A Room With a "Boo": TripAdvisor Announces America's Top 10 Haunted Hotels

TripAdvisor Travelers Share First-Hand Experiences of Things That Go Bump in the Night

NEWTON, Mass., Oct. 18, 2011 / PRNewswire -- <u>TripAdvisor</u>®, the world's largest travel site*, today announced America's top 10 spookiest accommodations, based on properties featuring the greatest number of traveler comments referencing "ghosts" or "haunted" on TripAdvisor.com.

To view the multimedia assets associated with this release, please click: http://www.multivu.com/mnr/49247-tripadvisor-announces-america-s-top-10-haunted-hotels

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With 17 percent of travelers maintaining they have had a ghostly or supernatural encounter in a hotel, according to a TripAdvisor site poll of more than 800 respondents, these spirited properties put the host in "g-host" for specter-seekers and supernatural-skeptics alike.

1. 1886 Crescent Hotel & Spa, Eureka Springs, Arkansas - Average Nightly Rate: \$91 - \$214

Constructed in 1886, this mountaintop spa resort boasts a number of spirits, including Michael, an Irish stonemason who fell to his death while building the hotel, and even a cat, named Morris. Daily ghost tours (\$18 for adults; \$7 for under-12s) offer a behind-the-scenes peek at the property, and access to otherwise off-limits sights including the basement and morgue. According to one TripAdvisor traveler, "I found it to be the spookiest of all the 'haunted' hotels I have stayed at... I was surprised to find many orbs in the photos we took."

2. Hotel Queen Mary, Long Beach, California - Average Nightly Rate: \$89 - \$179

Since making her maiden voyage in 1936, this historic steamship has served as a luxury ocean liner, troopship and in more recent years, a stationary hotel. Some 55 ghosts are rumored to linger on-board, including Jackie, a young girl who can be found taking a dip in the swimming pool. One TripAdvisor traveler noted, "I want to believe that everything that we experienced was real. We did record some orbs flying around our room while we slept. (We set up our video recorder on night vision)."

3. Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, Colorado - Average Nightly Rate: \$142 - \$291

This property, which first opened its doors in 1909, is known for its inspirational role in the Stephen King classic, "The Shining". Regular ghost hunts (\$7 - \$50 for adults) take travelers to some of the property's most haunted hotspots, including the concert hall, in search of paranormal experiences. One TripAdvisor traveler wrote, "Had a lot of activity from the playful spirits there. The closet door opened and closed several times, the TV turned itself off and on, the covers were pulled off of us in the night and there was audible whispering in the room."

4. Copper Queen Hotel, Bisbee, Arizona - Average Nightly Rate: \$75 - \$150

Completed in 1902, this property was the product of a booming mining town, and built to accommodate visiting investors and dignitaries. Today, guests can rub shoulders with three resident ghosts: Julia Lowell, a lady of the night; a dapper gentleman wearing a cape and a top hat, and a mischievous young boy. One TripAdvisor traveler noted, "If you want to try finding a ghost ask for an 'active' room! We had an active room and let's just say I couldn't quite explain all that I saw and heard!"

5. Marshall House, Savannah, Georgia - Average Nightly Rate: \$112 - \$236

Designated as a National Historic Building by The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, this property has served many different uses since being built in 1851, including serving as a hospital for Civil War soldiers. Since reopening as a hotel in 1999, many guests have reported ghostly sightings. One TripAdvisor traveler stated, "...Heard someone running in the room above me. Upon telling the staff we were told the entire floor above us was empty. So if you're looking for a ghostly experience, definitely consider this hotel."

6. Admiral Fell Inn, Baltimore, Maryland - Average Nightly Rate: \$154 - \$333

This historic property, comprising seven different buildings dating back to the 1770s, boasts a rich history. Among other uses, the Inn has formerly served as a theater and a boarding house for sailors – and today, travelers can choose from 80 unique guestrooms and partake in free ghost tours on Friday and Saturday evenings. "If you are searching for character, charm, great service and ghost history this is the place to stay," suggested one TripAdvisor traveler.

7. The Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas - Average Nightly Rate: \$90 - \$175

This hotel, situated next to the Alamo, was built in 1859 on the site of Texas' first brewery. Photos of prominent former guests, from Babe Ruth to President Theodore Roosevelt, line the walls – and Roosevelt's spirit is rumored to have since been seen sipping on a drink at the hotel bar, in which he recruited cowboys for the Rough Riders. One TripAdvisor traveler noted, "...Felt cold spots in several places in and around the hotel and got plenty of goose bumps during our stay, but I never once felt afraid."

8. Bullock Hotel, Deadwood, South Dakota - Average Nightly Rate: \$100

This historic hotel was founded in the 1890s by Deadwood's first Sheriff, Seth Bullock, and today, visitors to the town can pay their respects to the former lawman and other notable Wild West figures, including Calamity Jane, at the nearby Mount Moriah Cemetery. Hotel guests may be in for a much closer encounter with Bullock, whose spirit has supposedly roamed the property since his passing in 1919. One TripAdvisor traveler commented, "Heard tell of the ghost tour, but didn't need to go on it as we could feel Seth Bullock's presence in the hotel already!"

9. Place D'Armes Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana - Average Nightly Rate: \$119 - \$480

Located in the heart of the French Quarter, this property is said to have been built on the site of a former school house that was destroyed in a fire, in which many perished. Resident ghosts are rumored to include former pupils, as well as an elderly bearded man dressed in 1800's attire. One TripAdvisor traveler noted, "...My husband and daughter said they heard children laughing and playing in the next room and the ceiling fan came on all by itself. There was no next room, it was a brick wall outside!"

10. Hotel Del Coronado, Coronado, California - Average Nightly Rate: \$289 - \$720

Sun, sand and spirits are the order of the day at this beachfront getaway, built in 1888. The property has seen a stream of famed visitors over the years, from Charlie Chaplin, to Humphrey Bogart – but it is a former guest by the name of Kate Morgan who has continued to make her presence felt, since taking her life at the resort in 1892. According to one TripAdvisor traveler, "I brought my K2 Meter (it's believed the meter can pick up the 'magnetic fields' of spirits). I actually got some 'hits' on it while we were having breakfast in our room."

"Paranormal experiences may not be guaranteed at these 'haunted' properties, but their rich histories and colorful pasts offer travelers an entertaining and spine-tingling trip back in time," said Karen Drake, senior director of communications for TripAdvisor.

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