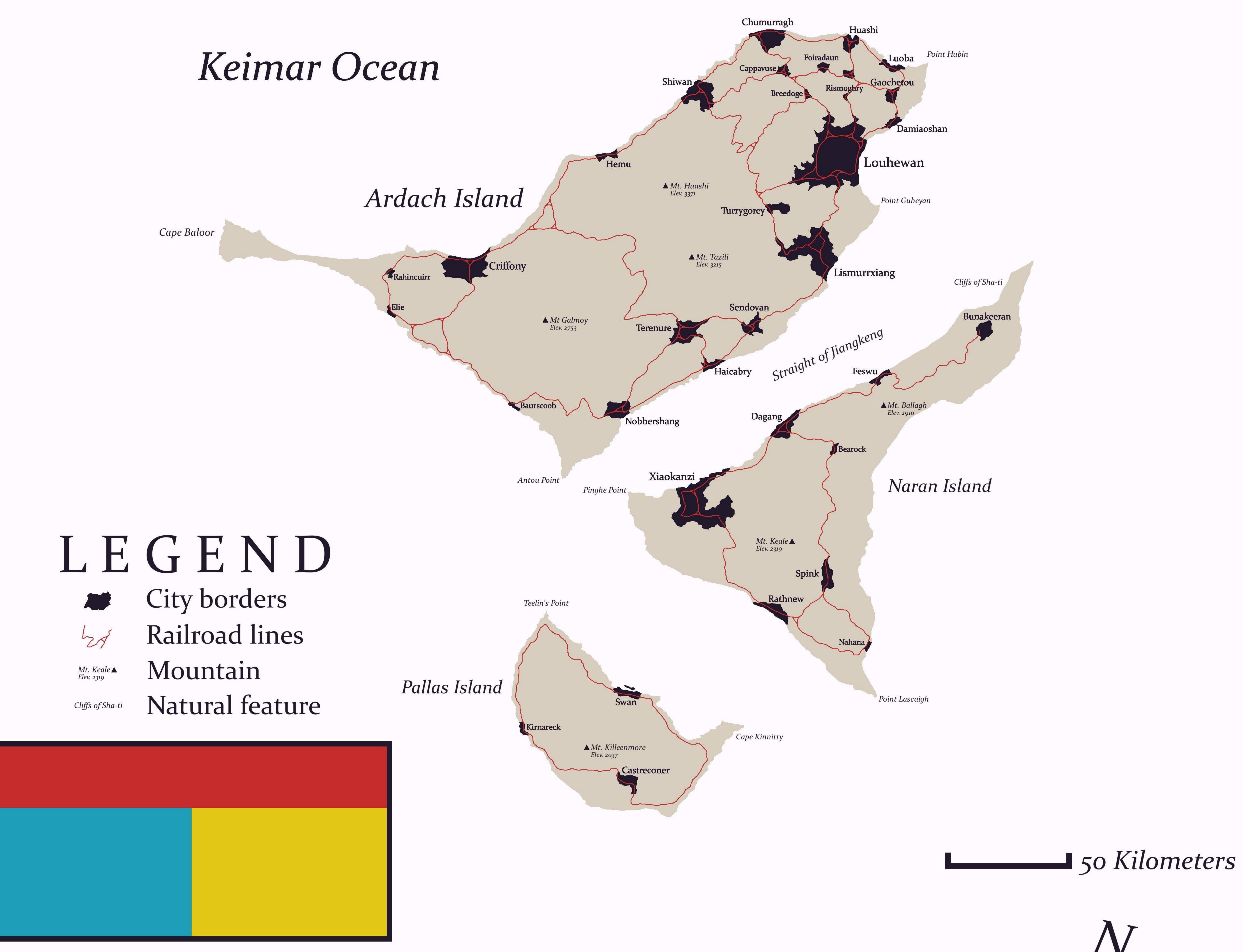
Xincun Freeports



First settled in the mid Pre-Fall era by Kealic explorers from the continent of Kilbennan to the east, the Ardach Islands existed for centuries as an isolated and self-sufficient dot of land in the massive Keimar Ocean. News never reached the small local population of the fall of civilization at the Edge until 316 AF when the Hechengese imperial navy arrived from the west and claimed the islands for the empire to be used as a trade outpost with Kilbennan, naming the islands the Xincuns. The Hechengese allowed the local Kealic people attonomy in their lives and culture in exchange for port control. Over the next five hundred years relations between the groups were largely positive and a handful of Kealic persons feature prominently in Hechengese history. However, when the Hechengese empire was unexpectedly swallowed by the rising Vnukovichi power in 851-854 AF, so too were the Xincuns annexed. The Vnukovichi government, to divide the locals, enslaved the Hechengese and made the Kealics into a regional middle class, and therefore, enforcers of Vnukovichi class structure. Despite numerous rebellions, It would not be until the Imperial's War in 1506 when Sha-Ti Kinitty, founding mother of the modern Xincun nation, reunited the peoples of the islands and led them in successful revolution.

