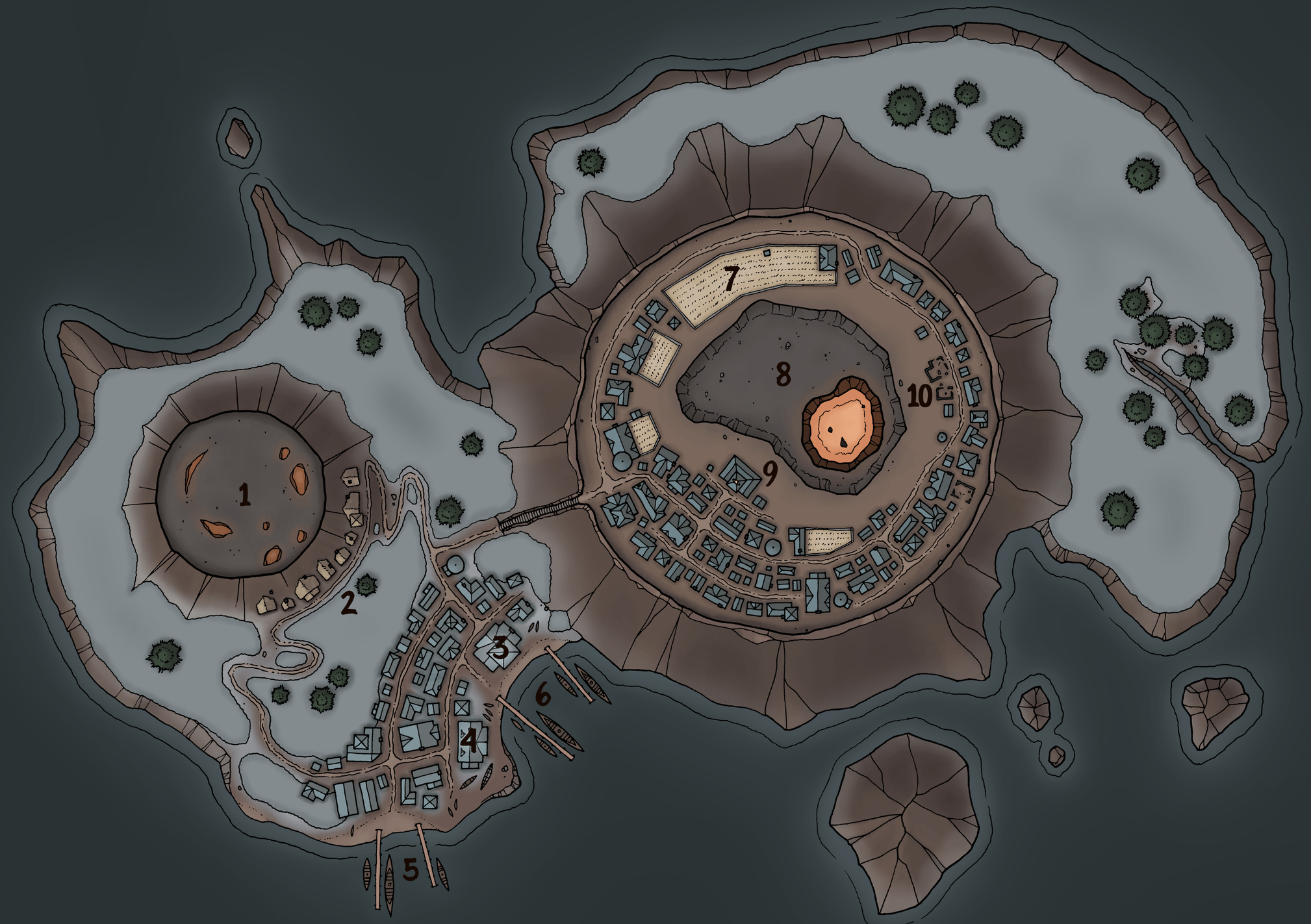
1 - West Caldera
2 - Turf Houses
3 - Town Hall
4 - Shipwright
5 - Sealers' Docks
6 - Whalers' Docks
7 - Gardens
8 - Great Caldera
9 - Temple
10 - Burnt-Out Houses



100'
30m

Eldfjall

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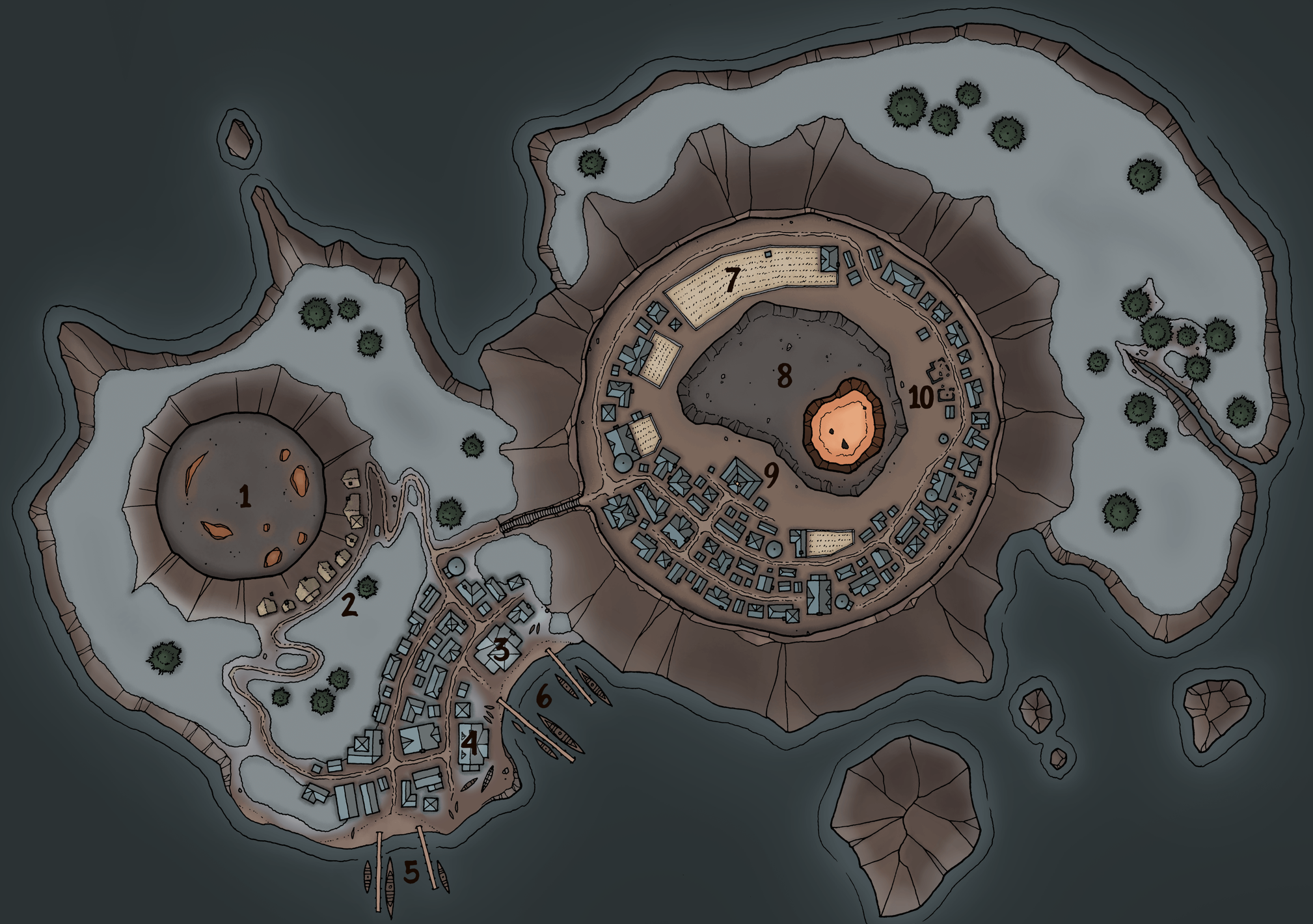

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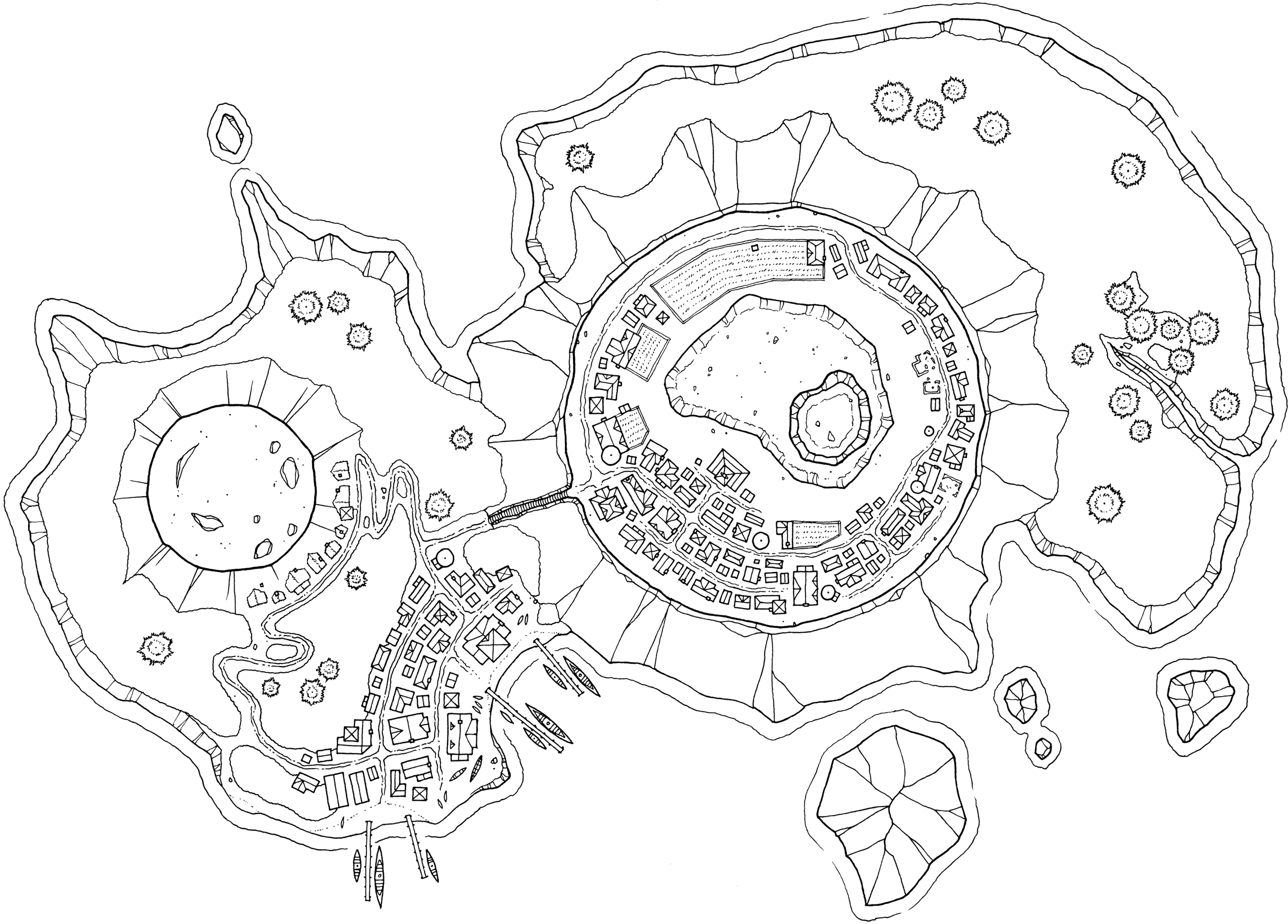


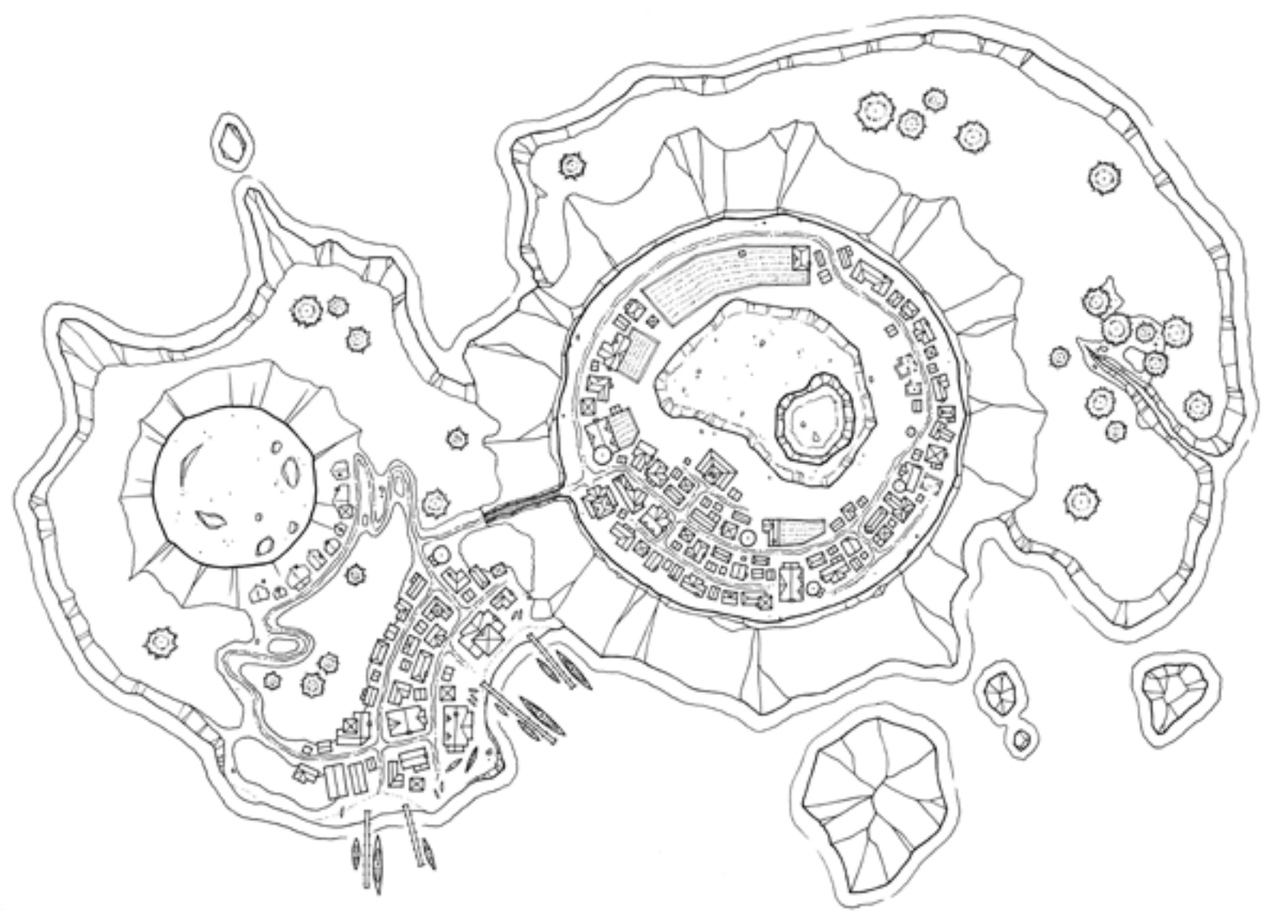
ELDFJALL

