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# Cultural Daily

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## The Most Haunted Cities in the South

Our Friends · Saturday, April 25th, 2026

There are places in the American South where history is so vivid that it seems to live on, lingering in the air and clinging to the walls. These cities are older than much of the nation itself. They've seen war, disease, betrayal, and centuries of death.

And in the late hours, when the streets are empty and quiet, people begin to notice something unsettling: They are not alone.

Welcome to some of the most haunted cities in the South.

### New Orleans, Louisiana

We begin this journey in New Orleans, probably one of the most haunted cities in the United States, period. From a rich Indigenous culture to the influences of French, Spanish, African, and Creole peoples, the Crescent City is rich in history. Few cities embrace the supernatural quite like Nawlins. Here, the line between the living and the dead has always been thin.

Inside Muriel's Séance Lounge, the past refuses to leave its seat at the table. The restaurant is said to be haunted by Pierre Antoine Lepardi Jourdan, a former owner who lost everything in a high-stakes poker game. Unable to bear the loss, he took his own life. Staff and guests insist his presence lingers. Objects move on their own. Cold spots drift through otherwise warm rooms. And one table is permanently reserved, just in case he returns.

Not far away lies St. Louis Cemetery No. 1, a small city of the dead built above ground. The most famous resident is the Voodoo Queen, Marie Laveau. Her spirit is said to wander the cemetery, appearing without warning just to vanish into the night. It's as if she's still watching over her beloved city.

Then there is the **LaLaurie Mansion**. Beautiful on the outside, but something else entirely within.

In the 1800s, Madame Delphine LaLaurie was exposed for unspeakable cruelty toward enslaved people in her home. When a fire broke out, the truth surfaced, and it was worse than anyone had imagined. Today, visitors report hearing screams echoing from behind sealed walls. Others claim to feel sudden, overwhelming dread just standing outside.

### Savannah, Georgia

Savannah is another notoriously haunted city. Built atop old burial grounds and battlefields, the very air hums with something unseen. Beneath this city's charm lies a quiet, persistent unease.

At the **Pirate's House**, the stories go back centuries. Once a meeting place for sailors (and, of course, pirates), it's rumored that men were lured inside, drugged, and forced into service at sea. Today, guests report footsteps in empty corridors, disembodied voices, and figures glimpsed just out of sight. Some claim to have felt a hand on their shoulder, only to turn and find no one there.

The elegant Hamilton-Turner Inn harbors its own legend. Locals say that at exactly 3:07 a.m., a phantom cigar smoker appears in the windows, watching the street below. Guests have reported the smell of smoke in non-smoking rooms, doors opening on their own, and the sense that someone is standing just beyond the edge of the bed.

Then there's the Sorrel-Weed House, a place where tragedy left a permanent mark. Two deaths, both shrouded in mystery, are tied to the home. Visitors often describe an oppressive feeling, as though the house itself remembers something it refuses to share. Apparitions have been seen in mirrors and in photographs, though no one was standing there at the time.

## St. Augustine, Florida



*The haunted streets of St. Augustine – Copyright US Ghost Adventures*

America's oldest city, St. Augustine, has had centuries to collect its ghosts.

At the Old Jail Museum, the echoes are hard to ignore. Once a place of harsh confinement, it now draws visitors who report hearing chains dragging across floors, doors slamming without cause, and voices calling out from empty cells. Some have even felt something brush past them in the narrow corridors: something cold and moving with purpose.

The Spanish Military Hospital carries a different kind of weight. Pain, desperation, and crude medical procedures once filled its rooms. Today, guests report the faint sounds of surgical tools clinking, distant groans, and shadows moving where no living soul exists.

And standing watch over it all is the St. Augustine Lighthouse. It's beautiful by day. But after sundown, the spirits come out to play.

Visitors have reported seeing figures climbing the tower, only to find no one inside. Others hear children's laughter echoing in the dark. Paranormal investigators claim to have captured voices, whispers, and sudden spikes of energy in rooms long abandoned. Some believe the spirits of children who died in a tragic accident still linger there, playing in the shadows.

The Old City has many **spooky stories** for those brave enough to listen.

## Charleston, South Carolina



*The Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon – Copyright US Ghost Adventures*

In Charleston, history is layered, refined on the surface but restless underneath.

The **Old City Jail** is perhaps the most notorious. Built in the early 1800s, it housed some of the city's most dangerous criminals. Executions were carried out on its grounds, and the conditions inside were brutal. Today, visitors report hearing footsteps echoing through empty halls, voices whispering from the dark, and sudden drops in temperature that defy explanation.

Nearby, the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon tells a darker story. Prisoners of war were once held in its depths. These poor souls were confined, starving, and often forgotten. Those who descend into the dungeon today describe a crushing heaviness, as though the air itself remembers

suffering. Some claim to hear chains rattling. Others say they've felt something tug at their clothing.

At Battery Carriage House Inn, specifically within the room known as 20 South Battery, guests report encounters that are far more personal. Doors lock and unlock on their own. Figures appear at the foot of the bed. And some visitors have awakened in the night with the unsettling feeling that they are not alone.

## Annapolis, Maryland



*Ram's Head Tavern – Copyright US Ghost Adventures*

Even the quieter corners of the South do not go untouched. In Annapolis, the past tells a fascinating story, still speaking through ghostly encounters.

At the **Governor Calvert House**, guests have reported hearing footsteps pacing above them, even when the rooms are empty. Furniture moves and lights flicker. And several visitors have described seeing figures in period clothing, vanishing the moment they're noticed.

The Maryland State House, one of the oldest state capitols still in use, has its own quiet legends. Staff and visitors alike have reported strange sounds after hours: doors creaking open, distant footsteps, and the unmistakable feeling of being watched in otherwise empty chambers.

Then there's Ram's Head Tavern, where the atmosphere turns from historic to unsettling without warning. Employees report glasses sliding across the bar on their own. Shadows move in the corners. And late at night, the mischievous ghost of a young woman named Amy appears. She enjoys pranking people, tugging on hair and making customers spill drinks on themselves.

Make sure to join a local **Annapolis ghost tour** if you are brave enough!

## The Haunted South

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The South is rich with history... but history has a way of holding on. In these cities, the past doesn't always stay in the past. It lingers in old buildings, drifts through quiet streets, and reveals itself in moments that are easy to dismiss. That is, until they happen to you.

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