

ELDEN RING STRATEGY GUIDE

ELDEN RING STRATEGY GUIDE: EMBARKING ON THE PERILOUS JOURNEY THROUGH THE LANDS BETWEEN IN ELDEN RING CAN BE AN EXHILARATING YET DAUNTING EXPERIENCE. THIS COMPREHENSIVE ELDEN RING STRATEGY GUIDE IS METICULOUSLY CRAFTED TO EQUIP TARNISHED ADVENTURERS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND TACTICS NEEDED TO OVERCOME FORMIDABLE FOES, MASTER INTRICATE COMBAT, AND UNCOVER THE SECRETS OF THIS VAST OPEN WORLD. FROM UNDERSTANDING THE FUNDAMENTAL MECHANICS OF CHARACTER PROGRESSION AND COMBAT TO DELVING INTO ADVANCED BOSS STRATEGIES AND EXPLORATION TIPS, THIS GUIDE COVERS ALL ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF SURVIVING AND THRIVING IN FROMSOFTWARE'S LATEST MASTERPIECE. WE'LL NAVIGATE THE INITIAL STEPS OF CHARACTER CREATION, EXPLORE THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY GAME DECISIONS, AND ILLUMINATE THE PATH TO BECOMING A TRUE ELDEN LORD. PREPARE TO FACE THE CHALLENGES AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE AND STRATEGIC INSIGHT.

- UNDERSTANDING THE FUNDAMENTALS: STARTING YOUR ELDEN RING JOURNEY
- CHARACTER CREATION AND STARTING CLASS SELECTION
- ESSENTIAL EARLY GAME STRATEGIES AND TIPS
- MASTERING ELDEN RING COMBAT: CORE MECHANICS
- STAMINA MANAGEMENT AND ITS CRUCIAL ROLE
- WEAPON SKILLS AND ASHES OF WAR
- UNDERSTANDING GUARD COUNTERS AND DODGING
- EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY IN THE LANDS BETWEEN
- NAVIGATING THE OPEN WORLD AND FINDING KEY LOCATIONS
- UTILIZING SPIRIT ASHES AND SUMMONS
- QUESTLINES AND NPC INTERACTIONS
- BOSS STRATEGIES FOR COMMON ELDEN RING CHALLENGES
- GENERAL BOSS FIGHT APPROACHES
- SPECIFIC BOSS ENCOUNTERS AND WEAKNESSES
- ADVANCED ELDEN RING STRATEGIES
- BUILD DIVERSIFICATION AND STAT ALLOCATION
- CRAFTING AND ITEM USAGE
- MULTIPLAYER AND CO-OP CONSIDERATIONS

UNDERSTANDING THE FUNDAMENTALS: STARTING YOUR ELDEN RING JOURNEY

THE LANDS BETWEEN PRESENTS A BREATHTAKINGLY VAST AND DANGEROUS WORLD, AND FOR NEWCOMERS TO THE SOULS-LIKE GENRE OR EVEN SEASONED VETERANS OF FROMSOFTWARE'S PREVIOUS TITLES, UNDERSTANDING THE CORE MECHANICS IS

PARAMOUNT. ELDEN RING BUILDS UPON FAMILIAR FOUNDATIONS WHILE INTRODUCING SIGNIFICANT NEW ELEMENTS THAT ALTER THE PLAYER EXPERIENCE. THIS SECTION WILL BREAK DOWN THE ESSENTIAL STARTING POINTS TO ENSURE YOUR INITIAL STEPS ARE AS SUCCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE.

CHARACTER CREATION AND STARTING CLASS SELECTION

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS WITH THE CRUCIAL DECISION OF CHARACTER CREATION, WHICH INCLUDES SELECTING A STARTING CLASS. WHILE ELDEN RING IS REMARKABLY FLEXIBLE, ALLOWING YOU TO MOLD YOUR CHARACTER INTO VIRTUALLY ANY BUILD OVER TIME, YOUR STARTING CLASS SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCES YOUR EARLY GAME. EACH CLASS BEGINS WITH A UNIQUE DISTRIBUTION OF STATS, STARTING GEAR, AND EVEN A SPECIFIC STARTING KEEPSAKE. CONSIDER YOUR PREFERRED PLAYSTYLE WHEN MAKING THIS CHOICE. DO YOU FAVOR SWIFT, EVASIVE COMBAT, POWERFUL MAGIC, OR A MORE DEFENSIVE, MELEE-FOCUSED APPROACH? EACH CLASS OFFERS A DISTINCT ENTRY POINT INTO THE WORLD, AND UNDERSTANDING THEIR STRENGTHS CAN GIVE YOU AN INITIAL ADVANTAGE.

