

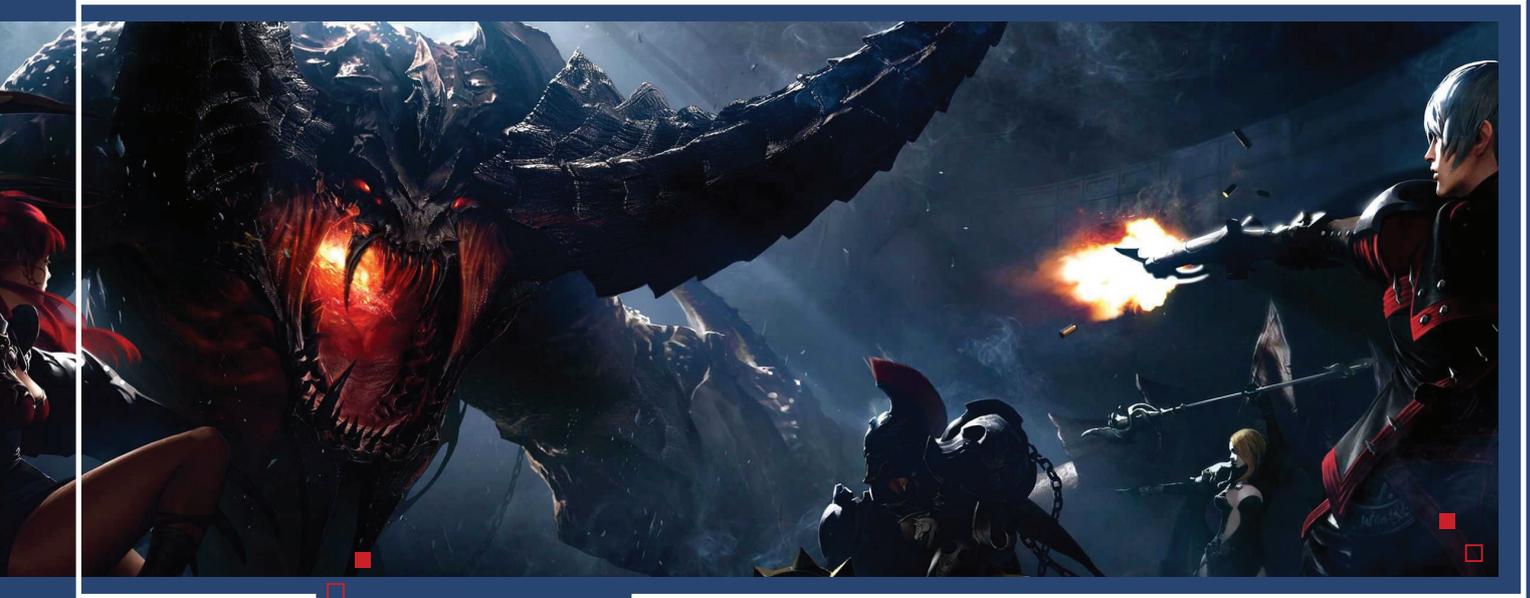
GAMER GUIDE

LOST ARK EDITION

the need to know you didn't know you needed



WHAT IS IT?



INTRODUCTION

Lost Ark is a top-down massively multiplayer online action role-playing game (MMOARPG). That's quite a mouthful, isn't it? While it was initially released in the South Korean region in 2019, when Amazon Games got on board it was released North America, South America, and Europe in February 2022. Within twenty-four hours of this release, it became the second most played game on Steam with 1.325 million concurrent players.

