



Gateway Orbital

A unique themed land of unexpected excitement, delights, danger and thrills at Earth's first permanent space habitat.

Step into the near future, a world more science-fact than science-fiction. The near-Earth asteroid 6497-Venturi has been captured and brought into geo-synchronous orbit, and a group of wealthy and emerging nations have banded together to construct humanity's most complex project ever attempted: a functional space elevator connecting the planet to a station on the asteroid with the goal of mining it for valuable minerals. The *Gateway Orbital* Station has become a symbol of prosperity, ingenuity and the beginning of humankind's colonization of the solar system.

Now over a decade after being completed, the station is home to over 2,500 employees, with dozens of companies using it as a base for everything from mining, to shipbuilding, orbital debris capture, energy production and manufacturing. All overseen by the watchful eyes of *Orbitech Industries*, the primary employer on and corporate sponsor of the station.

...It's also the world's most exotic tourist attraction.

For a reasonable price, you can ride the space elevator from the *Multinational Terrestrial Tether Facility* on the equator in southern Somalia, directly to *Gateway Orbital* Station. Not only will you experience the thrill and awe-inspiring views of traveling to the edge of space, but the station also promises all the services and amenities needed for a relaxing, exciting and unique vacation.

But not everything appears quite as simple and serene as the brochures and advertisements make it seem. You'll be thrust into the unique, chaotic and living world of those who call *Gateway* home, and will experience their nascent 'rock-hopper' culture that is far different than expected; or condoned by *Orbitech*.

Will you bask in the earth-glow on the clean tourist decks of the station, sipping your favourite latte (with beans brought up fresh daily!), or venture to the less advertised quarters where you'll, if you're willing, experience the foods, drinks, and entertainment of the first permanent habitat in space?

Be careful though, dive into 'rock-hopper' culture, and you might just meet someone that will lead you to an adventure you never could have imagined.

The World is Looking up! Gateway Orbital™ is Open for Business

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Hello Storyland Studios and Jury!

Just wanted to say 'Hi' and thank you for your time and energy in putting on this competition. I believe exciting and unique competitions like this are so critical to personal and professional development, and am appreciative you've started this initiative!

Gateway Orbital is a concept borne of my love of science-fiction, technology, travel and culture. My aim was to design an experience that offered the excitement of stepping into the near future at what early space colonization may offer, but also remain grounded in the realities of what it may actually be. It is meant to be both optimistic, but fraught with struggle.

How would thousands of workers on the first habitat in space spend their down-time?

What culture would develop after a decade and a half of habitation?

When would it cease being simply a work camp, and become a community? A unique, thriving culture?

What happens when maximum sustainability becomes the standard? When foods not able to grow on the station are a luxury? When reduction of waste, recycling and re-use/re-adaptation is the norm and not a suggestion?

I wanted guests to step onto *Gateway Orbital* Station at a volatile and exciting point in its history. Not when it's first opened; shiny and new, but 15 years in:

Orbitech Industries is losing it's position as sole-employer, as new industries and companies flock to the asteroid with the opening of the space elevator to the general public.

This influx of tourists has the workers on the station beginning to identify as a unique 'Venturin' culture (colloquially dubbed the 'rock-hoppers'); a messy, rich, blue-collar mix of Asian, African and European influences.

The first children born on *Gateway* are reaching puberty, and realizing 'home' may not be the blue marble below.

Questions are being asked about who should really continue to reap the major benefits from the natural riches of the asteroid.

And a growing call for self-governance is putting the rock-hoppers and Orbitech at odds.

I hope you enjoy experiencing what I've prepared for *Gateway Orbital* as much as I enjoyed putting it all together. In a time of limited travel, may it be a brief step out of the everyday.



Ross Ricupero