THE VAGABOND, FOR INSTANCE, IS A SOLID CHOICE FOR THOSE WHO PREFER A BALANCED MELEE APPROACH WITH GOOD STARTING SURVIVABILITY. THE SAMURAI OFFERS A POTENT STARTING WEAPON AND A GOOD DEXTERITY STAT, MAKING THEM EXCELLENT WITH KATANAS. FOR MAGIC USERS, THE ASTROLOGER PROVIDES A STRONG FOCUS ON INTELLIGENCE AND STARTING SORCERIES, WHILE THE PROPHET EXCELS IN FAITH-BASED INCANTATIONS. EVEN THE WRETCH, STARTING AT LEVEL 1 WITH BALANCED STATS AND NO INITIAL GEAR, OFFERS THE ULTIMATE BLANK SLATE FOR THOSE WHO WANT COMPLETE FREEDOM IN THEIR BUILD FROM THE OUTSET.

ESSENTIAL EARLY GAME STRATEGIES AND TIPS

THE EARLY HOURS OF ELDEN RING ARE CRITICAL FOR ESTABLISHING A SOLID FOUNDATION. RESOURCEFULNESS AND OBSERVATION ARE KEY. DON'T BE AFRAID TO RETREAT FROM OVERWHELMING ENCOUNTERS AND EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE PATHS. THE OPEN-WORLD NATURE OF ELDEN RING MEANS YOU'RE RARELY TRULY STUCK; IF A PARTICULAR AREA OR BOSS PROVES TOO DIFFICULT, THERE'S ALMOST ALWAYS ANOTHER DIRECTION TO EXPLORE FOR BETTER GEAR, INCREASED LEVELS, OR VALUABLE CRAFTING MATERIALS. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE TUTORIAL MESSAGES THAT APPEAR ON SCREEN, AS THEY OFTEN CONTAIN VITAL INFORMATION ABOUT GAME MECHANICS.

A VITAL EARLY-GAME TIP IS TO PRIORITIZE ACQUIRING TORRENT, YOUR SPECTRAL STEED. THIS MOUNT IS UNLOCKED EARLY IN THE GAME AND DRAMATICALLY ENHANCES EXPLORATION SPEED AND MOBILITY, ALLOWING YOU TO ESCAPE DANGEROUS SITUATIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY AND TRAVERSE THE VAST LANDSCAPE OF LIMGRAVE WITH EASE. FURTHERMORE, FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE "SITES OF GRACE." THESE SERVE AS CHECKPOINTS, ALLOWING YOU TO REST, LEVEL UP, ALLOCATE FLASKS, AND RESPAWN FALLEN ENEMIES. ENSURE YOU ACTIVATE EVERY SITE OF GRACE YOU ENCOUNTER.

ANOTHER CRUCIAL ASPECT OF EARLY GAME SUCCESS IS GATHERING RUNES. RUNES ARE THE PRIMARY CURRENCY IN ELDEN RING, USED FOR LEVELING UP, PURCHASING ITEMS, AND UPGRADING YOUR EQUIPMENT. EXPLORE THE STARTING AREA THOROUGHLY, DEFEAT ANY WEAKER ENEMIES YOU ENCOUNTER, AND DON'T OVERLOOK THE BENEFITS OF FINDING GOLDEN RUNES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE ENVIRONMENT. THESE CONSUMABLE ITEMS INSTANTLY GRANT YOU A PORTION OF RUNES.

MASTERING ELDEN RING COMBAT: CORE MECHANICS

COMBAT IS THE BEATING HEART OF ELDEN RING, AND MASTERING ITS NUANCES IS ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL. FROM SOFTWARE'S SIGNATURE DELIBERATE AND PUNISHING COMBAT SYSTEM RETURNS, ENHANCED WITH NEW MECHANICS THAT OFFER GREATER STRATEGIC DEPTH. UNDERSTANDING HOW TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE YOUR RESOURCES, UTILIZE YOUR ABILITIES, AND EXPLOIT ENEMY WEAKNESSES WILL BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRIUMPH AND REPEATED DEMISE.

STAMINA MANAGEMENT AND ITS CRUCIAL ROLE

STAMINA IS PERHAPS THE MOST CRITICAL RESOURCE IN ELDEN RING COMBAT. EVERY ACTION YOU TAKE—ATTACKING, DODGING, SPRINTING, BLOCKING—CONSUMES STAMINA. WHEN YOUR STAMINA BAR IS DEPLETED, YOUR CHARACTER BECOMES VULNERABLE, UNABLE TO PERFORM THESE ACTIONS UNTIL IT REGENERATES. THIS FORCES A MEASURED APPROACH TO COMBAT, DEMANDING THAT PLAYERS CAREFULLY CONSIDER EACH MOVE RATHER THAN SIMPLY MASHING ATTACK BUTTONS.

EFFECTIVE STAMINA MANAGEMENT INVOLVES KNOWING WHEN TO ATTACK, WHEN TO DEFEND, AND WHEN TO RETREAT. LEARN ENEMY ATTACK PATTERNS TO IDENTIFY OPENINGS FOR AGGRESSION WITHOUT OVEREXTENDING. USING LIGHTER WEAPONS GENERALLY CONSUMES LESS STAMINA PER SWING, WHILE HEAVIER WEAPONS OFFER MORE DAMAGE BUT DRAIN YOUR STAMINA FASTER. UPGRADING YOUR VIGOR STAT ALSO INCREASES YOUR MAXIMUM STAMINA, PROVIDING MORE ROOM FOR ERROR AND SUSTAINED OFFENSE.

