



Atkinos: Twin Cities, Part Deux

The island of Atkinos has the distinction of being a small island with two settlements, not just one. We have already explored Atkiniros, a settlement founded by Admiral Hester B. Hestorb. Now, we will see the larger of the two and the town named after the island, the town of Atkinos, founded by the intrepid Captain Splunt. The town's main road, Via Schulmanicana, runs from the ferry port to a terminus at Plaza Schulmanicana. A large central plaza bisects this road. The road around this open area is the Plaza Schulmexicana. The open area itself is referred to as The Esplanade. Two roads follow the western shore, beginning at the ferry port. To the north is Via Schulmanagua and to the south is Via Schulmandas. A wider view of the town will help place these and other features into context.



A wide view of Atkinos looking down Via Schulmanicana. In the center of the image is The Esplanade. The tower at the end of Schulmanicana is in the center of the plaza. The roads parallel to Schulmanicana are, to the north (left) Via Schulmerica and to the south (right) is Via Schulmanca.



Viewed from the northwest, the neighborhoods along Via Schulmerica are in the foreground and the business district along Via Schulmanicana in the background. Despite the comparatively high density of this development, many pockets of green space and parks exist for the delight of Schulminions and their feline associates.



Looking south, it is interesting to note the urban boundary. The South side of Via Schulmanca is undeveloped. The population density level has been maintained throughout the city, so the 9,563 inhabitants have not been given license to sprawl out. Note, the lower left is the aqueduct which separates Atkinos from Atkiniros.

Let's begin our tour of this exciting town by visiting The Esplanade. This town was built predominantly in the Island Style and Island Formal Style (Spanish-Mediterranean for those of you not familiar with Schulminion architecture). Formal Temple Style structures are not to be found in this town. Island Formal is a well suited for the warmer climate of this southern island.



The northern half of The Esplanade is bordered by the Plaza Schulmexicana, a pleasant stone walkway. The Central Market is in the center. At the northern end is St. Paul's Church, the largest domed structure built in Schulmania up to this point. Adjacent to St. Paul's is a small church with a slender tower, also domed. It is St. Paul's Cat Church, where Schulminions of the feline persuasion (or, should I say, "Purr-suasion") come to worship. To the top right, at the northeastern corner of The Esplanade, is the Contemplation Garden.

Shops and restaurants line The Esplanade. Across Schulmexicana from the market, one can find some of the most popular businesses in town. Three restaurants are in close proximity: The Rusty Barnacle, The Frying Dutchman, and The Gilded Truffle. Many a simoleon has been spent in luxury shopping destinations such as Costington's and Arlene's Literature Gallery. The Central Market has small shops and stalls hawking wares from far and wide – from Stell to Gran Maru to Schulmania to Wirt. At last count, 253 merchants were operating in the marketplace. Dealers of the finest catnip and purveyors of quality snack chips alike converged on this shopping center to bring great values and great products to an eager throng of Atkinirans every day.



St. Paul's Church, easily the largest church and largest domed structure in all the realm.



A closer view of the Central Market. In this view, The Gilded Truffle can be seen on the left corner. Arlene's Literature Gallery is in the center and The Rusty Barnacle is on the right corner.



St. Paul's is in the foreground and the market in the center. This angle gives a better view of St. Paul's Cat Church. To the right is Esplanade North, a mixed use development. Shops and offices are on the lower 3 floors and homes above. Without elevators, this is about as high as buildings can comfortably get. Living in the penthouse is fun, plus you get quite the step aerobic workout.



This wider view of the northern half of The Esplanade gives a better perspective on the scale of Esplanade North. It is one of the most massive buildings built in Schulmania and is considered quite the classy destination for residents and guests alike.



The back of Esplanade North opens up onto a wooded green. Though towering over the nearby residences, Esplanade North was thoughtfully designed to blend into the built and natural environments. A fine comeback for the architecture firm of S. P. Arrow, now being run by his son, Mr. Christopher Wren. (Wren also designed St. Paul's, next door, in case you did not know that.)



The Plaza Schulmexicana is the road paved with rose colored stones to make for a pleasant and comfortable journey. Schulmexicana runs around the entire Esplanade.



The southern half of The Esplanade, bounded by Plaza Schulmexicana. In the center of this part of The Esplanade is Igreja dos Gatos, The Cat Church. This is not for cats to worship in, it is for cats and their Schulminions to fellowship together. “Dos Gatos” as it was colloquially known, featured comfy chairs instead of pews, so Schulminions could attend services while the cats could comfortably sit on their laps.



This view of the southern Esplanade shows the context of Dos Gatos. At the southern end (right side) is Atkinos Hall, the city administrative building. Between Dos Gatos and Atkinos Hall is a lovely promenade. A clock tower is the centerpiece.



A different view of the southern Esplanade. This gives a better view of Atkinos Hall.



The Igreja Dos Gatos. This is one of Schulmania's catholic churches (spelling intentional, since it is a cat church!)



Atkinos Hall in context. The promenade is a great gathering place for open air concerts. Some popular concerts include the annual April in Atkinos festival as well as regular appearances by Meow Mix & The Pouncers and Sim "Tool Man" Saylor. Admission is free, bring a picnic basket and a blanket to sit on.



The promenade is a great gathering spot. Several small fountains and bronze cat statues dot the area. One hidden feature on the clock tower is that it is actually a cuckoo clock. On the hour, the clock face swings open and little mechanized kittens scamper around to the tune “Pop Goes the Weasel”.



Plaza Schulmexicana wraps around the southern half of The Esplanade. The ancient forerunners of mall walkers were known to do the Schulmexicana loop in the early morning before the shops opened.

Next, we will explore the neighborhoods and commercial areas outside of The Esplanade.