

# LIBRARIAN CHYKA TALKS TOURISM

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## The Shiny Jewel Parks of Mashiva

Oh! Hi! Can I help you with something? You look like someone who's interested in geology today. That's great! Mashiva is a very geologically fascinating place! Lots of different formations and minerals and...

Oh... you're looking for jewels? A rockhound! Awesome! We've got a great collection of local...

Oh... well then! My bad! You're looking for Mashiva's less natural sorts of jewels, aren't you? Yeah? That's cool. Though, to be perfectly honest, I can't say that there's much literature available on that topic at the moment. Well, nothing that would be interesting to the artistically minded, at any rate. Unless you're looking for pictures. There's plenty of those floating around. But... if there's something you want to know that requires a more local perspective, go ahead and ask. I might just have an answer.

You want to know a bit about Mashiva's Jewel Parks, eh? Not a lot of people seem to know much about them, and those that do just think they're pretty statues. Its easy to forget that they're all... well, you know... alive!

Yeah. Kinky, isn't it? All those fascinating figures were once people just like us. Living. Breathing. Standing in front of some Zexta jeweler's digital gorgon 'camera'. Flash! Zap! Turned to stone! Gemstone, to be exact. What's your favorite type? Ruby? Emerald? Sapphire? Diamond? Something more visually interesting, perhaps?

I happen to like the emerald ones the most. Especially the really vividly green ones. Mmm. Makes my tail twitch seeing them. Someone once told me that I ought to travel to Zembax and see what color zuka I'd turn out as. Green, I'd hope. But you're not interested in those little jelly-drops are you?

Okay. Jewel Parks. Mashiva has five. Two big ones and three little ones. The best known of the two big ones is the Ty'ma Rock Jewel Park, in the resort

district. The other is the Krysta Jewel Park, over in South City. There's two small parks on top of blocks in Northwestie and Noreast. The final small park is southeast of the Old Mashiva City Hall.

The fantasy themed Ty'ma Rock Jewel Park is up on the southwest side of Ty'ma rock, right about where El'yon University grounds meet the Resort District. It was the original Jewel Park here in Mashiva and comprises both an extensive outside garden and an underground Jewel Cavern. Absolutely everything in this park is made of pure artificial gemstone with natural rock structures. Plants. Monsters. People. There are more than three thousand figures, all created from living souls via the powers of a digital gorgon. Every one is still very much alive, though held captive in a body that can only feel a very dull sense of touch.

Now, you'd think that being a captive like that would drive a person nuts. But it doesn't. It's kind of weird like that. It feels nice, and it distorts your sense of time in a way that makes ever moment feel like the only moment. There's no past. No future. Just the here and now, and whatever might be touching you feels like the first time you've ever been touched that way. It's... actually pretty fun.

How do I know all that? Well... you know you can try it out for a short bit without being stuck as a statue, right? You didn't? Oh! Well... why don't you head up to Northwestie and give it a try! Because you can't do that at any of the Jewel Gardens. If you get stoned there, you're going on display. Permanently. Which brings me to the smaller parks.

A big place like the Ty'ma Rock park attracts lots of curious souls who don't need anyone to convince them to try out what its like to get jeweled themselves. There's multiple jewelng platforms, and occasional events where robot digital gorgons hunt guests who've signed up for the lottery, never knowing if they've been picked until the moment they get jeweled. That's going to wind up creating lots of new statuary pretty quickly, of course, so the city needed someplace to put all of it.

In order to spread the shiny around, the city's Entertainment and Tourism Administration converted three small, relatively underutilized park spaces into Jewel Parks. The largest of these smaller parks is located in Northwestie, atop block 4-7. This park combines natural vegetation with gemstone statues, furnishings, and other decorations. It's become quite popular, and is a must-stop for anyone exploring Northwestie's rooftop gardens.

The second of the rooftop gardens is located on Noreast, atop block 4-3. It's similarly laid out, though doesn't quite cover the whole of the block-top. That could change, of course, as new statues continue to become available.

The third small garden is located in the Old City of Mashiva, at the southeast end of City Hall Common. This garden is less adult themed than the rest and doesn't always get the sort of maintenance it deserves. Overgrown parks are a thing down there, of course. Gotta wonder where the money goes... but maybe that's not a question it would be wise to delve too deep into. Even nowadays.

The other big park is located down in South City. It's a bit of a sprawling place, just off to the southeast of Central Avenue, alongside Temple Brook. This is a multi-level affair combining nature, natural stone, and digital gorgon gemstone in some pretty beautiful ways. The main features are the surface faux-ruins, populated by a thousand statues. Then there's the faux-cavern beneath it, consisting of several levels that one can walk through, complete with all sorts of strange subterranean features and creatures made of jewel. There's even a little jewel rowa hive cavern!

I love that rowa hive cavern. It's so cute! I can't imagine being those girls. All of the fun of getting a nice new bug-butt then all the fun of getting jeweled. Mmm! I'm almost tempted to try it. Almost.

Anyhow. The Kryta Jewel park has a few digital gorgon platforms and the same sorts of lottery events as the Ty'ma park. One unique thing about Krysta is that they offer special 'photography' events. These involve up to a few thousand guests throughout the day, where a few get randomly picked to photograph the rest in various poses throughout the park. The cameras, of course, all have digital gorgons inside.

No one actually knows when they'll trigger. It's totally random. Most of the time it's the subject who gets jeweled. Every so often, it's the photographer. The only ones sure to get jeweled are those who've jeweled someone else with a camera, and then handed the camera to another and get their own picture taken.

That's a pretty fun event, you know. There's one coming up on the 12<sup>th</sup>. It's five hundred credits, but totally worth it if you don't mind running around naked for a whole day and quite possibly getting turned to stone.

Hmm? You say you wouldn't mind giving that a shot? Awesome! You'll have a great time! Really!