TIMING YOUR DODGES IS ALSO INTRINSICALLY LINKED TO STAMINA. A WELL-TIMED DODGE, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS A “ROLL,” MAKES YOUR CHARACTER MOMENTARILY INVULNERABLE, ALLOWING YOU TO PHASE THROUGH ATTACKS. HOWEVER, REPEATED DODGING CAN QUICKLY DEplete YOUR STAMINA, LEAVING YOU VULNERABLE. THEREFORE, IT’S CRUCIAL TO CHAIN DODGES STRATEGICALLY, ENSURING YOU HAVE ENOUGH STAMINA LEFT TO ATTACK OR BLOCK AFTERWARDS.

WEAPON SKILLS AND ASHES OF WAR

ELDEN RING INTRODUCES A SIGNIFICANT NEW MECHANIC: WEAPON SKILLS, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS “ASHES OF WAR.” THESE SPECIAL ABILITIES ARE TIED TO SPECIFIC WEAPON TYPES OR CAN BE APPLIED TO COMPATIBLE ARMAMENTS VIA ASHES OF WAR FOUND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WEAPON SKILLS OFFER POWERFUL, UNIQUE ATTACKS OR BUFFS THAT CAN TURN THE TIDE OF A DIFFICULT ENCOUNTER. LEARNING TO EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE THESE SKILLS, ALONG WITH MANAGING THEIR OWN STAMINA COSTS, IS A KEY COMPONENT OF ADVANCED COMBAT.

ASHES OF WAR ARE INCREDIBLY VERSATILE. YOU CAN FIND THEM ON DEFEATED ENEMIES, IN CHESTS, OR BY COMPLETING SPECIFIC QUESTS. ONCE ACQUIRED, YOU CAN APPLY THEM TO COMPATIBLE WEAPONS AT A SITE OF GRACE, OFTEN ALLOWING YOU TO CHANGE A WEAPON’S AFFINITY (E.G., HEAVY, KEEN, MAGIC, FIRE) AND ITS ASSOCIATED SKILL. THIS SYSTEM ALLOWS FOR UNPRECEDENTED BUILD CUSTOMIZATION AND EXPERIMENTATION. FOR EXAMPLE, AN ASH OF WAR LIKE “BLOODY SLASH” CAN INFLICT SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE AND APPLY BLEED, WHILE “GLINTSTONE PEBBLE” CAN PROVIDE A RANGED MAGICAL ATTACK TO A MELEE WEAPON.

EACH WEAPON SKILL HAS AN FP (FOCUS POINT) COST, SIMILAR TO SPELLS. FP IS A SEPARATE RESOURCE THAT REGENERATES OVER TIME OR BY USING CERULEAN FLASKS. IT’S IMPORTANT TO BALANCE THE USE OF YOUR WEAPON SKILLS WITH YOUR FP POOL, ENSURING YOU DON’T LEAVE YOURSELF UNABLE TO CAST SPELLS OR USE OTHER FP-CONSUMING ABILITIES WHEN YOU NEED THEM MOST.

UNDERSTANDING GUARD COUNTERS AND DODGING

TWO FUNDAMENTAL DEFENSIVE MECHANICS IN ELDEN RING ARE GUARD COUNTERS AND DODGING. MASTERING BOTH IS CRUCIAL FOR SURVIVING THE RELENTLESS ONSLAUGHT OF ENEMIES.

DODGING, AS MENTIONED, PROVIDES INVINCIBILITY FRAMES THAT ALLOW YOU TO AVOID DAMAGE ENTIRELY. THE DIRECTION AND TIMING OF YOUR DODGE ARE CRITICAL. OFTEN, DODGING INTO AN ENEMY’S ATTACK, RATHER THAN AWAY FROM IT, CAN POSITION YOU FAVORABLY FOR A COUNTER-ATTACK. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR DODGE IS ALSO INFLUENCED BY YOUR “EQUIP LOAD.” A LIGHTER EQUIP LOAD (UNDER 70%) ALLOWS FOR A FASTER, MORE AGILE DODGE, WHILE A HEAVIER LOAD RESULTS IN A SLOWER, LESS EFFECTIVE “FAT ROLL.”

GUARD COUNTERS ARE A NEW MECHANIC INTRODUCED IN ELDEN RING. IF YOU SUCCESSFULLY BLOCK AN ENEMY ATTACK WITH A SHIELD, YOU CAN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW UP WITH A STRONG COUNTER-ATTACK. THIS GUARD COUNTER DEALS SIGNIFICANT

POISE DAMAGE TO THE ENEMY, AND IF YOU BREAK THEIR POISE, THEY WILL BE STAGGERED, LEAVING THEM OPEN FOR A CRITICAL HIT. THIS MAKES SHIELDS MUCH MORE OFFENSIVELY VIABLE THAN IN PREVIOUS TITLES. HOWEVER, BLOCKING ALSO CONSUMES STAMINA, AND A POWERFUL HIT CAN BREAK YOUR GUARD, LEAVING YOU STAGGERED AND VULNERABLE. THEREFORE, EVEN WHEN BLOCKING, MANAGING YOUR STAMINA AND KNOWING WHEN TO RELEASE THE BLOCK TO PREPARE FOR A GUARD COUNTER IS ESSENTIAL.

EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY IN THE LANDS BETWEEN

ELDEN RING'S WORLD IS ITS GREATEST STRENGTH. THE LANDS BETWEEN IS A SPRAWLING, INTERCONNECTED LANDSCAPE FILLED WITH HIDDEN SECRETS, OPTIONAL AREAS, AND NUMEROUS CHALLENGES. EFFECTIVE EXPLORATION IS NOT JUST ABOUT FINDING YOUR WAY FORWARD BUT ABOUT DISCOVERING THE RESOURCES, LORE, AND ADVANTAGES THAT WILL AID YOUR PROGRESSION.

NAVIGATING THE OPEN WORLD AND FINDING KEY LOCATIONS

LIMGRAVE, THE STARTING REGION, SERVES AS AN EXCELLENT INTRODUCTION TO THE OPEN-WORLD DESIGN. THE MAP IS GRADUALLY REVEALED AS YOU FIND MAP FRAGMENTS, TYPICALLY LOCATED AT OBELISKS ON THE ROADS. PAY ATTENTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT FOR VISUAL CUES: GLOWING TREES OFTEN INDICATE VALUABLE ITEMS, WHILE DISTINCTIVE ROCK FORMATIONS OR RUINS MIGHT HIDE DUNGEONS OR TREASURES.

TORRENT, YOUR SPECTRAL STEED, IS INVALUABLE FOR TRAVERSING THE VAST DISTANCES. USE ITS DOUBLE-JUMP ABILITY TO REACH ELEVATED AREAS OR CROSS SMALL GAPS. SPIRITSPRINGS, GUSTS OF WIND FOUND IN SPECIFIC LOCATIONS, ALLOW TORRENT TO PERFORM MASSIVE LEAPS, GRANTING ACCESS TO OTHERWISE UNREACHABLE AREAS. SITES OF GRACE ALSO SERVE AS FAST TRAVEL POINTS, ALLOWING YOU TO QUICKLY RETURN TO PREVIOUSLY DISCOVERED LOCATIONS.

BE MINDFUL OF ENEMY PLACEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS. NOT EVERY ENCOUNTER IS MANDATORY. IF YOU FIND YOURSELF OVERWHELMED, CONSIDER DISENGAGING AND EXPLORING A DIFFERENT PATH. THE GAME OFTEN ENCOURAGES BACKTRACKING AND REVISITING AREAS ONCE YOU'VE ACQUIRED NEW ABILITIES OR ITEMS THAT OPEN UP NEW POSSIBILITIES.

UTILIZING SPIRIT ASHES AND SUMMONS

SPIRIT ASHES ARE A SIGNIFICANT NEW ADDITION THAT CAN GREATLY ASSIST PLAYERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE STRUGGLING WITH CERTAIN ENCOUNTERS OR PREFERRING A LESS CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE. THESE CONSUMABLE ITEMS ALLOW YOU TO SUMMON SPECTRAL ALLIES TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU. EACH SPIRIT ASH HAS UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS, FROM TANKY KNIGHTS THAT DRAW ENEMY AGGRO TO AGILE ATTACKERS OR SUPPORTIVE CASTERS.

SPIRIT ASHES CAN ONLY BE SUMMONED AT SPECIFIC LOCATIONS MARKED BY A TOMBSTONE ICON ON YOUR HUD, USUALLY IN DUNGEONS, CATACOMBS, OR DURING BOSS FIGHTS. TO SUMMON SPIRITS, YOU WILL NEED A SPIRIT JELLYFISH OR A SPECIFIC SPIRIT CALLING BELL, WHICH CAN BE ACQUIRED EARLY IN THE GAME. THE BEST SPIRIT ASHES OFTEN REQUIRE SPECIFIC SPIRIT JELLYFISH ASHES TO BE UPGRADED AT THE CHURCH OF ELLEH BY RODERIKA.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SPIRIT ASH FOR A PARTICULAR SITUATION CAN BE A GAME-CHANGER. FOR BOSS FIGHTS WHERE YOU NEED TO CREATE SPACE TO HEAL OR CAST SPELLS, A TANKY SPIRIT ASH LIKE THE LHUTEL THE HEADLESS OR THE BLACK KNIFE TICHE CAN BE INVALUABLE. FOR GENERAL CROWD CONTROL, THE WOLVES OR SKELETON MILITIAMEN CAN PROVIDE DISTRACTIONS. EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT SPIRIT ASHES TO FIND WHAT BEST COMPLEMENTS YOUR PLAYSTYLE AND THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE.

