

## Festival of Glassfire



**Location:** Sunrock, Sunscorched Badlands

**Frequency:** Annually, during the **first waning of Nyxora**, the largest and purple-hued moon

**Duration:** 1 day and 1 night

### Overview:

The Festival of Glassfire is a radiant celebration exclusive to the village of **Sunrock**, a small yet renowned settlement responsible for **11% of all stained glass exports** from the Sunscorched Badlands. Held during the **first waning of Nyxora**, this sacred lunar phase symbolizes the retreat of mystery and shadow and the return of clarity and light. The villagers embrace the occasion to honor light, craftsmanship, and the endurance of beauty amidst harsh desert life.

### Traditions & Events:

- **Lantern Launch:** As Nyxora begins her slow descent, the village releases hundreds of **floating lanterns** embedded with tiny shards of stained glass. As they rise, the lanterns refract both moonlight and lingering sunlight, casting radiant illusions across the village skyline.
- **Gemstone Bonfires:** Massive bonfires are stoked in the village center and laced with **ground gemstone dust**, making the flames dance in blues, greens, and violets.

Children toss in glass beads while whispering wishes for protection and guidance.

- **Cliffshine Moment:** At the moment of sunset, **mirrored panels and stained glass mosaics** placed along the cliffs reflect the golden rays. The rock faces shimmer like molten gold, and the light is said to be blessed by Solaria herself—granting clarity of heart to those who bask in it.
- **Dance of Ash and Moonlight:** Fire-dancers clad in silvery veils and mirrored jewelry leap through glowing ash trails and circles of fire, performing choreographed rituals beneath Nyxora's gaze. The dance ends with a lunar offering placed into the flames: a handcrafted glass effigy representing one's hopes for the coming year.
- **The Glassmaker's Challenge:** Local artisans compete in a friendly but awe-inspiring contest to create the most breathtaking stained glass piece in a single day. Many travelers commission works, and the winner's piece is placed in the **Temple of Reflected Light**, a small shrine at the edge of town.

#### Festival Foods:

- **Spiced Honey Skewers:** A mix of roasted fruits and meats drizzled in a blend of honey and sun-dried spices.
- **Crystalfruit Drinks:** Fizzy beverages with iridescent fruit slices and edible gemstone sugar.
- **Ashbread:** Baked directly on heated desert stones, seasoned with wild herbs and flecks of salt-glass.
- **Sun-Sugar Petals:** Delicate candied petals from rare desert blooms, served as a symbol of fleeting beauty.

#### Symbolism:

The festival celebrates the **enduring nature of light**, both literal and symbolic. As Nyxora wanes, so too does fear and doubt. The villagers believe that **clarity, truth, and creativity** burn brightest in the moments just after darkness begins to fade. The phrase "**Even in shadow, light endures**" is etched into glassworks displayed all throughout the village during the celebration.

#### Visual Highlights:



##### Nyxora's Light Over Water:

The reflective surface of the oasis turns to living glass, mirroring the purple hue of Nyxora

overhead. Floating lanterns drift across the water, their embedded glass shards catching both moonlight and firelight in dazzling patterns.

### **Bonfires in the Courtyards:**

Bonfires bloom in open spaces—like the ones near the domed buildings and shaded courtyards. Tossed gemstone dust ignites in hues of emerald, sapphire, and amethyst. Smoke spirals upward, briefly forming the shapes of mythical beasts and ancient symbols in the air before vanishing.

### **Cliff Panels and Mosaics:**

The towering cliffs are adorned with **mirrored panels** and **stained glass mosaics**, reflecting the golden sunset and Nyxora's light in waves across the canyon walls. This creates a living mural of dancing color and shadow that flickers over every building.

### **Fire-Dancers of the Ash Trail:**

Dancers leap from rooftop to rooftop, trailing glowing ash and ribbons of reflective silk. Courtyards below host performances accompanied by hand-drums, stringed lutes, and wind-flutes carved from desert reeds.

### **Market Row:**

Stalls brim with colorful glassware, festival foods, and embroidered wares. Locals and travelers crowd narrow streets—bright canopies stretch overhead, strung with glowing lanterns and trailing paper glass-mimic decorations.

### **Oasis Blessing Rituals:**

Priests and mystics gather at the base of the waterfall to perform the **Lunar Blessing of Reflection**, a ceremony where participants gaze into the oasis to seek clarity and guidance, believed to be especially potent during the waning of Nyxora.