

Haunted Places in California

If you're planning a trip to California, you might have heard about the haunted history of many of their tourist spots. Horror buffs love visiting California and basking in the glory of all of the horror-filled attractions, from Northern California all the way to the South. Here's your guide to some of the most haunted places in California and their creepy ghost stories.

From hotels to lighthouses and state parks, California is home to some of the scariest haunted attractions. It has become so famous for being haunted that the ghost stories that come out of California have been featured on multiple television shows, such as Cecil Hotel.

Northern California

When looking for some haunted places to visit while in Northern California, here are some of the key places that you should be looking at. You can find many services that will provide you with tours of the facilities, or you can put together your own haunted California tour. Beware, some of these places are not sanctioned for public entry and you should exhibit caution when attempting to visit them.

1. Tuolumne County, California: Chinese Camp

From the moment that you step foot within this abandoned ghost town, Chinese Camp is going to send chills throughout your body. The buildings are dark and withering, all breaking down. Locals say that this ghost town is purely haunted. Chinese Camp is also home to one of the oldest churches in the county, which is complete with its very own graveyard.

The town was once populated by many people during the times of the gold rush, but it has since been abandoned. If you have a chance to go down to California and pay a visit, Chinese Camp is a fascinating ghost town to visit.

2. Crescent City, California: Battery Point Lighthouse

Home to a creepy ghost story and some spectral residents, Battery Point Lighthouse in Crescent City is one of the best haunted attractions to visit in Northern California. People who visit the lighthouse say that it is haunted by the former lightkeeper.

The lightkeeper is said to go up the stairs in the middle of the night, and some visitors have even reported feeling touched by people when there is nobody around them. They also say that at night he rocks in his rocking chair. You can only visit the lighthouse during times of low tide because when the tide is high the road leading up to the lighthouse disappears underneath the water.

3. Crescent City, California: The McNulty House

Lillian McNulty was the homeowner of McNulty house in Crescent City. She lived in the town for many years, and when she died, she wanted her house to be turned into a public space such as a library or a museum. When she died, they followed through with her wishes, but this lasted a short amount of time until they turned it back into a residency.

The spirit of Lillian that lived in the space that didn't enjoy the change started haunting the house when the house was changed back to residency. People who see the activity report that she stands in her window and stares at her former congregation. If you're looking to visit this spot, it's available for visiting in Crescent City.

4. Eureka, California: Fort Humboldt Historic State Park

One of the most memorable attractions on a haunted tour of Northern California, Fort Humboldt is one of the most spine crawling of them all. The only buildings that haven't been completely destroyed are the hospital buildings, and these buildings are said to be haunted by a commander who died from malaria.

While it might not seem scary from the stories, when you walk the grounds, the scenery is eerie and chilling. It's run down and looks like a scene from a horror movie. There are educational tours of the grounds that are available, and you too can roam around with the ghosts.

5. Ferndale, California: Ferndale Repertory Theater

Located in the city of Ferndale, this historic theater has some creepy ghost stories. The most commonly told one is the story of the specter Bertha. Bertha appears late at night in the form of a cat, and roams the aisles during the showings, messes with the door locks in the bathrooms, and answers phone calls when there is nobody around to answer the calls.

If you want to visit this location, visit late at night so you can make acquaintances with Bertha. The historic theater is still open to the public.

6. San Francisco, California: Alcatraz Penitentiary

One of the most famous prisons in the entire country is actually haunted. It was home to many different infamous criminals, including the likes of Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly. You might be asking, why is Alcatraz so haunted? The reason is very simple, because so many spirits died in Alcatraz, even before the body of the spirit died.

The prisoners were given little freedom, and were taken advantage of and put through pain and suffering when they disobeyed orders. Alcatraz was the site of many murders, assassinations and suicides among all of the inmates housed there. The pain and torture that went on throughout all of Alcatraz's history keeps the spirits trapped on Alcatraz Island.

One key spot in Alcatraz is Cell 14D. This is the cell that prisoners got sent to when they would misbehave, and acted as a form of solitary confinement. The room is said to be freezing cold, as if you are being wrapped up in a chill. This is supposedly an indicator of more than one spirit in the area. A prisoner died in this prison cell in the 40s.