QUESTLINES AND NPC INTERACTIONS

ELDEN RING FEATURES A RICH TAPESTRY OF NPC QUESTLINES, EACH WITH ITS OWN NARRATIVE PROGRESSION AND POTENTIAL REWARDS. UNLIKE MANY RPGS, THESE QUESTLINES ARE OFTEN OBSCURE AND CAN BE EASILY MISSED OR FAILED IF CERTAIN CONDITIONS AREN'T MET OR IF YOU PROGRESS TOO FAR IN THE MAIN STORY WITHOUT COMPLETING SPECIFIC STEPS.

IT'S ADVISABLE TO SPEAK WITH EVERY NPC YOU ENCOUNTER MULTIPLE TIMES, AS THEY MAY OFFER NEW DIALOGUE OR QUEST TRIGGERS AFTER YOU REST AT A SITE OF GRACE OR ADVANCE THE MAIN STORY. KEEP TRACK OF NPC LOCATIONS AND THE ITEMS THEY REQUEST. SOME NPCs OFFER VITAL SERVICES, SUCH AS MERCHANTS SELLING UNIQUE ITEMS OR BLACKSMITHS WHO CAN UPGRADE YOUR WEAPONS. OTHERS MIGHT OFFER VALUABLE LORE OR UNIQUE SPIRIT ASHES AND SPELLS AS REWARDS FOR COMPLETING THEIR PERSONAL STORIES.

BE CAUTIOUS WITH YOUR CHOICES. SOME DIALOGUE OPTIONS OR ACTIONS CAN LEAD TO AN NPC BECOMING HOSTILE OR THEIR QUESTLINE BECOMING PERMANENTLY INACCESSIBLE. IF YOU'RE UNSURE ABOUT A PARTICULAR INTERACTION, IT'S OFTEN BEST TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION OR CONSULT EXTERNAL RESOURCES IF YOU'RE COMMITTED TO COMPLETING A SPECIFIC QUESTLINE.

BOSS STRATEGIES FOR COMMON ELDEN RING CHALLENGES

BOSSSES ARE THE ULTIMATE TEST OF YOUR SKILLS AND PREPARATION IN ELDEN RING. FROM THE IMPOSING TREE SENTINEL IN LIMGRAVE TO THE DREADED MALENIA, BLADE OF MIQUELLA, EACH BOSS PRESENTS A UNIQUE SET OF MECHANICS AND CHALLENGES THAT REQUIRE SPECIFIC STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME.

GENERAL BOSS FIGHT APPROACHES

BEFORE DIVING INTO SPECIFIC BOSSSES, IT'S IMPORTANT TO ADOPT A GENERAL APPROACH TO BOSS ENCOUNTERS. FIRST, OBSERVATION IS KEY. SPEND THE INITIAL ATTEMPTS OF A BOSS FIGHT PRIMARILY ON DEFENSIVE MANEUVERS, LEARNING THEIR ATTACK PATTERNS, TELLS, AND THE RHYTHM OF THEIR MOVEMENTS. IDENTIFY SAFE WINDOWS TO ATTACK AND MOMENTS WHERE YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST EVADE.

SECOND, PREPARATION IS VITAL. ENSURE YOUR WEAPONS ARE UPGRADED TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY. ALLOCATE YOUR FLASKS OF CRIMSON TEARS (HP) AND CERULEAN TEARS (FP) BASED ON YOUR BUILD AND THE EXPECTED DEMANDS OF THE FIGHT. IF A BOSS IS PARTICULARLY RESISTANT TO CERTAIN DAMAGE TYPES, CONSIDER USING AN ITEM OR WEAPON WITH A DIFFERENT AFFINITY, OR APPLY AN APPROPRIATE GREASES TO YOUR WEAPON.

THIRD, UTILIZE YOUR SPIRIT ASHES AND SUMMONS. AS DISCUSSED, THESE ALLIES CAN DRAW ENEMY ATTENTION, PROVIDING YOU WITH CRUCIAL BREATHING ROOM TO HEAL, REPOSITION, OR UNLEASH A FLURRY OF ATTACKS. CHOOSING THE RIGHT SUMMON FOR THE JOB CAN SIGNIFICANTLY ALTER THE DIFFICULTY OF A BOSS FIGHT.

FINALLY, MANAGE YOUR STAMINA AND POSITIONING. NEVER GET GREEDY WITH ATTACKS. ALWAYS LEAVE ENOUGH STAMINA TO DODGE OR BLOCK A COUNTER-ATTACK. MAINTAINING GOOD POSITIONING CAN HELP YOU AVOID AREA-OF-EFFECT (AoE) ATTACKS AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR OWN OFFENSE.