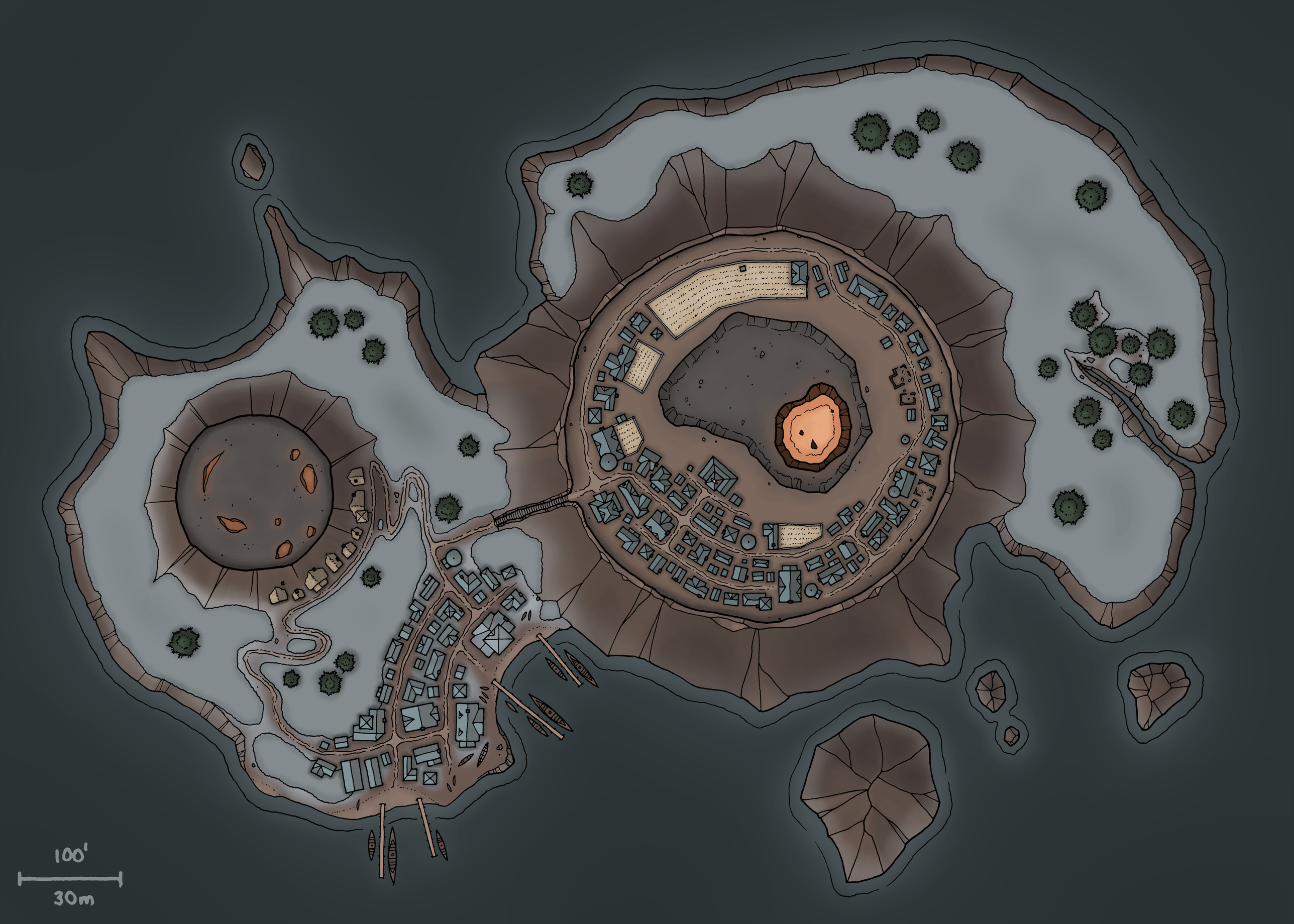
ABOUT

- Eldfjall is a small volcanic island deep in the arctic circle. The area is a plentiful hunting ground for whaling and seal hunting, but the frigid weather and the remoteness leave most of the local islands unsettled. Eldfjall is the only exception. The settlers of this small island found a unique way to overcome the bitter cold and the inability to grow crops: they settled their town in and around the caldera of a volcano.
- The warmth in the immediate vicinity of the volcanic cones warms the houses and provides just enough heat to grow crops, which supplement the local diet of seal, whale and fish.
- While most townspeople recognize the danger of living in the mouth of a volcano, it is a threat most have lived with their entire lives and they don't spend much time dwelling on it.
- Also, the volcano has yet to erupt in the 250-year history of the town. While a few spurts of flame and the odd lava flow have burned houses (and people) too close to the magma vents, a catastrophic eruption has never occurred.
- Some attribute this to the divine (their local deity is, of course, a fire god). Others believe the volcano is simply dormant or dead. Either could be true. Tectonic theory is still centuries away.
- Eldfjall has two calderas: the West Caldera and the Great Caldera. The Great Caldera, which holds most of the town's homes, has a pit of hot ash in the center. Inside that pit is the magma vent.
- The East Caldera is uninhabitable. The inside of the cone is filled with hot ash, with magma breaking through in several places. Nonetheless, a few residents have taken advantage of its warmth by building turf houses into the side of the cone.

NOTES

- While meat is typically more expensive than vegetables in most places, the opposite is true here. Space for gardening is highly limited, driving up the cost considerably. Most people only eat vegetables on special occasions.
