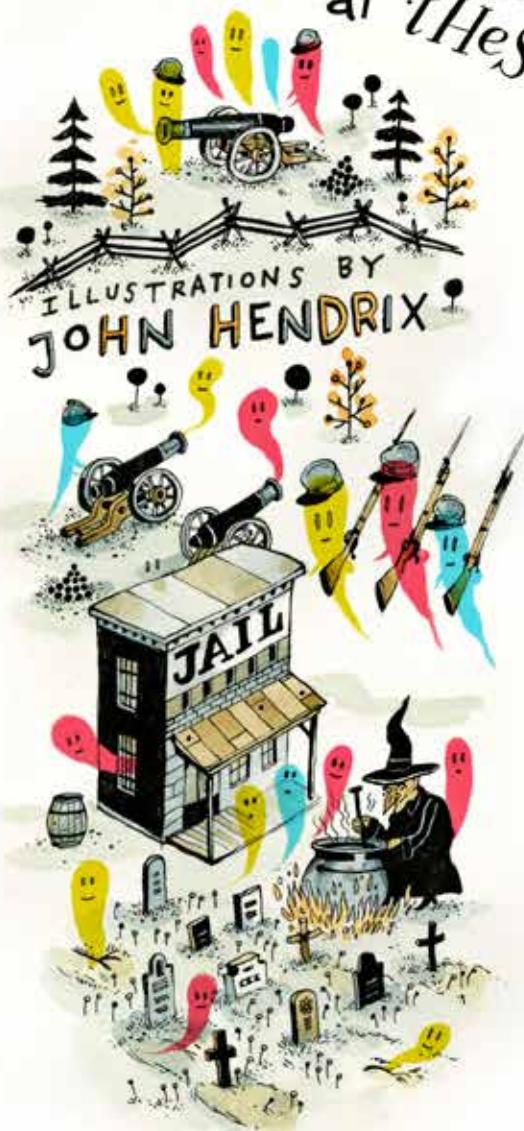


BEST HAUNTED CITIES

BY PENNY MUSCO

CONJURE UP *Spine-tingling Fun—*
GHOSTS, GRAVEYARDS and DUNGEONS—
at these *Spirited Sites*



Ghastly Gettysburg

The Civil War's bloodiest battle sets the stage for otherworldly tales and sightings.

THRILL After Dark Investigations leads car caravans on a paranormal activity hunt and uses digital recorders to communicate with spirits (afterdarkinvestigations.com). You might spot long-departed residents on the **Farnsworth House's** daily stroll through haunted attractions and its weekend tours (farnsworthhouseinn.com). Family-friendly walking tours near the battleground and around town are available from **Gettysburg Ghost Tours** (gettysburgghosttours.com) and **Ghosts of Gettysburg** (ghostsofgettysburg.com, kids under 7 free for most tours).

CHILL The **Eisenhower Hotel** shares property with the mysterious Hoffman mansion, a former field hospital for the Union Army (eisenhower.com, from \$89). Downtown, the **Gettysburg Hotel** features a Ghostly Encounter package (hotelgettysburg.com, from \$164).

Supernatural Salem

Find out whether phantoms still roam the streets of this "bewitching" Massachusetts colony.

THRILL The witch trials come to life at **The House of the Seven Gables'**

theatrical performances (7gables.org). Purchase a Halloween Pass at the **Salem Wax Museum** to explore The Haunted Neighborhood's ominous castle, witch village and shadowy graveyards (salemwaxmuseum.com).

CHILL At the **Salem Inn**, ask for room 17 in the Captain West House if you dare (saleminnma.com, from \$235). Take refuge at **The Salem Waterfront Hotel**, which has an indoor pool and midweek specials (salemwaterfronthotel.com, from \$169).

Creepy Charleston

Don't let the city's renowned southern charm fool you—this is one ghoulish spot.

THRILL **Bulldog Tours** leads you into a dungeon, inside old cemeteries and through a haunted jail (bulldogtours.com). It's said you may encounter the ghost of John Wilkes Booth's father at the **Dock Street Theatre**. Unexplained mysteries abound aboard the World War II aircraft carrier **USS Yorktown** (yorktownghosttours.com, for age 12 and older).

