



## **My Drift**

**Title: Most Haunted US Cities**

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More people responded to my article about haunted Kipapa Gulch on the island of Oahu in Hawaii than any article I have written in a long time. Yes, people like a good ghost story! Since I'm interested in ghosts, spirits, demons, and other paranormal activities, I'm writing this article about the 10 most haunted cities in the United States.



## 10. Washington D.C.



Our country's capital has seen its fair share of history, so it makes sense that Washington D.C. is the setting for several ghost stories. In fact, many say the **White House** is one of the most haunted houses in the U.S., haunted by the ghosts of former residents. President Lincoln's ghost has been spotted in the Lincoln Bedroom; President William Henry Harrison, who died in the White House, is said to have returned in the afterlife; and first ladies Dolley Madison and Abigail Adams supposedly still linger, tending to the home. D.C. ghost tours take visitors through other haunted locations, including the National Building Museum, the Congressional Cemetery, and several official government buildings.

Yes, the White House is haunted! Here are some interesting stories from former presidents and their families who lived there:

*In 2009, then-first lady Michelle Obama told visiting school children that she and President Barack Obama sometimes heard strange noises in the hallway at night. And other times some Obama family members felt like something was gnawing or chewing on their feet – maybe a ghost dog?*



*Jenna Bush Hager, the daughter of President George W. Bush, who served from 2001 to 2009, said she and her twin sister Barbara heard 1920s piano music coming from the fireplace in their bedroom.*

*Ronald Reagan, president from 1981 until 1989, told the story of how his dog barked frantically at the entrance of the Lincoln Bedroom and refused to go inside. Reagan's daughter and son-in-law also reported seeing an apparition of Lincoln in the room.*



*In 1911, President William Taft admonished one of his military aides for writing about a White House apparition that supposedly alerted the living to his presence with a ghostly tap on the shoulder. Taft threatened to fire any staffers who repeated the story.*

*On a lonely night in 1946, President Harry S. Truman went to bed at 9 p.m. About six hours later, he heard it. Knock. Knock. Knock. The sound against his bedroom door awakened him. Truman said, "I jumped up and put on my bathrobe, opened the door, and no one there so I went out and looked up and down the hall and looked in Margie's room. Still no one. I went back to bed and the next thing I know was hearing footsteps in Margie's bedroom whose door I'd left open. I Jumped up and looked and no one was there! The damned place is haunted sure as shootin'. The Secret Service said not even a watchman was up here at that hour."*

## 9. St. Augustine, Florida



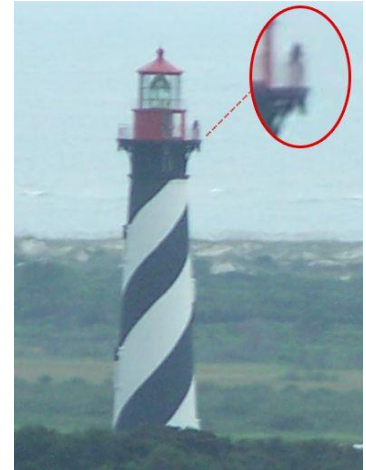
**Huguenot Cemetery**

The oldest city in the U.S. is bound to have a residual spirit or two, and lucky for paranormal seekers, St. Augustine is a hotbed of ghost activity.



**The St. Augustine Lighthouse** is one of the historic city's most haunted spots.

On July 10, 1873, the three Pittee sisters, Mary (15), Eliza (13), and Carrie (4), along with an unknown African-American girl (10), whose father worked on the site, were riding in a cart that brought supplies from the water to the lighthouse. The cart carrying the girls flipped into the water, trapping the girls underneath. By the time help got there, three of the four girls had drowned; the only survivor was the youngest, Carrie. In the years since the accident, strange occurrences have been repeatedly attributed to the ghosts of these girls.



Many residents and visitors have reported paranormal experiences at **Castle Warden**, a Moorish-style home built in the 1880s that now houses the first permanent Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum, established in 1950.

The most haunted cemetery in the Ancient City, **Huguenot Cemetery** has been called "Spirit Central" because of the many inexplicable events, sightings and recorded paranormal activity over the years.

Visitors to the Huguenot Cemetery can expect to see more than gravestones that date back two centuries. They can also expect to see things they may not understand, feel things that they cannot explain and experience a true sense of something supernatural going on around them.

For example, it's here that a young girl, believed to be around 14 years old, was buried. She perished after being exposed to yellow fever and her body was dumped at the Old City Gates. When no one came forward to claim this poor child, she was put to rest. But is she resting? Many say no, as they have seen her ghost floating among the trees. She has even been known to wave to guests she encounters. If you're visiting at night, the best time to see her is sometime between midnight and 2 a.m. She is always described as appearing in a flowy white gown.

