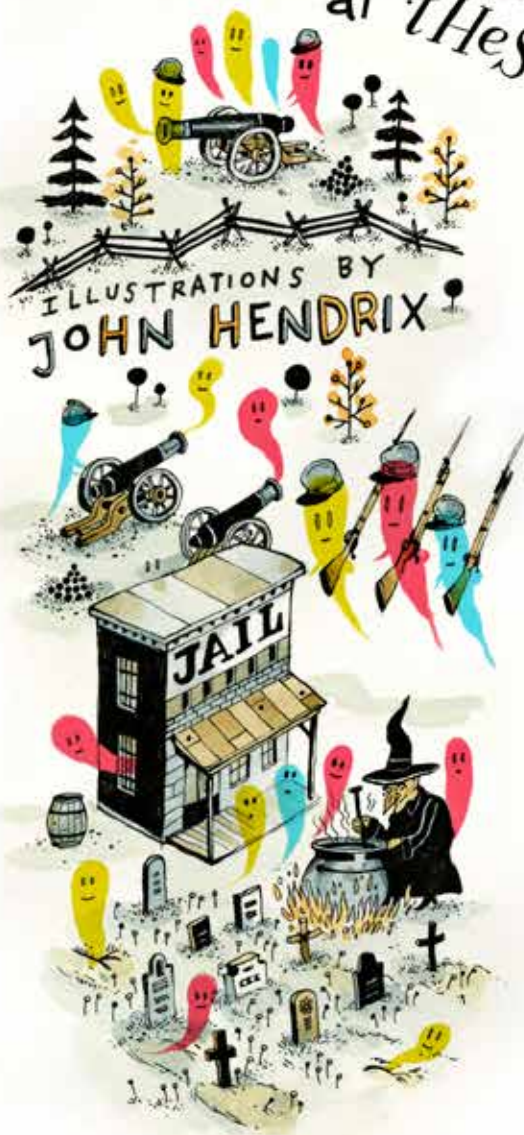


# BEST HAUNTED CITIES

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](http://afterdarkinvestigations.com)). You might spot long-departed residents on the **Farnsworth House's** daily stroll through haunted attractions and its weekend tours ([farnsworthhouseinn.com](http://farnsworthhouseinn.com)). Family-friendly walking tours near the battleground and around town are available from **Gettysburg Ghost Tours** ([gettysburgghosttours.com](http://gettysburgghosttours.com)) and **Ghosts of Gettysburg** ([ghostsofgettysburg.com](http://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](http://eisenhower.com), from \$89). Downtown, the **Gettysburg Hotel** features a Ghostly Encounter package ([hotelgettysburg.com](http://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](http://salemwaxmuseum.com)).

**CHILL** At the **Salem Inn**, ask for room 17 in the Captain West House if you dare ([saleminnma.com](http://saleminnma.com), from \$235). Take refuge at **The Salem Waterfront Hotel**, which has an indoor pool and midweek specials ([salemwaterfronthotel.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://runforyourlives.com), multiple locations). To find a fright night (or day) close to home, check out these sites: [americanmaze.com](http://americanmaze.com), [cornmaze.com](http://cornmaze.com), [halloweenattractions.com](http://halloweenattractions.com) and [hauntworld.com](http://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](http://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 ([shanghai-tunnels.info](http://shanghai-tunnels.info), best for those over 5). Trek aboveground and below using real ghost-hunting equipment on a **Beyond Bizarre** tour ([portlandwalkingtours.com](http://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](http://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](http://mcmenamins.com/kennedyschool), from \$115). Some “guests” at the **Benson Hotel** are supposedly not of this world ([benson-hotel.com](http://benson-hotel.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](http://sfcityguides.org)), while **SF Chinatown Ghost Tours** scope out an old underground gambling den year-round ([sfchinatownghosttours.com](http://sfchinatownghosttours.com)). For a daytime outing, visit the now-closed federal penitentiary on **Alcatraz** ([nps.gov/alca](http://nps.gov/alca)). The **San Francisco Ghost Hunt** exposes unnerving tales of romance gone wrong ([sfghosthunt.com](http://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](http://innatthepresidio.com), from \$215). Investigate reports of strange occurrences at Union Square's **Chancellor Hotel** ([chancellorhotel.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://intothewestjeeptours.com)). **CHILL** Listen for the sounds of mysterious music at the **Larian Motel** ([tombstone-motels.com](http://tombstone-motels.com), from \$79). Guided trail rides and meals are included at the **Apache Spirit Ranch** ([apachespirit-ranch.com](http://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](http://freetoursbyfoot.com/new-orleans-tours)), Gray Line's **Ghosts & Spirits** walking tour ([grayline-neworleans.com](http://grayline-neworleans.com)) and a **cemetery/voodoo tour** ([tourneworleans.com](http://tourneworleans.com), 5 and under free), while teens might prefer a **vampire tour** ([hauntedhistorytours.com](http://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 ([hotel-monteleone.com](http://hotel-monteleone.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](http://gardendistricthotelneworleans.com), from \$199).