CHILL The **Francis Marion Hotel**, named after a Revolutionary hero, is located in the historic district. Feeling brave? Stay on the 10th floor (francismarionhotel.com, from \$189).

LOCAL HAUNTS

You don't have to roam the country zombie-style to get in the Halloween spirit.

Whatever your scare of choice—corn mazes, scarecrow and pumpkin festivals, haunted houses, hayrides—there is a ghastly event happening near you. Some creepy celebrations are year-round, like 5K zombie races (runforyourlives.com, multiple locations). To find a fright night (or day) close to home, check out these sites: americanmaze.com, cornmaze.com, halloweenattractions.com and hauntworld.com. —Darcy Jacobs

The souls of former cadets and officers are rumored to lurk about the **Old Citadel**, which is now the Embassy Suites (embassysuites3.hilton.com, from \$209).

Paranormal Portland

This Oregon city definitely keeps it weird.

THRILL Discover why the Travel Channel lists the gloomy **Shanghai Tunnels** among the most terrifying places in America: Ghost Tours operate all year, with special Halloween Tours conducted October through early November (shanghaitunnels.info, best for those over 5). Trek aboveground and below using real ghost-hunting equipment on a **Beyond Bizarre** tour (portlandwalkingtours.com; the 7 p.m. walk is for all ages). The **Haunted MAIZE** winds through a 4-acre cornfield Fridays and Saturdays in October (portlandmaize.com).

CHILL Fall asleep in class at **Kennedy School**, an elementary school turned hotel and restaurant, where some say you may run into a long-departed pupil (mcmenamins.com/kennedyschool, from \$115). Some “guests” at the **Benson Hotel** are supposedly not of this world (bensonhotel.com, from \$149).

Sinister San Francisco

Things go bump in the night throughout the Bay Area.

THRILL Local volunteers lead free Ghost Walks through City Hall and the gorgeous but haunted **Palace Hotel** in October (sfcityguides.org), while **SF Chinatown Ghost Tours** scope out an old underground gambling den year-round (sfchinatownghosttours.com). For a daytime outing, visit the now-closed federal penitentiary on **Alcatraz** (nps.gov/alca). The **San Francisco Ghost Hunt** exposes unnerving tales of romance gone wrong (sfghosthunt.com, best for those over 8).

CHILL Wake up to Golden Gate Bridge views at the **Inn at the Presidio**, within the historic and sometimes eerie neighborhood that was once military installation grounds (innatthepresidio.com, from \$215). Investigate reports of strange occurrences at Union Square's **Chancellor Hotel** (chancellorhotel.com, from \$229).

Terrifying Tombstone

The spirits of the Wild West live on in this legendary Arizona locale.

THRILL Walk in the footsteps of Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday during a **Gunfighter and Ghost Tour** (tombstone-ghost.com). Or hop aboard a

trolley weekend evenings for a 3-mile Ghost and Murder Tour to visit **Boothill Graveyard** and the hanging gallows (visittombstone.arizona.com). For a more rugged adventure, travel the old stagecoach route out of Tombstone in a Jeep to explore graveyards, jails, rock houses and adobe ruins in a **Ghost Town Trail Tour** (intothewestjeeptours.com). **CHILL** Listen for the sounds of mysterious music at the **Larian Motel** (tombstonemotels.com, from \$79). Guided trail rides and meals are included at the **Apache Spirit Ranch** (apachespirit-ranch.com, from \$200).

Nail-Biting New Orleans

Voodoo, vampires and aboveground tombs make for a macabre mix in Cajun Country.

THRILL All ages can enjoy free **ghost and cemetery tours** (freetoursbyfoot.com/new-orleans-tours), Gray Line's **Ghosts & Spirits** walking tour (grayline.neworleans.com) and a **cemetery/voodoo tour** (tourneworleans.com, 5 and under free), while teens might prefer a **vampire tour** (hauntedhistorytours.com).

CHILL The haunted **Hotel Monteleone** in the French Quarter has an All About Kids package that includes admission to two non-ghostly

attractions plus a disposable camera, for capturing ethereal images elsewhere (hotelmonteleone.com, from \$189). In the quieter Garden District, the streetcar in front of the new **Hotel Indigo** conveniently whisks you to scary sites (gardendistricthotelneworleans.com, from \$199).