## 8. Chicago



A disastrous fire, a notorious serial killer, and mob history all led to Chicago becoming a haunted destination.

**Nederlander Theatre** was the site of a tragic fire killing hundreds in 1903, and some say the alley behind the theater is still haunted by those unfortunate patrons.



**Nederlander Theatre**



**Murder Castle**

H.H. Holmes, the country's first serial killer, murdered dozens (if not hundreds) of women in the infamous "**Murder Castle**," and while that building was replaced, some workers still report odd experiences while working in the new building's basement.

**The Saint Valentine's Day Massacre** was the 1929 murder of seven members of Chicago's North Side Gang that occurred on Saint Valentine's Day. The men were killed at a Lincoln Park garage on the morning of that feast day, February 14th. The St. Valentine's Day Massacre was attributed to Al Capone.



Named the most haunted place in Illinois by Travel & Leisure, the **Congress Plaza Hotel's** history begins with the 1893 World's Fair. The luxurious hotel was built to help house the influx of visitors to the city during the fair, and quickly became the focus of rumors. For instance, some say that mobster Al Capone and his cohorts ran their headquarters and even committed gruesome crimes there.

Mob rumors aside, if you find yourself spending the night in the South Tower, you might just run into "Peg Leg Johnny," the spirit of a man who was brutally murdered in the alley behind the hotel. Who he was, and the circumstances of his death, remains a mystery.

The North Tower has its own urban legends. Hotel staff have reported seeing the apparition of a playful young boy on the 12th floor. He is believed to be the spirit of a child who, along with his sibling, was thrown from the North Tower by his mother. She, too, jumped to her death.

The most haunting, however, takes place in Room 441. Visitors have often reported seeing the silhouette of a woman as well as objects in the room move, or lights turning on and off at random. The room is even believed to be the inspiration for Stephen King's horror story, "1408", about a haunted hotel room.



## 7. San Francisco



**Alcatraz Island**

A storied past and prominent landmarks with dark histories make San Francisco one of the most haunted cities in the U.S. Golden State Park, the USS Hornet, Queen Anne Hotel, and the Mare Island Naval Shipyard are all said to be haunted, but the number one San Francisco hot spot has to be Alcatraz.

**Alcatraz** prison is often called one of the most haunted places in the world, but why? Al Capone, George “Machine Gun” Kelly, and Arthur “Doc” Barker all spent time in Alcatraz, as did many other notorious criminals of their time.

Why is Alcatraz so haunted? Alcatraz was built to break the spirits of even the most rebellious criminals. In 1933, the US government decided to open a maximum-security, minimum-privilege prison to deal with the worst criminals of all time. Inmates who broke one of the prison’s many rules would be punished by being sent to what was known as the “strip cell.” Before entering the strip cell, the prisoners were stripped naked. The cell had no mattress, no sink, and no lights, and the toilet was a hole in the ground. The dark steel room removed what was left of hope and humanity in the criminals who earned a stay there. Therefore, it’s no surprise some of their spirits can’t move on from this experience and from the Alcatraz Island itself.

Cell 14D was another one of the cells where prisoners were sent to as punishment. Visitors often report feeling raw coldness enveloping the room, like more than one spirit is still present there. In the 1940s, a man actually died in cell 14D. The guards found him strangled on the floor of his room. Rumor has it, the night before his death, he kept screaming that a creature with glowing eyes was trying to kill him.

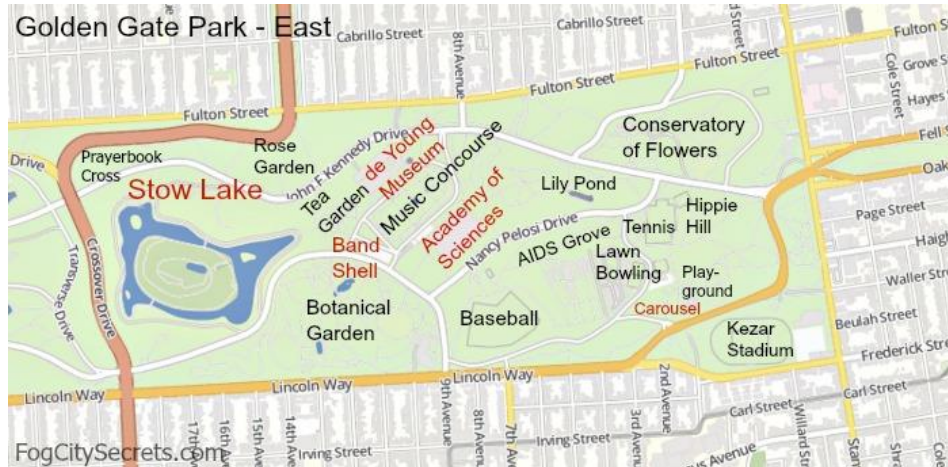
Al Capone, the infamous American gangster, spent his last years in Alcatraz strumming along with the prison’s banjo band. Over the years, many visitors swear they heard a banjo being played.

