

Path to the Stone Palace by Tom Cartos

Background

This was once the entrance to Bharzul, centuries ago when it was just a fortified outpost of the now lost underground dwarven kingdom. It remains largely unchanged from that time and stands in stark contrast to the elegance and cleanliness of the rest of the city. This is a deliberate choice, partly out of respect for the history of the site and partly to intimidate visitors as they make the final leg of the journey up to the Stone Palace and crown seat. The dark pathway is unsettling and almost silent. After the bustling splendour of the rest of the city, it is almost impossible not to be unnerved as the heavy golden gates close behind you.

Grid Information

GRID SIZE – 34x66 (300DPI)

VTT SIZE – 4760x9240(140DPI)

RECOMMENDED PRINT SIZE – A0/ANSI E x2

Design Notes

Path to the Stone Palace - Staircase

- **01 – Lords Road** – The Lords Road is the main avenue through the city of Bharzul, leading directly north from the Watchers Gate all the way to the Stone Palace. It gradually slopes upwards the entire
- **02 – Gate** – A pair of large ornate golden gates. A full company of guards stand outside, opening the gates when instructed to let visitors pass through. However, they do not enter the path, closing the gates tightly behind any who enter.
- **03 – Watcher Statue** – A statue of one of the twin warriors of legend who stand watch at the City's new main gate.
- **04 – Collapsed Rock** – Part of the cliff here has collapsed, meaning the once sheer rock face is now potentially climbable.
- **05 – Staircase** – The stairs are carved from the mountain side and each step is 2-3ft high. Even for the dwarves who live here and are acclimatised to the altitude and other steps around the city, this is an exhausting climb. Those who make it to the top are in no shape to fight, or often even stand.
- **06 – Pilgrim Statue** – The pilgrim statues light the path and were once seen as protectors who guided the dwarves home.
- **07 – Fort** - The fort and outer ramparts overlooking the ravine are still manned by the ever-vigilant city guard, but they stay mostly out of site whenever visitors pass through.
- **08 – Storeroom**
- **09 – Planning Room**
- **10 – Dormitory**
- **11 – Kitchen**

- **12 – Bathrooms**
- **13 – Tower**
- **14 – Deeprout Tree** – This is one of the oldest and largest trees in the city, although not enormous by any standard. Its roots however extend hundreds of feet down through the earth and rock.
- **15 – Stone Palace Gate** – The gate at the top of the stairs open to a short tunnel that leads through to the Stone Palace

Path to the Stone Palace – Ravine

- **16 – Ramparts**
- **17 – Armoury**
- **18 – Towers**
- **19 – Staircase Overlook**
- **20 – Fort Balcony**