Strolling through cell blocks A, B, and C is a scary spot where people who visit Alcatraz usually hear screams and cries all throughout. These blocks are also where the spirit of an assassinated prisoner named Butcher roams, and he is not a kind spirit. In the shower stalls, you may hear the banjo tunes of famous gangster, Al Capone.

Besides Alcatraz, San Francisco has one of the most haunted cities in the country, with ghosts roaming all around. Alcatraz is open for many different types of tours, including a special night time tour where you have chances to experience some of the haunts and frights that are expected from a haunted building such as Alcatraz.

7. San Francisco, California: Neptune Society Columbarium

The large domed building dubbed as the Neptune Society Columbarium is home to many different spirits that live within the walls. Since the early 1900s, it has been used as a site for people to store the ashes of their family members.

Visitors to the columbarium have reported a small hand near theirs, and the spirit of a young girl roaming the grounds. It is believed that this is the spirit of a little girl whose ashes have been stored in the columbarium. Another visitor reported that there was a handprint left on her back, even though nobody had touched her from behind. The columbarium is open to the public as a tourist destination. Pay a visit and you might see the spirit of the little girl who roams the grounds.

If you are wishing to keep your family member here, you will have to check with the latest laws about this before. Even if you do not use this as your loved one's resting grounds, it is a beautiful building and a visit here to admire the grandeur is perfectly acceptable.

8. Sacramento, California: The Sacramento Cemetery

This Victorian-style cemetery is home to nearly 36,000 occupants. With this many buried people, it is evident that there is going to be some paranormal activity.

The first notable ghost that occupies this cemetery is May Woolsey, a twelve year old girl. May contacted her parents through a medium to tell them that she was awaiting their arrival to the other side before she left the Earth. Her parents kept all of her things, and they kept them in a trunk in their house. When the current owners went to renovate the house, they found the trunk of May's things. These things are now in a museum, but May still roams the Earth and visits her own grave site.

The cemetery is open to public visiting, and it is not far from downtown Sacramento.

9. Benicia, California: The Union Hotel

It's no wonder that this hotel is haunted, as it is in such close proximity to the city of San Francisco. Other buildings have never been unkempt, but this historical building has always stayed in tip-top shape, which is why it is still open for public booking today. However, staying here is not for the faint of heart, as it has some haunting tales caused by a dramatic and emotional breakup.

The entity that makes a home of the hotel is a woman who was said to have hung herself in the 1800s due to a huge heartbreak and wanted to make a dramatic disappearance. There have been reports from people who have come to stay at the hotel of lights going on and off by themselves, and some have said they have seen the woman roaming the hallways looking woeful and full of despair. The other entity that makes his living is tied to this woman, and it is said to be the man who caused her suicide. He is said to be sitting around in different areas, as if he is waiting for someone to appear for him.

10. Santa Cruz, California: The Brookdale Lodge

When the Brookdale Lodge opened up in the 1800s, it was a hot spot for everyone, from celebrities to presidents alike. The first owner of the lodge was a judge named James Logan, and the most infamous ghost that haunts the lodge is the ghost of his niece, Sarah. The story goes that Sarah drowned in the creek that runs through the dining room, and she roams around the halls, looking for her nanny. There have been many reports of her trying to talk to people, and her roaming around in the bar area.

When the lodge was visited by a ghost hunter and a medium, the medium reported that there were over 60 spirits making their home within the lodge. Someone even experienced a paranormal experience where their nose was broken by a spirit, and there was something looming over her. This makes it one of the most haunted lodges in California, and it is now reopening to the public. When it is opened to the public, it is now going to offer a ghost tour to its guests.

11. Bridgeport, California: The Bodie Cemetery

Like most cemeteries, The Bodie Cemetery is home to many spirits who have not been properly laid to rest. When children die, they spend the rest of their time trying to look for their family on this Earth and they refuse to move on from the dead. There have been many people who report seeing a spirit form of a woman sitting by the loved one of theirs. She sits by the grave, knitting and trying to soothe herself.