If you’re visiting **Golden Gate Park** at night, you might come across two spirits. The first resides at Stow Lake with the “White Lady.” More than a hundred years ago, a mother was walking around the park with her baby in a stroller. She sat down and began a conversation with another woman. After a while, she realized the stroller was missing, and frantically asked if anyone knew where her baby was. It dawned on her that the stroller was in the lake and she went in after it and died. Take a walk around Stow Lake at night and she might come out of the lake to ask if you’ve seen her baby.





There have also been reports of people receiving a ticket from a police officer in Golden Gate Park to find out the issuing officer hasn't been on duty for many, many years. He likes to ticket people for traffic violations, but he can't seem to follow you out of the park!



Golden Gate Park has a lot of mysterious and sordid tales that include disturbing murders. But don't forget to enjoy this majestic park though because it offers a lot in terms of attractions, beauty, and museums as well.

## 6. Portland, Oregon



**Portland**

**Portland, Oregon**, might be best known for its incredible craft beer scene and artsy vibes, but the city is also one of the best destinations for ghost hunters. Yes, there are at least 31 famous haunted places to see but the most famous is the Shanghai Tunnels.

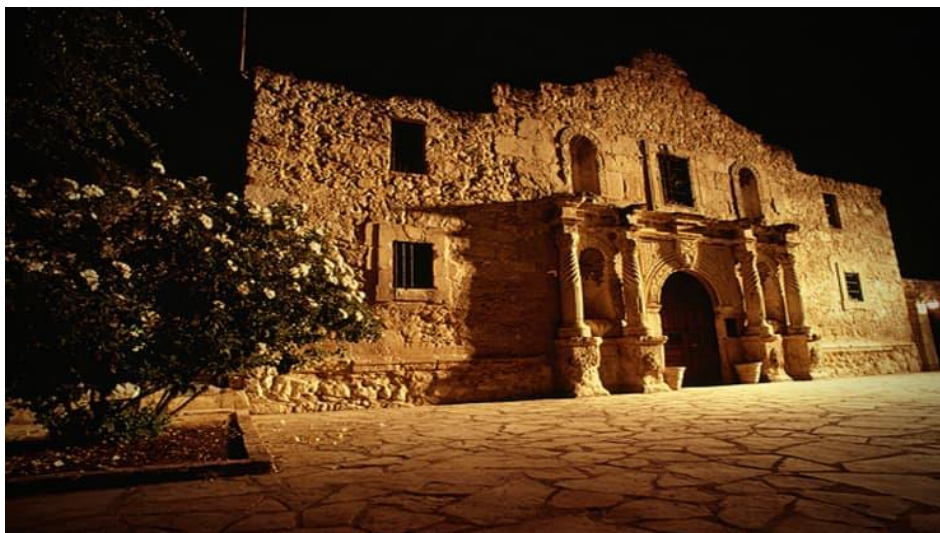




**Entrance to the Shanghai Tunnels**

**The Portland Underground**—more commonly referred to as the **Shanghai Tunnels**—is a network of underground tunnels that is said to be the most haunted place in the city, and one of the most haunted places in the entire country. In the late 1800s, the city of Portland was a major international port, and underground tunnels were created to transport (often illegal) goods across Portland. They were also used for “shanghaiing”: the act of kidnapping people and selling them into slavery on departing ships. According to local lore, residents hanging out at local bars were kidnapped and taken through the tunnels to waiting ships, never to be seen again. Some say the victims’ souls still haunt the bars above ground.

## 5. San Antonio



**The Alamo**

San Antonio is considered one of the most haunted places in Texas because of the city's history. It is a hotbed of haunted hotels, as well as theaters, hospitals, and many other buildings and locations. The **Battle of the Alamo** in 1836 led to thousands of casualties, and Alamo visitors and employees have reported seeing the ghosts of soldiers and hearing mysterious rally cries.



**The Menger Hotel**

The **Menger Hotel** is situated in the Alamo Plaza, right beside the Alamo, and so shares many of its haunted history. It is one of San Antonio's most haunted places and was the scene of many strange occurrences, including a fire that ravaged the whole hotel. Therefore, it has gained the reputation of being the 'Most haunted hotel in Texas'.

