

# THE LAST PARSEC LEVIATHAN

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# CHAPTER ONE: EVERYTHING'S BIGGER ON LEVIATHAN!

Tired of the same old vacation lounging on the beach at Proxima Centauri or staring at the Horsehead Nebula from the observation deck of a boring, cookie-cutter star liner?

Want more out of your spare time than waiting in a line at some pre-packaged, over-hyped amusement satellite populated by actors wearing holosuits of some kiddie cartoon character?

Would you rather see Nature at its grandest and face it head-on, instead of staring at them on the trid screen from the confines of an over-stuffed easy chair?

Are you up to the *biggest* challenges that Known Space has to offer?

Is adrenaline your drug of choice?

If you answered an emphatic "YES!" to any of those questions, then *Vestal Interplanetary's* newest attraction is exactly what you're looking for!

Leviathan offers something no other vacation destination can—the chance to interact with a nearly untouched wilderness that is home to some of the most fantastic, and definitely *largest*, creatures in the Known Worlds.

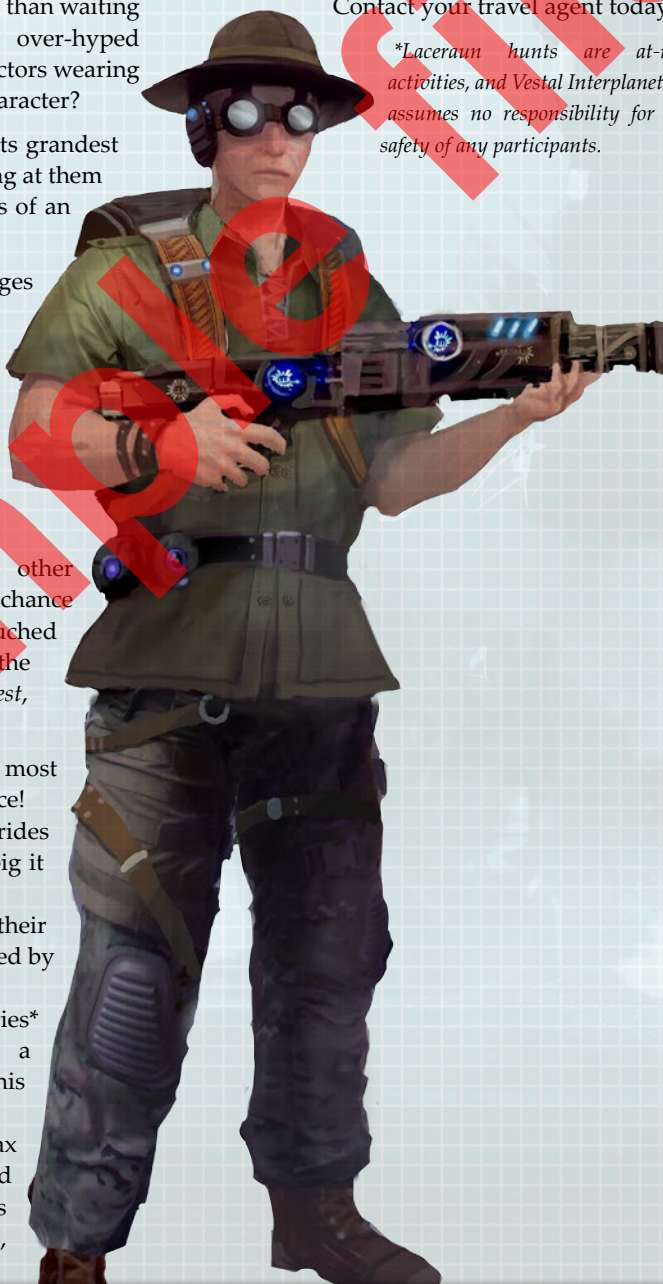
- See the incredible A-Pex, the most massive land predator in existence!
- Marvel at the earth-shaking strides of the Behemoth, a creature so big it dwarfs some spacecraft!
- View herds of lacerauns in their natural environment, unblemished by civilization!
- Join organized hunting parties\* to stalk the closest thing to a dinosaur you're likely to see in this millennium!

In between excursions, relax in one of our lavishly appointed settlements, where every comfort is close at hand. Dozens of restaurants,

casinos, theaters, and more are available for your enjoyment; or for those members of the family who'd rather spend their time pampered by our pleasant staff and ample amenities.

Contact your travel agent today!

*\*Laceraun hunts are at-risk activities, and Vestal Interplanetary assumes no responsibility for the safety of any participants.*



Sample file





## CHAPTER TWO: CHARACTERS

Leviathan is a frontier planet, on the fringes of the Known Worlds. However, unlike most other worlds on the border of civilization, the colonists aren't as concerned with developing it for further habitation. Instead, the planet has been specifically groomed to be a planet-sized wildlife preserve where massive creatures, known as lacerauns, can be observed in their natural habitat—or hunted for sport.

While Leviathan's capital, Ralston, has some of the finest luxury resorts and entertainment venues found in the galaxy, the planet is home to only a few other settlements. Most of the world is still in its natural state, which roughly corresponds to the Cretaceous through Jurassic periods on Earth. In other words, it's rough, unsettled, and filled with giant lizard-like creatures capable of swallowing the average spacer in a single gulp.

It's not surprising, therefore, that certain skills—particularly those useful in wilderness environments—are valuable on Leviathan. Survival, Healing, and Tracking, in particular, are likely to be valuable to travelers on the planet. Likewise, the vast distances between outposts mean Piloting, Driving, and Boating are virtual necessities for at least one or more team members to possess.

However, planetary security and search-and-rescue duties are provided by JumpSec, the JumpCorp subsidiary that specializes in providing corporate protective services, and it can find a fit for nearly any skill set if the spacer is adventurous enough to brave the wilds of the unique planet.

### SAMPLE CHARACTERS

**Explorer:** Although satellite imagery has provided photos of the entire surface of the planet, Leviathan's thick jungles prevent it from showing what's under the millions of square miles of dense foliage. These adventurers delve into the uninhabited reaches of the planet, often

for no other reason than the thrill of discovery. Others in the employ of corporations seek out undiscovered resources, new hunting grounds, or suitable locations for settlements.

**Guide:** These skilled outdoorsmen lead expeditions out of Ralston and the other settlements. Experienced guides are highly sought after by hunting, sightseeing, and research groups. They are most often on the payroll of one corporation or another, but some freelancers can and do make a comfortable living providing this service.

**Hunter:** Guided hunting tours are a large part of tourism on Leviathan. Few hunters can pass up the chance to claim bringing down a "dinosaur"—assuming they can afford the cost of a trip to the planet. However, hunting multi-ton monsters isn't a simple point-and-shoot affair, so most reputable tours include at least one hunter to safeguard their customers. Planetary officials also employ professional hunters to help keep the ecological balance and protect visitors and colonists from aggressive wildlife.

**Med Tech:** Only Ralston has a true trauma facility for treatment of serious injuries. Emergency technicians and frontier doctors handle most medical matters on Leviathan, often with no more than the contents of their med bags. A skilled sawbones is always welcome in any settlement or on any trip into the back country.

**Pilot:** Outside of the main settlements, established roads are virtually nonexistent. And while getting up close and personal with the massive lacerauns might be what drives the tourist trade, it's not especially conducive to a stable logistics network. Nearly all long-distance transportation on the planet is accomplished via aircraft, making skilled pilots always in high demand.

**Researcher:** Leviathan's unique life forms provide unique opportunities to researchers from all the life sciences. However, it's not a place for scientists who prefer to do their work in sterile