- Because of the relative scarcity of wood, it is almost never burned for heat. Homes in and around the volcanoes are generally warm enough without a fire for most of the year and the work buildings by the coast are unheated. When fire is necessary for cooking or heating, whale oil is used almost exclusively.
- Eldfjall is the Icelandic word for "volcano." I thought it sounded pretty cool. Also, this is a very Icelandic place. Far to the north? Cold? Volcanoes, whaling? That's Iceland.

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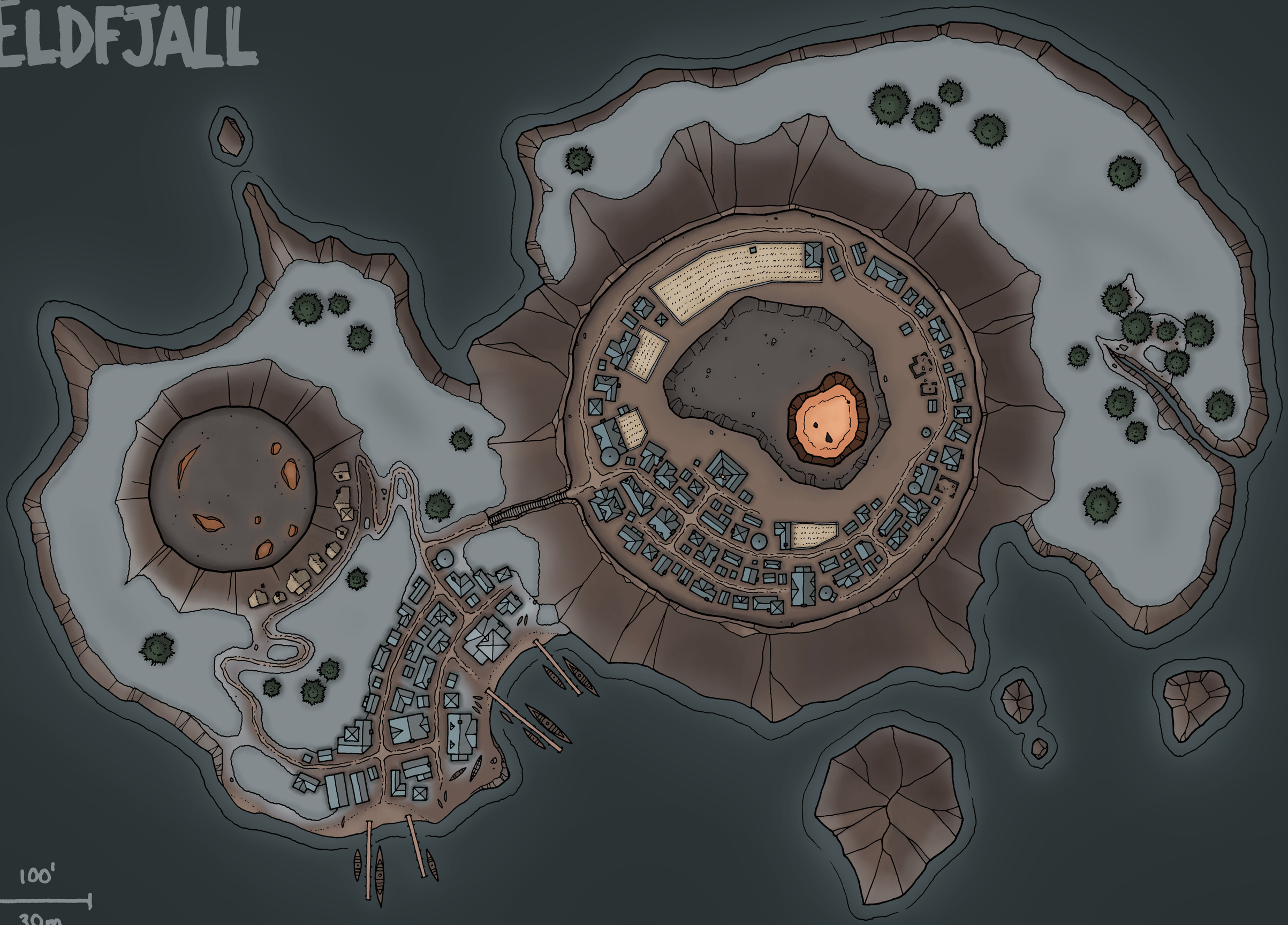
ELDFJALL