Many royalty, famous figures, and presidents have stayed at this hotel, and even one president has never left. Teddy Roosevelt is regularly seen in its halls and bar and has even caused one employee to quit after terrifying him so much he tried to break through a locked door. There have been reports of it being so haunted, that there are upwards of 45 ghosts that reside in the hotel.

The **Emily Morgan Hotel** (now a DoubleTree by Hilton) was built in 1924 and opened as the city's Medical Arts Building. Many patients had been treated inside the facility from 1924 all the way up until 1976 when the building transitioned into an office space before becoming a hotel in 1984. Inside, though, some guests and local ghost tour guides say there are traces of the hotel's hospital past. On the 12th and 14th floors, which were hospital and surgery floors decades ago, guests have reported seeing hospital patients in the hallway when they open their room door—only to look back moments later and see nothing.

#### 4. Salem, Massachusetts



**Salem**

Perhaps best known for the **Salem Witch Trials** that resulted in the execution of 19 people (14 women and 5 men). Salem is said to be one of the most haunted cities in the U.S. Some say the ghosts of those killed during the trials still linger in Salem to this day.

**Lyceum Bar and Grill – Now called Turner's Seafood.** The property on 43 Church Street is as historic as it is, well, haunted. Now a New England-style seafood and oyster bar, 43 Church Street provides nineteenth-century style in twenty-first-century Salem. Famous for more than its food, the establishment is frequented by ghosts.



**Turner's Seafood**

The property was purchased by J. Turner Seafood in 2013, but once belonged to Bridget Bishop. Yet Bishop was known for more than her apple orchards.



Convicted of witchcraft in seventeenth-century Salem, Bishop was unjustly executed. Blamed for black magic, Bishop was Salem's first "convicted witch." She was hanged at Proctor's Ledge on July 10, 1692, though more for her reputation than for her reputed witchcraft.



**The Salem Witch House**

The home of Witch Trials Judge Jonathan Corwin is called **The Witch House** and is the only structure still standing in Salem with direct ties to the Witchcraft Trials of 1692. As a local magistrate and civic leader, Corwin was called upon to investigate the claims of diabolical activity when a surge of witchcraft accusations arose in Salem and neighboring communities. He served on the Court which ultimately sent nineteen to the gallows. All nineteen refused to admit to witchcraft and maintained their innocence. Since then, many of these 19 people's ghosts have stayed to haunt the town of Salem.

### 3. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Gettysburg, PA, is one of the most active paranormal hot spots in the world. This is the place where 94,000 Union troops under General George Meade clashed with 72,000 Confederate soldiers under General Robert E. Lee in what became the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. From July 1 to 3, 1863, more than 51,000 Americans were killed, wounded, or went missing. The three days of brutal battle caused the largest number of casualties and generals killed in action during the Civil War. Since the battle, both visitors and residents of Gettysburg have claimed to see the spirits that still linger. Some of the most noted haunted spots in Gettysburg are popular tourist sites. While the list seems endless considering all of the ghost and paranormal experiences visitors and locals have reported. Here are three of the most haunted Gettysburg locations:



### Gettysburg National Military Park

Known as one of the deadliest fights of the Civil War, the Battle at Gettysburg was held at the battlefields just off of what is now known as the Baltimore Pike. The **Gettysburg National Military Park** is said to be haunted by fallen soldiers who are unable to accept their fate. The restless souls of those soldiers, on both sides of the fence, are said to be unaware that the battle has ended, and that time has moved on.

The **Devil's Den** is a natural rock formation on the grounds of the battlefield proved to be a strategic asset to the troops of the Civil War. The formation was named such after local residents believed that a large snake was in residence. Varying accounts of the size of the creature range from 8 to 15 feet, therefore earning the nickname "The Devil". Visitors to this historical



landmark have reported hearing sounds of drums and gunshots as well as sightings of a barefoot, shabbily dressed man who tries to give directions or the sensation of someone holding their hand. One of the most popular stories that come from this area is that when visitors try to take pictures, there is usually some sort of camera malfunction that prevents them from capturing the scenery.

