
Izmir Hold

Hold Creator: Lynne Brigant; currently by Kim Finney

Current Holder: Lord Baylis

Badge and Colors: On a field divided of brown and white, a sheaf of three gold arrows

Minor Holds Beholden to Hold: Several, including Indon Hold, Qilan Hold, Ardie Hold



(badge art by Holly Hutchison)

CLIMATE & ECONOMICS

Izmir is just south of the 50* line and has a cool climate. Izmir's main characteristics are that it is isolated; it's hard to reach the main hold overland from anywhere except Cibola, and it can only be reached by ships that travel all the way around the Cibola peninsula. The summers are warm with moderate rain. The winters can be very cold with occasional ice storms. Izmir specializes in farming and herding and is also a good grain producer. Izmir is a large hold, but very undeveloped. The southern end of the holding is Izmir's coldest region. The main export is grain and products garnered from the herdbeasts.

Izmir borders Cibola to the north, across a marshy river that has shifted its course many times in the centuries since the Hold's founding. To the east Izmir borders Dawn Sisters hold. That boundary was originally marked by survey cairns which have vanished over the Turns, presumably from natural causes; the exact line of the border is now in dispute. Lord Mendius of Dawn Sisters has started a new minor hold in what is probably really Izmir territory. Lord Baylis would like to settle this, but has found the time lacking. He has been in negotiations with Lord Morgav to help him settle this dispute. Baylis is negotiating for Morgav's help because Mendius is old and does not take Lord Baylis seriously on this issue. The eastern region of Izmir is still very underdeveloped and sparsely settled, and is rumored to be the haunt of raiders. The latest news is that raiders have been attacking Cibola from somewhere in this region.

Most of Izmir is rolling plains land. There are very few outstanding features. The landscape is flat, with a few rolling hills. A few minor holds and coholds dot the landscape, and most of them specialize in grain and herding. The coast is rocky, but the beaches along Izmir's western border are sweeping and vast. Izmir Hold proper overlooks the western shore from a cliff side. The water tends to be a bit colder here, but warms nicely in the summer for swimming and water sports.

Along the Izmir coast, fishing is another economic staple. However, this is not one of Izmir's major exports. Cibola, to the north, also exports fish, and is closer to all the other holds than Izmir is, so Cibola can export their fish more cheaply.



MINOR HOLDS

Izmir does not have many minor holds. Due to its isolation, its population is also small. The three minor holds listed are the major producers of Izmir.

Indon Hold: Indon Hold lies in the southern part of Izmir territory. The best pastureland is here, since the landscape is mostly flat and green. The Hold butts up against a small range of hills and is Izmir's largest producer of products from the herdbeasts: i.e. leather, meat, milk, etc... This hold also produces some quantities of straw and hay.

Qilan Hold: Qilan Hold lies in the north-central region, and is the last major settlement before the eastern wilds. The soil there is rich and fertile and lends itself well to grain production. The Hold itself is on an open, flat plain and close to the borders of Cibola. This hold is Izmir's largest and most varied producer of grains, straw and hay and a major population center. This is also where a variety of beer is produced, due to the variety of grains grown. The majority of its trade and political and social ties are with Cibola since it is closer to Cibola than the main Izmir Hold.

Ardie Hold: Ardie hold lies in the western part of Izmir territory, and is the closest to the main hold. The hold itself is located on the ocean shore. This hold specializes in fishing and boat construction. The types of boats produced there are mostly small crafts used for fishing, but the fish themselves make up the majority of the economic production. They are one of the finest makers of fishing nets as well.



FESTIVALS, GATHERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Autumn Craft Gather: The Autumn Craft Gather is the largest gather at Izmir Hold and attracts the most outsiders. There is a craft fair that takes place and many come from the smaller holds to trade and do business. It attracts many fine crafters and is the time when all holds beholden to Izmir make their tithes. Since Lady Tacavva's birthingday is close to this date, Baylis decided to make a public celebration of her birthingday part of this gather. It takes place on 06.28 every Turn.

Spring Harvest Gather: A smaller festival that takes place around the last of the winter's crops. Which are mostly wheat and barley. The date of this festival varies according to the harvest. It usually takes place sometime between 12.20 and the end of the Turn. There is ale tasting

from all of the ale made from last Turn's yield. Lord Baylis would like to increase the size and attendance of this gather and has been thinking of setting a fixed date for it. He has ideas for games and contests in the future.