SPECIFIC BOSS ENCOUNTERS AND WEAKNESSES

WHILE A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF EVERY BOSS STRATEGY WOULD BE EXTENSIVE, HERE ARE A FEW COMMON EARLY TO MID-GAME BOSSSES AND GENERAL APPROACHES:

- **TREE SENTINEL:** OFTEN THE FIRST MAJOR ROADBLOCK FOR NEW PLAYERS. ITS WIDE, SWEEPING ATTACKS CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DODGE. STAYING BEHIND THE HORSE AND USING TORRENT FOR QUICK CHARGES AND ATTACKS, THEN DISMOUNTING TO GET A FEW HITS IN DURING ITS RECOVERY ANIMATIONS, CAN BE EFFECTIVE. ALTERNATIVELY, FOCUS ON BLOCKING WITH A GOOD SHIELD AND USING GUARD COUNTERS.
- **MARGIT, THE FELL OMEN:** A FORMIDABLE EARLY-GAME BOSS WITH AGGRESSIVE MELEE AND MAGICAL ATTACKS. MARGIT'S ATTACKS ARE WELL-TELEGRAPHED, MAKING DODGING INTO HIS SWINGS A VIABLE STRATEGY. SPIRIT ASHES THAT CAN TANK DAMAGE, LIKE THE LONE WOLF ASHES, ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO CREATE OPENINGS.
- **GODRICK THE GRAFTED:** THIS BOSS HAS TWO DISTINCT PHASES. IN THE FIRST, HE USES HIS GRAFTED ARM FOR POWERFUL SWINGS AND THROWS. IN THE SECOND PHASE, HE INFUSES HIS ARM WITH FIRE. STAYING CLOSE AND ATTACKING AFTER HIS COMBOS, AND BEING MINDFUL OF HIS AoE GROUND SLAMS, IS CRUCIAL.
- **RENNALA, QUEEN OF THE FULL MOON:** RENNALA HAS A UNIQUE TWO-PHASE FIGHT. PHASE ONE INVOLVES HER TELEPORTING AND SUMMONING SPECTRAL KNIGHTS. YOU MUST BREAK THE GOLDEN SHIELDS SURROUNDING HER TO MAKE HER VULNERABLE. PHASE TWO SEES HER USING POWERFUL MAGIC ATTACKS, REQUIRING CAREFUL DODGING AND THE USE OF RANGED ATTACKS OR SPELLS IF YOU HAVE THEM.

REMEMBER THAT MANY BOSSES HAVE ELEMENTAL WEAKNESSES OR RESISTANCES. EXPERIMENTING WITH DIFFERENT DAMAGE TYPES CAN REVEAL EXPLOITABLE VULNERABILITIES.

ADVANCED ELDEN RING STRATEGIES

ONCE YOU HAVE A SOLID GRASP OF THE FUNDAMENTALS, YOU CAN BEGIN TO DELVE INTO MORE ADVANCED STRATEGIES THAT WILL FURTHER ENHANCE YOUR EFFECTIVENESS IN THE LANDS BETWEEN. THIS INVOLVES REFINING YOUR CHARACTER BUILD, MASTERING CRAFTING, AND UNDERSTANDING THE NUANCES OF MULTIPLAYER INTERACTION.

BUILD DIVERSIFICATION AND STAT ALLOCATION

ELDEN RING OFFERS UNPARALLELED BUILD DIVERSITY. YOUR CHARACTER'S STATS—VIGOR (HP), MIND (FP), ENDURANCE (STAMINA/EQUIP LOAD), STRENGTH, DEXTERITY, INTELLIGENCE, FAITH, AND ARCANE—DICTATE YOUR CAPABILITIES. A WELL-THOUGHT-OUT STAT ALLOCATION IS THE CORNERSTONE OF ANY SUCCESSFUL BUILD.

- **MELEE BUILDS:** TYPICALLY FOCUS ON STRENGTH OR DEXTERITY, WITH SUFFICIENT VIGOR AND ENDURANCE. STRENGTH BUILDS FAVOR HEAVIER WEAPONS AND HIGHER PHYSICAL DAMAGE, WHILE DEXTERITY BUILDS EXCEL WITH FASTER WEAPONS AND OFTEN BENEFIT FROM STATUS EFFECTS LIKE BLEED OR FROSTBITE.
- **MAGIC BUILDS:** INTELLIGENCE BUILDS FOCUS ON SORCERIES, REQUIRING HIGH INTELLIGENCE AND MIND. FAITH BUILDS UTILIZE INCANTATIONS, DEMANDING HIGH FAITH AND MIND. HYBRID BUILDS CAN INVEST IN BOTH INTELLIGENCE AND FAITH FOR A WIDER RANGE OF SPELLS.
- **STATUS EFFECT BUILDS:** ARCANE STAT OFTEN PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE HERE, BOOSTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BLEED, POISON, AND OTHER STATUS EFFECTS. THESE BUILDS CAN BE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL AGAINST MANY ENEMIES AND BOSSES.

AS YOU PROGRESS, YOU WILL FIND LARVAL TEARS, WHICH ALLOW YOU TO REALLOCATE YOUR STATS AT RENNALA AFTER DEFEATING HER. THIS PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY TO EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT BUILDS OR RESPEC IF YOUR CURRENT APPROACH ISN'T WORKING.