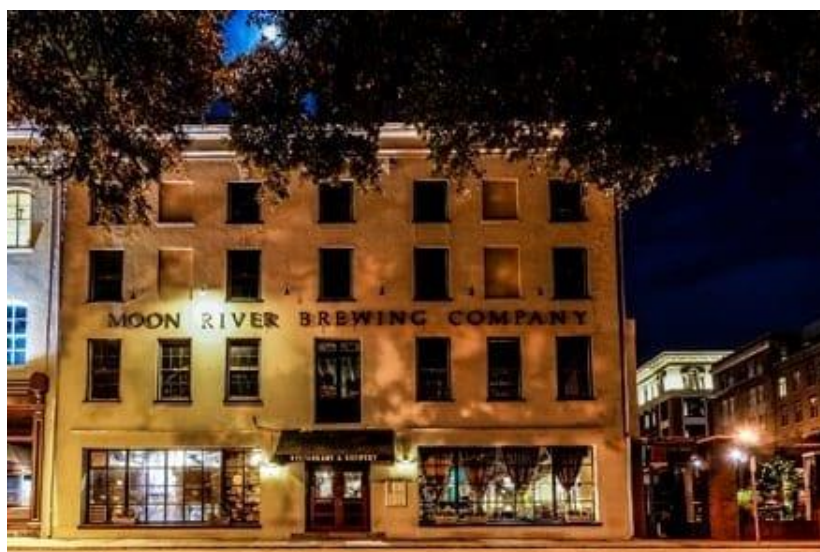




**Cashtown Inn**

**Cashtown Inn** was the site where the first soldier was killed during the Gettysburg campaign of the Civil War. The current owners believe they have proof of their ghostly visitors. Jack Paladino and his wife have pictures of strange orbs and skeletons showing up in their photos. According to Mr. Paladino, he and his guests have heard their share of thumping doors. They've also witnessed lights turning on and off on their own and doors locking and unlocking themselves.

## 2. Savannah, Georgia



**Moon River Brewing Company**



Savannah, Georgia, is always ranked among the most haunted cities in the U.S. Historic homes, inns, and restaurants are rumored to house the spirits of former residents and visitors. In fact, those looking for a thoroughly spooky weekend in Savannah can opt to stay at an allegedly haunted hotel and eat at the restaurants still frequented by spirits that never fully left the earthly realm.

**Moon River Brewing Company** is known as the most haunted place in town, featured on both Ghost Adventures and Ghost Hunters. Here is the haunted history:

When the building was erected in 1821 it served as a hotel. The owner, Elazer Early and his wife named it The City Hotel which was a haven for the rich and famous who wanted to see the beautiful, quiet city of Savannah. Notable guests include James Audubon who like the hotel so much he stayed for six months. The City Hotel was, and is, one of the most beautiful buildings in Savannah. It has been a landmark in the south since it was first built and none of the things that have happened there have stopped that from being true. The building that now houses the brewery has been gorgeous since it was built, and it still remains so whether you want to see a ghost or not.

Sadly, the City Hotel closed in 1864. This was a little before General Sherman took Savannah during the Civil War. The City Hotel never re-opened after the war, but the building has a long history since then. It has seen quite a few owners and the building was used as a hospital many times. Savannah has seen many yellow fever outbreaks over time and the brewery building was used as a hospital and housing for yellow fever victims. It is estimated that hundreds of people, mostly children, died on the upper floors of the building during these outbreaks.

The building was passed from business to business for quite some time, as seems to happen to haunted buildings, before sitting empty for twenty years. The Moon River Brewing Company saw the potential of this historical building and decided to buy it and set up their business. Since purchasing the building, the brewery and its patrons have seen their fair share of ghosts which has only added to the rumors of a haunting.

Every Floor of the brewery has some sort of ghostly activity going on. This is not surprising as the building is old and has seen a lot of tragedy over the years. Many of these ghost encounters are experienced during visits and tours of the brewery.



### **The Haunted Brewery Basement**

Arguably the most famous ghost of the brewing company is named “Toby” and he is often seen wandering in the basement. This is one of the ghosts that the staff saw often enough they decided he deserved a name. The basement is widely regarded as the most active floor for ghosts in the brewery. It might not have the feeling of the top floor or the violent history of the other floors, but it certainly has the most ghost encounters. “Toby” is known to brush up against the people playing in the billiards room or get frustrated and push them.

### **Main Floor of the Haunted Savannah Brewery**

This is the floor where James Stark was Shot by Dr. Minus. People believe that Stark is the reason many people report liquor bottles being thrown. There are also those who believe he is the reason for some of the more violent reports of grabbing, hitting, and pushing that people experience while inside the brewery.

The main floor is also where the dining room is located. There have been a few patrons who have said they felt someone touch them while they were eating but no one was around them. Several women have also complained of feeling cold in the bathroom or being locked into a stall.



### **Second and Third Floor of Moon River Brewery**

These floors are known to have more violent encounters than those happening in the basement or even the main floor. A full-body apparition is known as “the woman in white” and has been seen on the third floor several times by many different people. She is one of the most well-known ghosts of the brewery and

is sometimes referred to as “Mrs. Johnson”. The second and third floors are the floors where many children died of yellow fever. This means it is no surprise that many workers and patrons have reported hearing children talking and playing on these floors.

### **The Creepy Top Floor of The Brewery**

The final floor of the brewery has been said to have a dark energy that the other floors do not possess. This could be because of yellow fever victims who died were housed on this floor while the building was being used as a hospital. Many victims of the terrible virus are still trapped feeling the hopelessness they felt in the moments before they died.