Winter's End Gather: Small festival to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring plowing and planting. Lord Baylis' scheduled his recent wedding to the Lady Jevande on this date, 09.07, since the time of year signifies new beginnings. This is a craft gather for the most part, but due to Jevande's love of runners Baylis has introduced rodeo-like events as well. These include racing and bucking events, as well as some roping and trick riding. Not a large festival, but Baylis is hoping to attract more people to this gather.



IMPORTANT PEOPLE

(Ages are all as of 2859)

Lord Baylis -- M, A=33, H=auburn, E=green, HT=6'1". Baylis is a sober, cautious man who is inclined to be friendly to the Weyr, but was brought up to think of the dragonfolk as greedy parasites. He is a good holder and is quick to learn from his mistakes, and his basic sense of morality has earned him the dangerous displeasure of both his neighbors: Lord Morgav of Cibola Hold and Lord Mendius of Dawn Sisters Hold. Bronze firelizard Romyr. (Persona of Kim Finney)

Lady Tacavva -- F, A=30, H=black, E=brown, HT=5'2". Tacavva is a quiet, soft-spoken woman who knows what is proper. She is intelligent and has a great deal of common sense. Sensible and a realist, but given to profound depressions since she was found to be barren after being injured in the Thornblaze earthquake of 2853. Wife of Lord Baylis, sister of Lord Caley. (Persona of Whitney Ware)

Lady Jevande -- F, A=19, H=black, E=blue, HT=5'6". Jevande has just been married to Lord Baylis of Izmir, and is beginning to warm to him following initial caution. A bit too sharp-featured to be pretty, Jevande has a trim figure and dresses with a flair for fashion. She loves dancing and riding, but is only adequate when it comes to hold management. (Persona of Ron Swartzendruber)

Steward Hanley -- M, A=86, H=grey, E=blue, HT=5'9". Now retired he still retains a position of respect. A faithful and loyal servant of the household for many, many years. Baylis himself does not remember a time without him. Hard of hearing and unable to climb the long stairways anymore he was forced into retirement for his own health and after much protest. A good and decent man. (Adoptable NPC)

Steward Hobron -- M, A=35, H=brown, E=brown, HT=6'0". The current steward for Lord Baylis of Izmir. He

is an excitable young man with high spirits, always smiling. Competent at all facets of his job, and very conscientious about details. (Adoptable NPC)

Mituran -- M, A=31, H=black, E=green, HT=6'0". Younger brother of Lord Baylis and Herdmaster of Izmir Hold. He is a kind, jovial man and not at all afraid to share his opinions on hold management with Baylis. He has two sons, Eional and M'con, and anxiously awaits the birth of his third child. (Persona of Jeremy Pevner)

Layeron -- F, A=30, H=brown, E=gray, H=5'2". Mituran's wife. She was from Qilan Hold originally and their marriage was arranged when they were very young. Over the years she has come to love and respect her husband. She is a small woman, rather mousy in appearance. Quick to laugh and lighthearted. She is fond of children and supports hers in any way she can. Expecting her third child. (Adoptable NPC)

Eional -- M, A=17, H=brown, E=green, HT=5'9". Mituran's first born son and nephew of Lord Baylis. Eional had his father's love of animals and hopes to follow in his father's footsteps, but is being trained in hold management instead. Secretly desires to run away to the Weyr. (Persona of Kim Finney)

Corianna -- F, A=15, H=brown, E=green, HT=5'0". Corianna is a clever, loyal girl who is a hard worker. She is just waiting for the day when she can stand before a Search dragon, and hopefully be sent away to the Weyr, where maybe she can pursue her dream of being a herdcrafter -- or a dragonrider. (Adoptable NPC)

CONNECTIONS AT THE WEYR

Bluerider M'con -- M, A=16, H=black, E=gray, HT=5'1". M'con is open, although sometimes rather bratty. He's settled into weyrling life, but still misses Izmir from time to time. Nephew of Lord Baylis, weyrling to blue Telyeth. (Persona of Jeremy Pevner)

Watchrider Palora -- F, A=18, H=brown, E=grey, HT=5'5". Palora is extremely shy and keeps to herself, trying to stay out of the limelight when she can. She is quiet and softspoken. She learned that she was abandoned as a baby, and is growing increasingly obsessed with learning who her real parents were. Green firelizard Neut, rider of green Xeraquith. Watchrider at Izmir Hold. (Adoptable NPC)