CRAFTING AND ITEM USAGE

THE CRAFTING SYSTEM IN ELDEN RING IS A ROBUST ADDITION THAT ALLOWS YOU TO CREATE A WIDE ARRAY OF USEFUL ITEMS, FROM POTENT CONSUMABLES TO AMMUNITION AND WEAPON GREASES. YOU'LL NEED TO FIND CRAFTING RECIPES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, OFTEN BY DEFEATING SPECIFIC ENEMIES OR EXPLORING DUNGEONS.

KEY CRAFTING ITEMS TO PRIORITIZE INCLUDE:

- **GREASES:** THESE TEMPORARY BUFFS CAN ADD ELEMENTAL DAMAGE OR STATUS EFFECTS TO YOUR WEAPONS, SUCH AS FIRE GREASE, LIGHTNING GREASE, OR POISON GREASE.
- **THROWING KNIVES AND POTS:** VARIOUS POTS CAN BE CRAFTED, LIKE FIRE POTS FOR AREA DAMAGE OR SLEEP POTS TO INCAPACITATE ENEMIES.
- **ARROWS AND BOLTS:** ESSENTIAL FOR RANGED COMBAT BUILDS.
- **STATUS-HEALING ITEMS:** SUCH AS NEUTRALIZING BOLUSES TO CURE POISON.

KEEPING A STEADY SUPPLY OF USEFUL CRAFTED ITEMS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY EASE YOUR JOURNEY. ALWAYS BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW CRAFTING RECIPES AND THE MATERIALS NEEDED TO CREATE THEM.

MULTIPLAYER AND CO-OP CONSIDERATIONS

ELDEN RING FEATURES ROBUST ONLINE MULTIPLAYER, ALLOWING FOR COOPERATIVE PLAY AND PLAYER-VERSUS-PLAYER (PVP) ENCOUNTERS. ENGAGING IN CO-OP CAN MAKE CHALLENGING BOSSES OR AREAS MORE MANAGEABLE BY TEAMING UP WITH OTHER PLAYERS.

TO SUMMON OTHER PLAYERS, YOU'LL NEED TO USE THE TARNISHED'S FURLED FINGER TO CREATE A SUMMON SIGN. OTHER PLAYERS CAN THEN USE THE FINGER TO FIND YOUR SIGN AND SUMMON YOU INTO THEIR WORLD. CONVERSELY, YOU CAN USE THE RED FURL   CODED FINGER TO INVADE OTHER PLAYERS' WORLDS FOR PVP COMBAT. RECEIVING A GOLDEN HUE ON YOUR SUMMON SIGN INDICATES IT IS VISIBLE TO OTHER PLAYERS.

COMMUNICATION IN ELDEN RING IS LIMITED TO IN-GAME MESSAGES LEFT BY PLAYERS. THESE MESSAGES CAN OFFER HINTS, WARNINGS, OR SOMETIMES, PLAYFUL MISDIRECTION. BE DISCERNING WHEN READING PLAYER MESSAGES, BUT THEY CAN OFTEN PROVIDE VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE GAME WORLD OR HIDDEN SECRETS.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE EARLY-GAME WEAPON TYPES IN ELDEN RING, AND WHERE CAN I FIND THEM?

EARLY ON, STRAIGHT SWORDS LIKE THE LORDSWORN'S STRAIGHT SWORD (FOUND ON SOLDIERS NEAR THE WARMASTER'S SHACK) OR CURVED SWORDS LIKE THE SCIMITAR (STARTING WEAPON FOR THE WARRIOR CLASS OR FOUND IN LIMGRAVE) ARE VERSATILE AND HAVE GOOD SCALING. UCHIGATANAS ARE ALSO EXCELLENT FOR BLEED BUILDS. AXES AND HAMMERS CAN STAGGER ENEMIES EFFECTIVELY. LOOK FOR THESE IN CHESTS, ENEMY DROPS, AND STARTING CLASS EQUIPMENT IN LIMGRAVE AND WEEPING PENINSULA.

How can I optimize my build for a strength-focused playthrough?

For a strength build, prioritize leveling Vigor and Endurance for survivability and wielding heavier weapons. Focus on weapons with high strength scaling, such as Greatswords, Colossal Swords, or Greathammers. Look for Ashes of War that enhance strength scaling or provide useful weapon arts like Lion's Claw or Giant Hunt. Don't neglect your equip load to maintain a medium roll.

What are the best strategies for dealing with Malenia, Blade of Miquella?

Malenia is notoriously difficult. Her Waterfowl Dance attack is particularly deadly; learning to dodge it consistently is crucial, often involving dodging into her first few flurries and then away. Weapon arts that provide hyper armor or staggers, like Charged Heavy Attacks or certain weapon skills, can interrupt her. Status effects like Frostbite or Scarlet Rot can also be effective. Consider using Spirit Ashes like the Mimic Tear or Black Knife Tiche to draw aggro and deal damage.

How do Spirit Ashes work, and which are considered the best for general use?

Spirit Ashes are summonable allies that consume FP to appear. They can draw aggro, deal damage, and apply status effects. The Mimic Tear is widely considered one of the best due to its ability to duplicate your current build and equipment. The Black Knife Tiche is excellent for its aggressive playstyle and percentage-based damage. Other strong options include the Lhutel the Headless for its survivability and the Cleanrot Knight Finlay for its healing and buffing capabilities.