In the 1990s, there was construction being done and the wife of the foreman was pushed down the stairs. She was shoved hard enough that it was clear she had not simply fallen. Several other people have reported feeling people pulling on them or pushing them when they walk on the stairs of the brewing company. This particularly takes place going up to the top floor which many people argue has the most aggressive spirits in the building.



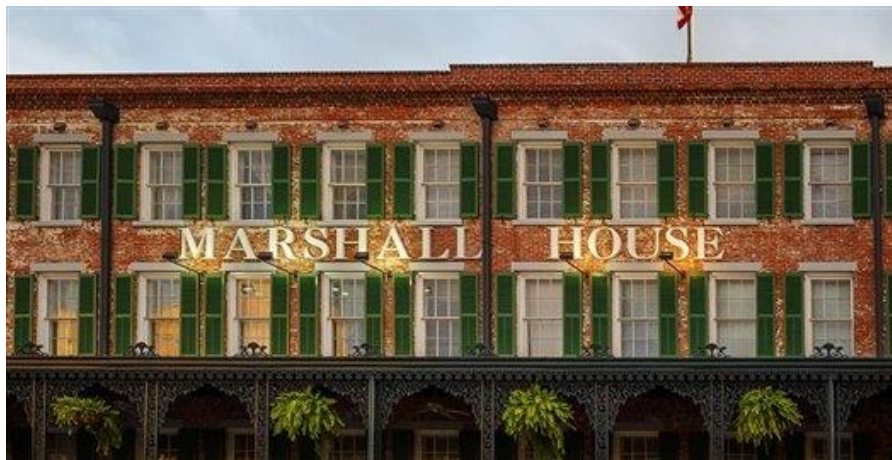
Stairs to the Haunted Top Floor

**The Pirates’ House**, now a family-friendly restaurant, was once a boarding house popular among sailors, but some were kidnapped from its basement and forced to sail aboard ships against their will, so some say their spirits still visit the restaurant and bar today.





Shadow people and other ghostly apparitions have been seen walking through the dining rooms of the present-day Pirates' House. When staff are working all alone in the building, they report having the sensation of having someone watching them. On more than one occasion they turned around to see a seaman from long ago standing there, looking right into their eyes, and slowing drifting into nothing. Footsteps can be heard echoing through the restaurant on quiet evenings. The distinct sound of boots on the plank floors can send the chills up the spine of someone not expecting it, but then again, nobody ever really is expecting it. People walking past the Pirate's House have also posted a lot of photographs of supposed ghosts through the windows of the haunted house.



**The Marshall House** is known as one of the most haunted hotels in the U.S., thanks to its history as a hospital during the Civil War and the yellow fever epidemics. Guests have reported seeing apparitions in the hallways and hearing ghost children running down the halls at night, among other mysterious happenings.

Today, the hotel houses 68 welcoming rooms and suites with topnotch modern-day amenities and is one of the city's favorites, but, as you might expect of such a place, its past is said to haunt those who work – or stay – there. Countless tales of scents, music, swaying lights, and apparitions of small children, crying babies and other eerie occurrences are regularly reported. The fourth floor seems to have the most paranormal activity – although creepy happenings have occurred throughout the building.

One guest described seeing a soldier accompanied by a small boy who admonished her to, "get out of my room." She didn't hesitate to leave, and quickly. Others tell of being caressed while they slept, seeing visions of a dapper gentleman reading a book by a specific window, a lady dressed in white floating through the hallways and more. The sightings are endless and unexplained.

## 1. New Orleans

New Orleans is the most haunted city in the United States. This city is a place where the dead refuse to rest, in fact, there is no solid ground to hold them. By paranormal standards, New Orleans really has it all: churches haunted by the spirits of former priests, former hospitals visited by soldiers who died but never truly passed on, and homes filled with ghosts of residents who died on the premises — not to mention all the vampire stories. The city also has its share of notable ghosts, including author William Faulkner, whose spirit is sometimes spotted at his former home-turned-bookstore Faulkner House Books. Old Absinthe House, open since the early 1800s, is supposedly haunted by Voodoo practitioner Marie Laveau, Andrew Jackson, and pirate Jean Lafitte, among others. Here are just a few of the many spooky spots in New Orleans:



**St. Louis Cemetery #1**

**The St. Louis Cemetery #1**, New Orleans' oldest extant grave site. Established by Spanish royal decree on August 14th, 1789, St. Louis Cemetery #1 remains the oldest cemetery that locals and tourists alike can visit.