Another manifestation that usually shows up is a small little girl. She appears usually to young children and she tries to play with them on the playground that sits near the cemeteries. Evelyn is the name of the little girl, and she stands in the cemetery crying and looking for her father. The cemetery is still standing today and has about 80 grave sites where there are buried

people. There is also a website that lists all the people buried so that people can find their long lost loved ones.

Southern California

Home to two of California's larger cities, Southern California is home to its own haunts and frights. If you visit some of the haunted attractions in Southern California, you can find some of the famous people who made their livings in Hollywood, such as the likes of Marilyn Monroe or Charlie Chaplin. Visiting the Cecil Hotel might also bring you in acquaintance with the spirit of the Black Dahlia!

1. Los Angeles, California: The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel

In another extremely haunted city, The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel is home to many spirits that roam the halls. When this hotel opened up, it was one of the most prestigious hotels and it was used for movie premiere after parties and it was the site of the first ever Oscars award show. It was sought after for its luxurious and famous people would've died to stay there, and some even stayed after death!

This hotel was the very reason that people believed that Hollywood was full of glitz and glamour. One of the most famous spirits that people report seeing is Marilyn Monroe, who used to frequent the Roosevelt and was said to have shot her first ad there. Another famous movie star that is seen there is Montgomery Clift, who is said to touch visitors' shoulders and watch the maids turn over rooms. Carole Lombard has also been spotted roaming around the hotel.

This hotel was one of the best, and even after death, the stars who stayed there in their prime days can't stay away. The hotel is still bookable and guests can stay in the haunted rooms such as 1200, where Marilyn Monroe is often spotted.

2. Los Angeles, California: The Alexandria Hotel

The Alexandria as it is known today is extremely different from how it was known when it first opened up to the public. If you looked at it today, you would never know that this housing tenant for low-income individuals used to be an extremely luxurious hotel. Some of the notable guests included presidents like Theodore Roosevelt, as well as famous movie stars such as Charlie Chaplin.

The ballroom is said to be haunted by dancers, and Chaplin's suite is haunted by an angry teenager. Rudolph Valentino visits when he isn't visiting at the Knickerbocker. A famous person died in the hotel, but the manager had not disclosed the name of said person. This hotel is no longer open to the public as it has been converted into housing for people with low-income.

3. Los Angeles, California: The Cecil Hotel

This hotel that was showcased in one of the latest seasons of the popular show *American Horror Story* has a tragic past, and is one of Los Angeles' famous haunted hotels. There were numerous suicides, murders, and other mysterious activities when the hotel was in its prime. The first suicide was a man named W.K. Norton, who was found with poison capsules next to his body, and other suicides followed suit.

Grace Magro was the fourth death at the hotel, and she was found dangling off the building after falling from the ninth story tangled up in telephone wires. Another scary idea that makes the hotel site more eerie is the amount of famous serial killers who stayed here. When Richard Ramirez was on his killing spree in Los Angeles, he used the Cecil Hotel as his home base. He used the hotel's dumpster to dispose of evidence from his murders, including the clothes he wore when he committed his crimes.

The Night Stalker killed 3 street workers when checking into this hotel to cover a story. The hotel is also linked to the murder of the Black Dahlia.

When the hotel tried to rebrand in the 21st century, the death of Elisa Lam happened and was unable to be covered up. A hotel employee found her body floating in the water tanks of the hotel. With all of this heinous history, the hotel is bound to be haunted by the spirits of all those who tragically died on the grounds.

4. San Diego, California: The Whaley House

The Whaley House is a house that was lived in during the Gold Rush, and it is now said to be haunted by multiple different spirits. A ghost of a man named Jim Robinson can be heard walking around the house. The house is also haunted by Violet Whaley, who committed suicide by shooting herself in the chest at 22-years-old.

The house is now open as a public museum and can be visited by the public.

5. San Diego, California: Hotel Del Coronado

The ghost of this hotel is one of a woman who checked in and then mysteriously went missing. While it is believed that this spirit is not malevolent, she moves things around in the hotel and the temperature in the hotel can suddenly drop at random times. The ghost of Kate Morgan is one of the most active ghosts, and she moves from location to location. It's said that she was waiting for someone when she checked in, but after 5 days, she took her own life. Nobody could identify her body, so it was never confirmed definitively that it was her when the body was found.