What are the most efficient ways to farm runes and level up quickly?

Early game, the trolls in Limgrave are a good source. Later, the area before Mohgwyn Palace, specifically the Albinauric enemies near the Palace Approach Ledge-Road Site of Grace, is a highly popular and efficient farming spot. Using Golden Scarab Talisman and Gold-Pickled Fowl Foot consumable will further boost rune gains. Repeatedly defeating these enemies provides a steady stream of runes for leveling.

Which spells or incantations are most powerful for a magic or faith build respectively?

For Sorcery (Intelligence builds), Comet Azur is incredibly powerful for melting bosses when combined with Cerulean Hidden Tear. Ranni's Dark Moon and Loretta's Greatbow offer excellent range and damage. For Incantations (Faith builds), Black Flame spells like Black Flame, Black Flame Blade, and Surge, Death Blight, and Pest Threads are very effective. Catch Flame is a great close-range option, and healing incantations are essential for support.

What are the key mechanics for managing stamina and equip load effectively?

Stamina governs attacking, dodging, blocking, and sprinting. Always be mindful of your stamina bar; never deplete it fully, as you'll be vulnerable. Equipping heavier armor or weapons increases your equip load. Staying below 70% of your total equip load ensures a medium roll, which is essential for dodging. Higher equip load reduces your dodge distance and increases stamina consumption. Prioritize endurance to increase your stamina and equip load capacity.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to Elden Ring strategy guides, each starting with *and followed by a short description*:

1. The Tarnished's Tome: A Comprehensive Elden Ring Journey

This guide meticulously maps out every corner of the Lands Between, offering detailed strategies for overcoming challenging bosses and exploring hidden areas. It delves into the nuances of character builds, weapon upgrades, and the most effective use of Ashes of War. Players will find invaluable advice on navigating treacherous dungeons and uncovering the lore behind the game's intricate narrative.

2. Ironclad Strategies: Mastering Elden Ring's Combat

Focusing specifically on the combat mechanics, this book breaks down enemy attack patterns, boss vulnerabilities, and advanced dodging and parrying techniques. It provides expert tips on weapon selection, spell casting, and the optimal times to unleash powerful skills. Players seeking to hone their fighting prowess and conquer even the most formidable foes will find this an essential resource.

3. Whispers of the Erdtree: Lore and Secrets of Elden Ring

Beyond mere mechanics, this title delves deep into the rich lore of Elden Ring, explaining the history of the Golden Order, the demigods, and the origins of the Shattering. It uncovers hidden questlines, deciphered cryptic item descriptions, and offers theories on the game's many mysteries. This book is perfect for those who want to understand the narrative context of their journey through the Lands Between.

4. The Ashen One's Arsenal: Weapon and Build Optimization

Dedicated to character customization, this guide meticulously details the strengths and weaknesses of every weapon, spell, and incantation available in Elden Ring. It offers sample builds tailored for various playstyles, from aggressive melee fighters to powerful sorcerers, and explains how to synergize equipment and stats for maximum effectiveness. Players will learn how to craft the ultimate Tarnished to suit their individual approach.

5. Navigating the Mistwood: Elden Ring Exploration Guide

This book serves as an indispensable companion for exploring every inch of the vast open world of Elden Ring. It highlights key landmarks, hidden pathways, and optimal routes for efficient travel and discovery. Players will be guided to valuable loot, optional bosses, and secluded grace sites, ensuring no significant area is missed on their quest.

6. The Crucible's Edge: Advanced Elden Ring Tactics

Designed for players who have a grasp of the basics, this guide pushes the boundaries with advanced combat strategies and exploit discoveries. It covers nuanced boss fight mechanics, optimal farming methods for rare items, and ways to overcome notoriously difficult encounters. Those looking to truly master Elden Ring's challenges will find innovative approaches within these pages.

7. Glintstone Secrets: A Sorcerer's Guide to Elden Ring

This specialized title caters to those who prefer wielding magical power, offering in-depth analysis of all sorceries and their effective application. It details the best staves, talismans, and stat allocations for maximizing magical damage and utility. Players will learn how to unleash devastating spells and become a formidable arcane force in the Lands Between.

8. The Golden Order's Fall: Understanding Elden Ring's Narrative

This book offers a narrative-focused approach to Elden Ring, dissecting the motivations and histories of the shardbearers and the underlying causes of the world's broken state. It provides a chronological breakdown of key events and interprets the symbolism present in the game's environments and characters. Lore enthusiasts will appreciate the deep dive into the game's story.

9. From Tarnished to Lord: A Complete Elden Ring Walkthrough

This is the ultimate comprehensive walkthrough, guiding players step-by-step from the beginning of their journey to its conclusion. It covers all main quests, significant side quests, and essential progression points, ensuring no player gets permanently stuck. With clear instructions and strategic advice for every major obstacle, this book guarantees a smooth and successful path to becoming Elden Lord.

Elden Ring Strategy Guide

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