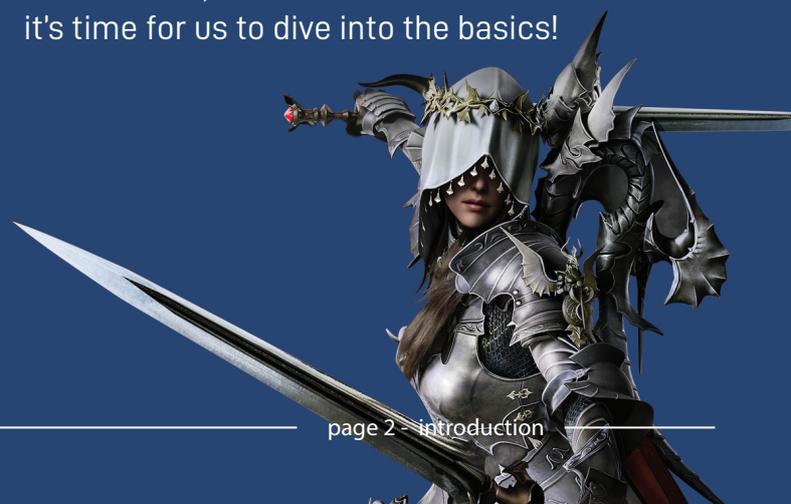
This game is a forever game, a game that you are going to sink a lot of time into. There are layers of complexity, tons of content, lots of grinding and mini games. That might seem a bit intimidating at first but the beauty about *Lost Ark* is, that no matter the path you take, you will progress. Yes, you can min-max if you want to but you won't NEED to if that's not your style.

Lost Ark is primarily a PvE (player vs environment) game focused on exploration and questing. It features most of your standard MMO elements like collectibles hunting, crafting etc. There are seven incredibly varied continents filled with diverse cultures, mystical creatures, and wondrous marvels.

If you like a bit of friendly competition there are also PvP (player vs player) elements to entertain you. Combat is very satisfying and you can play either solo, group up with friends, or even match up with other players in-game.

Once you've created your character you venture out into the enrapturing world. While some have criticized the storyline for being less than interesting, the one consistent point of feedback was that the game is fun! On reaching level 50 you unlock access to endgame content like dungeons and raids. You control how much you want to delve into the features of the game - there's plenty to enrich your experience, but you can also just casually frolic through the game too if you don't want to get into too much detail.

On that note,
it's time for us to dive into the basics!



BREAKDOWN THE BASICS



Character Creation +

Character creation for *Lost Ark* is incredibly detailed. You can customize everything with a wide variety of selections and wheels. Particularly notable is the variety of skin shades and hair types, especially African, which is usually absent from MMO-style games. You start with class selection: unfortunately, classes are gender locked meaning you can't choose the gender for certain classes but you will be able to customize their appearance.

Classes are THE single most important choice for *Lost Ark* players. They determine your gameplay, stats, skills, and (as we mentioned above) your gender. Classes also have "sub-classes" called Advanced Classes which provide more specialized aspects of the main class. The main character classes are divided into five categories, with fifteen further subclasses



CLASSES ×

+ WARRIOR CLASS

Warriors may not be the most dexterous characters but they make up for it with pure power. If you prefer durability over mobility then this class is for you:



MELEE

Berserker

A powerful warrior with greatsword attacks that do major damage, a staunch defence, and an unstoppable "burst mode".



MELEE

Paladin

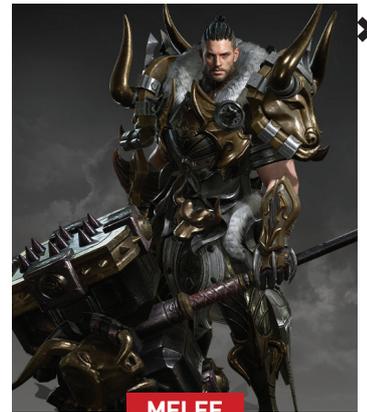
Channel the power of the gods with this faithful character. Play either defensively or offensively using holy skills and buffs in a support role, or wield your righteous sword to great effect on the front line.



MELEE

Gunlancer

You don't usually think of ranged weapons being the first line of defence, but gunlancers are able to withstand enemy attacks with a strong defensive stance and battlefield shield. Think of them as a damage sponge with a massive gun lance that does formidable damage.



MELEE ×

Destroyer

The tank to end all tanks, this character has high health and heavy attacks that do stagger damage. They can also generate shields which is great because they are incredibly slow.

HERE'S A HINT

Warrior classes are a great choice for high-ping players. No need to dodge if you can just stand your ground!



+ GUNNER CLASS

Fancy yourself the fastest gun in west? Maybe you just like things that go boom! There's something for all the firearms enthusiasts.



RANGE

Gunslinger

These quick-as-lightning fighters are deadly. They've got quick reflexes and a gun for every occasion. Pew pew pew!