6. Pasadena, California: The Suicide Bridge

Another haunted area in Southern California is the Colorado Street Bridge, also dubbed by locals as the Suicide Bridge. When the bridge was under construction, one of the workers fell

into wet cement and was severely injured. When The Great Depression occurred, there was a number of suicides that happened along the bridge.

During the period of the Depression, over 50 people took their lives on this bridge. Locals say that you can hear ghosts screaming things at night, such as a man screaming, "It's her fault." One of the more popular reasons behind the hauntings is the story of a woman named Myrtle Ward. This woman dressed up her daughter, and walked her to the bridge. Myrtle chucked the little girl over the side of the bridge, trying to kill her, but luckily, the little girl fell into shrubbery and survived. Just a few hours later, Myrtle died in a hospital after throwing herself off the side of the bridge and injuring herself severely.

The reason for Myrtle's suicide was because her husband took a job that she believed did not pay well. Her death is believed to be one of the sparks for the paranormal activity that occurs near the bridge. Charles Winkleman is another reason for this paranormal activity. When he went on a car ride with his ex-wife Ella, he stopped at this bridge and attempted to throw both of them over. Ella broke free, and he threw himself into the depths, dying.

Today, this bridge is accredited to more than 150 suicides. There are locks that are all along the sides of the bridge that are placed in memory of the people who committed suicide along this bridge.

7. Los Angeles, California: Bessie Love's Cabin

In the early 1900's, it was popular amongst Hollywood stars to live in bungalow and cabin type areas such as Bungalow Land. Bessie Love was no stranger to this. When she was 20 years old, she bought her first house, which happened to be a cabin style home. She quickly discovered that she was not alone in this house.

When Bessie was living here, she would hear sounds such as men's groans, men talking, and she would experience issues with all the appliances in her house. She would consistently experience cold spots in areas of her living room, despite the weather outside being the opposite. One night, she had a friend staying over, and she created a makeshift bed for this friend in the living room. She woke up to hearing a man's voice, and she saw a transparent man walk through a wall.

After Bessie's time, the various other homeowners after her experienced the same types of paranormal activity. In 1993, an electrician moved into the cabin after it had been vacant for a decade. During the move-in week, he experienced many strange occurrences, such as the door closing and locking him out several times. He also had continual issues with electricity, though nobody else in the area experienced these issues. A fully charged cell phone would not power on, despite him having a connection.

You can visit Bessie's Cabin, as it is still haunted to this very day due to the ghosts that roam the grounds.

8. Los Angeles, California: The Comedy Store

Home to some of the most established comedians and some newcomers, The Comedy Store is a comedy night club where a lot of famous comedians got their start. Although on the outside it may seem like a typical comedy club, it is in fact a haunted comedy club.

When the club was developed in the 30's as Ciro, it was developed as a fancy nightclub that was a hotspot for famous celebrities to spend time and enjoy their nights. However, this place also had ties to Mickey Cohen, a mob boss who had pieces in every business that was established on Sunset Strip. Right next to Ciro's was a bordello that was run by Mickey Cohen. Cohen's headquarters was in an upstairs office building inside of Ciro's.

However, the real torture happened in the basement. The mafia would use the basement as a headquarters for killing customers who couldn't pay their debt or who behaved in a disorderly way. There was also an abortion clinic for the women who worked at the bordello, streetworkers and girlfriends of mafia men. A woman was killed because of malpractice by the nurse performing these abortions, and the nurse was also killed by the woman's boyfriend.

Due to the terrible nature of these deaths, and the mob mentality of spirits coming back to this place, there have been multiple occurrences of ghost apparitions. A female can be heard crying, and in the basement there is a malevolent spirit that does not welcome the living.

The Comedy Store is still open for visitors, and you can meet the likes of Steve and Mickey Cohen's mob here.

