

The City of Orpheia  
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## BACKSTORY

Humanity has looked to the stars for thousands of years; charting time and space, telling myths, making wishes, and dreaming of living their lives beyond Earth. The years of studies paid off in the early 2000s ACE with the discovery of K01-456.04, a planet in the constellation Lyra.

The world's scientists were excited by the strong possibility that it was habitable due to the similar atmosphere to Earth. Motivated by their own planet's climate crisis and the universal innate desire to explore, international space agencies began expeditions to the surface, and soon there were clusters of small, self-sustainable research bases across the planet. The success of the habitation led to the idea of a civilian population, with multiple small teams working together over time to create the first colony.

With the opening of hyperspace routes as well as the establishment of trading colonies on planets across the galaxy, K01-456.04, now known familiarly as Koia, thrived. Before long, the once-isolated colony found itself with both economic prosperity and an ever-growing population, plus a booming tourist industry for those looking to explore a world beyond their own without the danger.

Born from that very first colony is the city of Orpheia, a high-tech and sustainable community. Named for the myth of the Greek musician Orpheus, whose lyre gave name to the constellation, it is a city also focused on harmony and community. Home to those from cities around Earth, the city stands as a testament to the great things humanity can achieve when they work together.

Before long, Orpheia became a breeding ground of environmental innovation and experimentation, with major projects such as the Ultratrees revolutionizing the ideas of urban planning. Such projects were then successfully implemented on Earth as part of global initiatives to reverse climate change.

Now, Orpheia is both a popular place to live and travel to. With a diverse and growing population, opportunities are abundant, and innovation is always just an idea away. Not all is perfect, however, as large corporations have recently turned their attention to the financial possibilities of the planet. With plenty of land to develop, rich resources to mine, and a bountiful economy, Koia seems like the perfect place to start new manufacturing plants. The citizens of Orpheia see it differently though, having lived through the consequences of letting corporations operate unregulated.

# OVERVIEW

## ENTRANCE

Upon landing on the planet Koia's surface via a pedestrian hyperspace tunnel, guests are greeted by a sleek, bright sign, welcoming them to enter a lively city called Orpheia. A few friendly guides stand at the border, greeting the astro-tourists and helping with accessing the city map and information on their handheld devices. For those who wish to not use a device, biodegradable, eco-friendly maps are available upon request.

## MAIN STREET

After crossing the border, the bustling main street comes into view. Smooth, bright buildings dominate the skyline, reflecting the neo-futurism architectural style of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries on Earth. The extraordinarily fluid shapes bring an organic nature to the otherwise carefully planned city. The aesthetic encourages sensory exploration, with surfaces varying from smooth, round polycarbonates to finely meshed metal.

Walking down the street, a multitude of shops sit in the bottom floors of the buildings. The sidewalks are wide to allow for flow and accessibility, with tree-like structures placed throughout.

These UltraTrees mimic the form and function of mature organic trees, while also providing essential infrastructure functions for the city. Not only do they provide a lovely shade for both passersby and those relaxing on benches, but they also contain systems for air filtration, power stores, and other municipal needs. Additionally, they act as nodes for wireless infrastructure, ensuring that all citizens and astro-tourists have access to the internet.

The sounds of life fill the air: talking, laughing, and even the occasional excited screaming from the youngest astro-tourists. In the background, a steady mix of lo-fi electronica streams from embedded speakers to create an ambiance of relaxation. The stores' music spills into the street, adding sounds brought from Earth into the mix. It is truly a unique soundscape.

## NUTRITION

Urban gardens line the rooftops and trickle down the sides of buildings, providing an aesthetic of nature while also using hydroponic systems to grow the city's food. The vegetation and plant life gives the city a fragrance that invokes an individual experience due to the intertwinement of scent and memories. The open-air food markets add spice, heartiness, and warmth to the mix, making stomachs rumble.

Hungry individuals have a choice of food stands and restaurants both of which utilize the city-grown fresh ingredients in their dishes, making the overall flavor profile crisp and bright. Restaurants are designed as elevated quick-service, often focusing on plant-based dishes only found on Koia. Of course, well-loved Earth staples can also be found at food carts as well

as all restaurants, ensuring that there's something for even the pickiest of astro-tourists to enjoy.

## **SHOPPING AND SERVICES**

The main street shops are all locally-run businesses, boasting items that are made by the citizens of Orpheia. Astro-tourists inspired by the city's fashion can visit tailors, who are more than happy to show their wares and even take custom requests. At the Post Office, astro-tourists can buy postcards and other stationary to send letters back to their friends and family on Earth, complete with collectible postal stamps. The toy store is a favorite of young astro-tourists and citizens alike due to the handmade cuddliness of stuffed toys and as well as the replicas of scientific equipment and endless art supplies. Of course, there are souvenir shops too, selling typical tourist goods like printed apparel, magnets, and coffee cups.

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

There is plenty of entertainment to be found within city limits, such as live shows in both the streets and the theatre district, films about the founding of the city, and guided informational tours of the infrastructure. Young astro-tourists can enjoy a sensory-friendly playground, along with hands-on activities to bring back to Earth.

When city-life has become enough, the scientists and explorers of Orpheia offer guided expeditions out into the great outdoors. Due to the planet's nearly identical atmosphere to Earth, no special equipment is required! Two experiences are offered: a short walking tour for those who want a relaxing experience, and a vehicle-driven tour for those who don't mind the thrills of the unknown. The walking tour takes guests along a mapped path, passing by brightly colored plants with huge, magnificent flowers and rainbow-layered rock formations. Guests who take the walking tour at night during certain times of year get a wonderful surprise: bioluminescent organisms lighting up the area.

## **EXIT**

Orpheia aims to not only entertain, but to inspire guests to take action back on their home world and work towards sustainability, conservation, and preservation of the natural environment.