RANGE

Artillerist

It's all about overkill with these gunners! You certainly won't be agile - their BFG-style weapons, heavy armour and mechanical launchers mean they're slow but incredibly destructive.



RANGE

Deadeye

These devilish rogues are a triple threat, able to draw on an arsenal of firearms. They're pretty flexible and are sure to be a fun choice, especially if you appreciate sassy.



RANGE

Sharpshooter

This is the class for you if you enjoy stealth and sniping. Their mechanical bows fire special arrows with unique effects and their agility is great for surviving fights. It's all about exploiting weaknesses.

+ MAGE CLASS

Do you like ranged attacks AND supporting your party? This class may be for you. It's a blast (get it)!



RANGE

Bard

Who doesn't love a bard? Masters of the Liane harp, they play soothing serenades to heal the team and launch a cacophony of pain on enemies. They don't have amazing attack power, but they make a strong support addition to any team.



RANGE

Sorceress

They're delicate flowers when it comes to constitution, but are a force of nature with AoE (area of effect) damage! They can summon spirits of the elements to fight for them, and each elemental has special skills of their own.



RANGE

Arcanist

Get your inner Gambit on with this magic-infused card-flinging mage. She can slice and dice single enemies or target multiple foes with her attacks.

+ MARTIAL ARTIST CLASS

Grab some flashy fist weapons and pound on your enemies with rapid combo attacks. You're not going to be doing any serious attacks, but who needs that when you've got all the speed!



MELEE

Striker

With attacks that strike as swift as a strong wind, this fast-moving warrior uses elemental skills and astonishing aerial combat to floor his foes.



MELEE

Wardancer

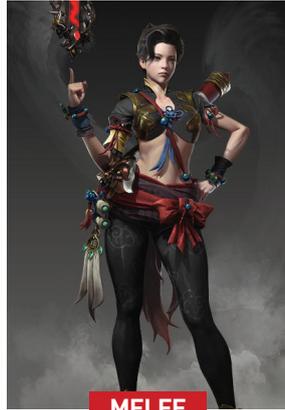
Put the moves on your enemies because it's a dance-off! Well, not literally, but close enough. These martial arts masters store up elemental energy which they release in devastating attacks and magnificent feats.



MELEE

Scrapper

This is the most well-balanced of the martial arts classes. With their heavy gauntlet, they can stand their ground a bit more than others.



MELEE

Soulfist

Channeling a special energy called Adamance, this fighter can power up attacks or sustain them through battles. They have both melee and ranged attacks which makes for an interesting play style.



MELEE

Glavier

not the most common pairing, but this class uses the spear and the glaive to great effect. This class is all about balance!

+ ASSASSINS CLASS

They deal damage in spades but are a little squishy when it comes to taking it. This is the class for you if you enjoy swift attacks and high mobility, but you'll need some quick reflexes!



MELEE

Shadowhunter

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em! Or, you know, join them TO beat them. These powerful shapeshifters can unleash their inner demons to gain access to the forces of destruction and some nice health and movement buffs.



MELEE

Deathblade

This marvellous assassin uses not one, not two, but THREE swords paired with the power of chaos to destroy their enemies. Death by a thousand cuts!

Skills are another important aspect of constructing your character. These abilities are class locked and can change the way you deal damage, improve stats, and allow you to debuff enemies. The really neat thing about *Lost Ark* is you can respec your skills at any time and at no cost.

MECHANICS ✕

Like most MMOs the mechanics of the game can get pretty intricate and require a lot of time to fully explore and understand. The basics are easy to get into though and we'll give you a quick summary of the ones that you'll need as you start out:

Skills

Those skills we just discussed in character creation? Well, there are five different ways to execute them:

- **Normal** - These are just point and click. Easy peasy!
- **Holding** - Kind of self-explanatory. Hold the skill button until you hit the sweet zone and maximise your damage.
- **Combo** - Press the skill button multiple times to execute a series of attacks.
- **Point** - Use the cross-hair to land the skill exactly where you need it.
- **Casting** - These skills take a few seconds to cast so anticipate a delay.