It's also considered one of the most haunted cemeteries in all of the United States. In the span of just one square block, this burial ground holds over 700 tombs and over 100,000 of the dead--and counting, as it is still an active grave site. Is it any surprise that it is rumored to be very haunted? For well over 200 years, there have been reports of people having run-ins with the ghosts which call St. Louis Cemetery #1 home.

Even the appearance of the cemetery bolsters the illusion of days gone by, to say nothing of the eerily quiet atmosphere that descends over the St. Louis #1 as dusk falls and night begins its reign. Its age is prominently displayed by the

character of the cemetery: broken shells and cobblestones, dredged from Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River, form the alleys, and the crumbling, chipped above-ground crypts hold the dead. The disorderly layout of the tombs and burial plots are a labyrinth that only ghosts of the cemetery are able to navigate. Many of the family tombs bear cryptic symbols, as well as signs of vandalism and old-age--it is no wonder that many people feel a ghostly presence when visiting New Orleans' oldest cemetery. And it is also no wonder that many movie productions practically ache to film within the cemetery's white walls, although *Easy Rider* and *Interview with a Vampire* are perhaps the most famous films shot inside so far.

A crumbling appearance dusted with age, St. Louis Cemetery #1 earned the nickname "the Cities of the Dead" by the famed author, Mark Twain. A more appropriate name has never been given.

The **LaLaurie Mansion** is widely considered by many to be the most haunted house in all of New Orleans. For a very haunted city like New Orleans, that is a pretty substantial claim.



So, why do so many people consider the LaLaurie House, in the French Quarter of New Orleans, to be so haunted? This is the house where slaves were tortured and killed at the hands of Delphine LaLaurie. If you've read anything about the ghosts and hauntings in New Orleans, there's no doubt that you've heard about the LaLaurie Mansion. It is one of the most popular stops on New Orleans Ghost Tours. Sometimes, people in the city won't even call it that, choosing to refer to 1140 Royal Street as "the Haunted House" instead. Many people are afraid to enter this place because they claim that the LaLaurie Mansion is cursed.



### **The Legend of the Haunted Sultan's Palace**

It was the year 1836 when the structure on 716 Dauphine Street was built. Philadelphia-born Joseph Coulon Gardette had arrived in New Orleans a few years earlier with the hope that he might achieve a modicum of success as a dentist in the Crescent City. Apparently, Gardette had made the right career move because within four years his business had prospered exceedingly well. He commissioned the local architect Frederick Roy to design him a stately home. The three-and-a-half story mansion was a knockout, and even had a raised half-basement to boot. Within a few short years, however, Gardette sought to sell the beautiful home at the corner of Dauphine and Orleans Streets.



**Sultan's Palace**

Matters could not have gotten much worse when he was approached by a man of Middle-Eastern descent. He explained that his brother, who just happened to be a Sultan, was interested in the property. It became the Sultan's Palace.

Soon after, a ship arrived in the port of New Orleans. And then everyone disembarked. First were the women, said to be dressed in their finery--silks and satins and gloriously vibrant colors. Next were the eunuchs--or so they say; men dressed in dark military clothing, each carrying a long bayonet. Then, the brother of the Sultan, and then the Sultan himself. Lastly came all of the furniture. There were beds and vases; portraits and rugs; and lo, so many fine pieces that the locals were amazed at the sight of all of those riches!

Over the course of the next few months, well, 716 Dauphine was a hub of activity. Each night the neighbors heard the tinkling of music carry on the breeze; they heard the giggling of women and the deep, masculine chuckles of the men, and they also heard the distinct sounds of pleasure. The scent of opium, wafting from the open windows, was never far behind. And the New

Orleanians? Oh! Well, they were rather put out that the invitations to the Sultan's lavish parties were never forthcoming.

Then, one night some months later, a storm hit the city. Everyone in the French Quarter buckled down, dimming their candles and closing their shutters. The wind whistled down the street; the lightning cracked overhead. By the next morning, the sky was a blissful blue, as if the rain and thunder had never even passed through. One man happened to find himself strolling down the street, enjoying the crisp air, when he stopped dead in his tracks.

For trickling down the front steps of the Sultan's Palace was blood; it ran down like a river, pooling in the divots of the uneven stone. The unsuspecting man ran to the police station to tell them what he had seen. When the police arrived on the scene, the blood ran thicker, deeper. They looked at one another, all secretly nervous beneath their boisterous conversation. One officer pushed open the door and the collective intake of breath echoed loudly in the otherwise silent house.

Corpses littered the ground; some had been flayed open while others were missing limbs as if some savage beast had sought devilish revenge. The metallic scent of exposed blood lingered in the air. One officer turned and vomited. Another did so, too. The sight . . . the smell . . . Oh Lord, they whispered, who had done such a thing? But the father in through the house they went, the only sight to greet them were the dilapidated dead. In the courtyard, they found the worst crime of all. The soil, it was wet and muddy from the heavy rain the night before and sticking out of the ground was a single hand, fingers spread wide as if clawing for help. The Sultan himself had been buried alive!

