here, although there are some bioluminescent patches of growths in places too. Occasional Dragon droppings are a further hazard for humanoid surface-dwellers venturing into the Cavern, and it may be these that have, over time, helped the frequent fungus patches to become so prevalent, as demonstrated by their sometimes remarkably large fruiting mushrooms in places. Some of these too are bioluminous.

Towards the southwest, Main Cavern's floor drops steeply around 20 ft (6m) to the surface of **Upper Lake**. Both freshwater Lakes here are at least 10 ft (3 m) deep, and still deeper sources help maintain them. There are some blind, white cavefish, snakes and other small water creatures in both. Whether the Lakes have humanoid-accessible outlets to places still deeper underground is unknown. A broad, solid, well-built stone bridge crosses Upper Lake to the otherwise inaccessible (except by flying) **Treasure Cave**, in which are several small piles of coins and gems, the beginnings of minor hoards for some of the current crop of young Dragons that are approaching their time to leave Thalagos. Scatters of coins and more gems may be found in Main Cavern, left for the young Dragons to find, and sometimes fight over. The bridge looks to be of good-quality Dwarf or Gnome work, and is clearly not recent. The middle section of its top surface lies directly underneath a hole in the Cavern roof that connects through a roughly 5-foot-long (1.5 m), irregularly rounded, chute, with the floor of the Great Temple above. Sacrifices and other foods are cast down here for the Dragons to find, and the bridge's surface is stained where numerous things have landed on it over the years. The roof above Main Cavern, while of variable height, as it is a natural cave, typically averages around 20 ft (6 m) in its more open expanses, including above Upper Lake. It is notably lower, down to just 12 ft (3.6 m), in parts of the two passage-like, narrower sections that descend over the steep Cliff Lines towards Lower Lake.

The lower, northeastern, section of the Cavern is mostly filled by **Lower Lake**, which is very like Upper Lake in terms of depth and contents, albeit it has more accessible, shallower shorelines around much of itself, away from the walls and Cliff Lines (illustrated on the map by paler edges to the dark water). **The Deck** is a flat section of rock on the southeastern side of this Lake, only a little above the water level, a place where the Dragons like to come and rest at times. The ceiling over The Deck and Lower Lake is up to 40 ft (12 m) above their surfaces.

Three tunnels, partly natural fissures, partly enlarged by crude chiselling in places, straggle off to underwater/under-swamp exits near the inner edge of The Moat, a ring of swamplands that surrounds the higher, rockier part of the Isle on which Threshorsh stands. Map labels by each tunnel indicate roughly where these emerge, places that can be located using the separate Aenos Isle North map in the Atlas. At first, these passages rise above the local Cavern floor and water level, only dropping again as they near their destinations to become fully flooded some way before their respective exits.

Variable numbers of young Swamp Dragons of different ages may be in any part of the Cavern. A few Lizardfolk may be here occasionally as well, although not often for very long. When there are any present, they typically remain in a relatively nearby group to one another, given that a hungry Dragon will rarely differentiate between one meat source and another. Rare surviving sacrificial victims may still be alive here somewhere too, if probably injured.