Skills also have a different effect depending on their facing:

Front Attack: Inflict 20% more damage

Back Attack: You only get 5% bonus damage, but there's a 10% increased chance for a critical



Trade Skills +

These are character professions for gathering that players will need to master. The resources obtained through these skills are used for crafting and players will eventually have access to all of them. Using Trade Skills consumes Work Energy - note that this energy is shared among all characters on your account. You'll also need special tools for each profession. They have different rarity levels (Uncommon, Rare, Epic, Legendary and Relic) and even have random special attributes. When tools wear down and break you have the option to repair them.



- **Mining** - obtain ore and minerals, useful for Stronghold upgrades and gear.
- **Fishing** - obtain fish and other items from water, mostly used in food recipes.
- **Foraging** - gather plants and mushrooms to craft Potions and Bombs.
- **Hunting** - obtain animal products such as meat and leather, used in cooking and crafting gear.
- **Logging** - cut down trees and gather wood to upgrade your Stronghold and Ships.
- **Excavating** - unearth buried Relics to craft Tools and equipment.



Crafting

Crafting in *Lost Ark* allows you to create everything from Weapons, Consumables, and Upgrade Materials, to Housing Features and more. There are no crafting skills - instead, players use trade skills to acquire the materials and approach Craftsmen NPCs to do the crafting. You can also craft once you unlock your Island Stronghold.

Engraving

Engravings are the special effects found on Accessories and Ability Stones. There are two kinds of Engravings - Normal and Negative. They modify character abilities or characteristics: for example Ambush Damage or Max MP. Negative Engravings have rather unpleasant effects like reducing your Attack Speed. Their effects are activated through a point system.



Best engravings in the game: Grudge, Cursed Doll, Expert, Awakening



Mounts & Pets

Mounts are essential to traverse the lands of *Lost Ark*. They come in many different shapes and sizes and can be used across all characters on your account. Mounts have skills unique to them, that can't be changed or rerolled, unlike Pets.

Pets are cool little creatures that follow players around and collect all the dropped loot in a certain range. They're more than just cosmetic too! They can buff players and also provide you with extra storage, remote access to player storage and mail as well as repairs.

If you get surrounded by a mob of enemies that overwhelm you, escape on your mount. You'll take damage but you won't get knocked off.



Items



Lost Ark, like many MMOs, has a tiered loot system across all equipment and some items. The higher the rarity, the stronger the item and the more stats and effects they can have. Its colour coded too for easy distinction

Common (white)
Uncommon (green)
Rare (blue)
Epic (pink)
Legendary (gold)



Weapons

Lost Ark has a wide variety of weapons available for character class types. Apart from the rarity scale, weapons are also distinguishable by grade and item score (especially important after level 50). Weapon Grade is a score ranging from 1-100 which influences the +% to Additional Damage done. When you're looking at two identical weapons this is one of ways to identify which is better.

Here's a list of the weapon types and the classes they're assigned to:

- Greatswords (Berserker)
- Swords (Paladin)
- Gunlances (Gunlancer)
- Light Gauntlets (Striker, Wardancer)
- Heavy Gauntlets (Scrapper)
- Foci (Soulfist)
- Guns (Gunslinger, Deadeye)
- Launchers (Artillerist)
- Bows (Sharpshooter)
- Harps (Bard)
- Staves (Sorceress)
- Shadowblades (Shadowhunter)
- Dual Blades (Deathblade)
- Glaive & Spear (Glavier)
- Magic Card Deck (Arcanist)
- Gravity Hammer (Destroyer)



Armour

There are five categories of armour in *Lost Ark*, corresponding to the available equipment slots:

- Head
- Shoulders
- Chest
- Hands
- Legs

There are different styles of armour for each class but they follow the same basic layouts. Armour have their own stats including things like Physical Defense, Vitality, and attribute bonuses. Equipping multiple pieces from the same armour set will provide bonuses, so keep your eyes peeled!

Accessories

Accessories are additional items that can be equipped to buff your character. Characters can equip 1 Amulet, 2 Earrings and 2 Rings for a total of five accessories. Accessories provide a substantial bonus to a character's main Stat (Strength, Dexterity or Intelligence) as well as Vitality. They can also be inlaid with Gems which provide bonuses to a Skill's Damage or Cooldown.

CONCLUSION

Now there's a lot more for you to discover, way more than we can cover here. So what are you waiting for? Get out there and explore!