Who had committed these tragic murders? Who was stained by the blood of the dead? The answer was never truly discovered, although police imagined that the blame lay at the feet of the brother of the Sultan, whose body was never found. Perhaps he had had hired assassins to commit the murders. Perhaps greed and inheritance were the motivating factors--we will never know. Maybe the remaining ghosts are the only ones who know the real story.

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the land where **Le Pavillon Hotel** sits today (near the French Quarter and New Orleans' Central Business District) was deemed inhospitable and dangerous. And when the 226-room hotel opened in 1907, it quickly became evident that several of the spirits left over from the neighborhood's murderous past decided to extend their stay.

## The Le Pavillon Hotel



### Many Ghosts Roam the Le Pavillon Hotel Hallways

Over the years, one paranormal investigating team cited catching nearly 100 undead entities roaming the property throughout the night. "Some say the reason the hotel is so haunted is because it sits on a portal to a parallel universe," explains Maria Pinheiro, media director, Ghost City Tours. "There's no other explanation, paranormal investigators have said, for counting so many different spirits within a hotel's walls."

There have been many haunted room reports by guests, staff, and investigators where they have come into contact with ghostly figures that stand at the foot of their beds. Legend has it that bed sheets are often tugged off of guests while they sleep, and that strange and unexplained noises are often heard. Guests have also detailed odd occurrences such as their shower heads turning on and off in the middle of the evening. One particular guest reported seeing a gray-haired woman appear before his eyes. The ghostly apparition allegedly sat on his bed, touched him with cold hands and said she'd never let him go before vanishing in plain sight.

Unlike some haunted hotels in the city, Le Pavillon truly embraces its paranormal guests. Upon arrival, travelers can obtain a pamphlet detailing the hotel's haunted history. Groups and adventurous individuals looking for that "something extra" to happen during their visit can request staying in one of the hotel's more haunted rooms. There is no extra cost for renting a room with a ghost!





## Top 10 Most Haunted Bars in New Orleans

New Orleans is also known for its ghostly history and vibrant night life. Enjoy a night of spirits and spirits at the 10 most haunted bars in town.



### Haunted Bars in in the French Quarter

**Pat O'Brien's** - The Two most haunted areas of Pat's are the Piano Bar and the upstairs Ladies Room.

**Lafitte's Blacksmith's Shop** - The buccaneer pirate, Jean Lafitte's spirit has been seen roaming the bar.

**The Bourbon Pub** – Popular gay bar where you need to watch out for the ghost of “Mam,” a Creole Slave Lady that appears often to bar goers.

**Cafe Lafitte in Exile** - Oldest Gay bar in the country and the bar where Tennessee Williams used to frequent. His ghost is said to turn up quite often sitting at the end of the bar sipping on a cocktail.

**The Old Absinthe House** - Many locals have reported encounters with many of famous New Orleanians, from Jean Lafitte to Louis Moreau Gottschalk, Andrew Jackson, “The Beast” Benjamin Butler, and even Voodoo Queen Marie Laveau.

**The Alibi** – Here you can meet the ghost of a man who was stabbed to death behind the bar several years ago.

**The Dungeon-Ye Olde Original Dungeon** - This bar is said to be haunted by a real vampire and the ghosts of hundreds of ex-patrons who loved the bar so much, they never left.

**Yo Mama's Bar and Grill** - Bar goers and employees have reported seeing a tall man with graying hair and a nice smile sitting at the bar enjoying a jack and coke.

**Kerry Irish Pub** - The hauntings in this bar seem to consist of eerie sounds, ghostly whispers, and cold spots.

**Tujague's Restaurant** - This pub is home to many entities that love to photobomb guests' pictures.

**Conclusions:** New Orleans may be known for its upbeat Jazz music, exciting Mardi Gras, and a million different takes on Jambalaya, but now you know that along with its celebratory culture, this famous city has a dark side, one that some may even call infamous.

New Orleans was the starting point of the slave trade in the U.S., a frequent stop for pirates, and is the place where voodoo originated. Many of those dark times saw the death of many people, like voodoo queen Marie Laveau, pirate Jean Lafitte, and victims and soldiers of the War of 1812 who are said to still haunt the city today.

So, when planning a trip to New Orleans or anyone of the Top 10 haunted cities, don't miss out on the town's eerier side and join one of the ghost tours. If you don't believe in ghost now – after one of these tours, you may change your mind.

If I ever get to New Orleans again, I want a room with a ghost!!

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