9. Los Angeles, California: The Avalon Theater

The Avalon Theater is a historic site that embodies the feel of Old Hollywood. Over the years, this place was enjoyed by many, and people still wish to enjoy it even after their life ends. The ghost couple who comes to visit sometimes annoys the audience of living people who are trying to watch shows, and a man who wears a tuxedo roams around. There are also a few female entities who could've been performers at the club.

One night, a guard was making his rounds and heard beautiful sounds of a piano concert occurring. Although he liked the performance, when he went to the area that the piano was housed in, he saw nothing of the sort that would indicate someone was in there. This was an indicator that a spectral being that lives in The Avalon is one of a pianist who may have performed there.

There is a pair of spirits that comes from a very sad story of a technician who fell in love with a performer, and when they got into a large fight, the technician committed suicide. The spirit of the technician lives in the building and steals present day technicians tools and ties wires up in knots. The spirit of the girl also lives in the building, after women have reported hearing sobs and workers have reported hearing a woman's blood-curdling screams.

She isn't the only woman in the club, as there have been reports of other female beings, in the form of heavy perfume scents and the click of high heels against a floor. The Avalon is still open to the public, and all of these spirits still reside in the club, enjoying the new performances that grace the stages and all of the living company.

10. Bakersfield, California: The Padre Hotel

Among all of the other hotels on this list is The Padre Hotel. The Padre Hotel was a lively spot for nightlife, and it became an imperative business to Bakersfield in the 20's. It made it through the depression, as well as WWII.

As soon as the 50's hit, however, the hotel's good luck and fortune had run out. The first incident was a 7th floor fire that killed a family that had children, and the second incident after this one was an earthquake that killed people who got trapped in the hotel basement. There are a multitude of spirits who live in this hotel, and while some of them are friendly and kind, others are not.

Milton Miller's spirit is unhappy with the renovations that are made to the hotel in the present day, and it upset his spirit that the new owners of the hotel have partnered with the city. There are also many spirits in the building who resent the living because of the tragic ways that they passed away in the hotel. It is possible that there were ties to the Mafia, meaning that there could have been more tragic deaths and murder than are known to public knowledge. This would mean more malevolent spirits.

Once the hotel crumbled into dirt, it was rebuilt and now the hotel is open for guests to stay at yet again.

11. Los Angeles, California: Linda Vista Community Hospital

Established as Santa Fe Coastlines Hospital, the Linda Vista Community Hospital is home to many spirits who are vengeful about the way that they tragically died in this hospital. When the death toll in the city rose and the staffing decreased, there was a large influx of patients with nobody to treat them, which began resulting in death.

There were quite a few instances of reported hauntings, such as shadows that would quickly appear and disappear, as well as reports of screaming and humming throughout the hospital. People even reported being pushed and shoved when there was nobody around. There is also said to be a little girl who lurks in a surgical room, perhaps because she died there and is looking for vengeance.

12. Downey, California: Rancho Los Amigos Hospital

This chilling insane asylum has scary stories and hauntings galore. The hospital is used as a military training base, and when Marines were using it, they found a box of mummified body

parts. While the hospital is still open, the sanatorium has since been abandoned and the spirits of people who died there are roaming around the space.

13. San Diego, California: The Horton Grand Hotel

Like a lot of historical hotels, the Horton Grand Hotel is home to many spirits, including a murder victim. In room 309, there is a man who lives there named Roger Whitaker. Before the hotel was built, Roger Whitaker was murdered by the father of his fiancée. His body was dumped in a body of water near where the hotel is today.

There are also several unknown spirits that are living in the vicinity, such as a man who was caught cheating while gambling. There's also the spirit of Ida Bailey, a woman who owned a brothel where the hotel stands. She is a spirit that people feel welcomed when she is around. It is still open to the public, and it is still a haunted building. If a spirit comes to say hello, say hello back!

14. Santa Paula, California: The Glen Tavern Inn

This federal landmark is home to many different spirits, including a cowboy and a prostitute. The historic tavern stands in Santa Paula, California and during the golden age of Hollywood, it was a hotspot. The likes of Clark Gable and Harry Houdini visited. In Room 307, the spirit of Calvin the cowboy lives there with a prostitute.

During a recent renovation of the building, they found the cowboy hat of the cowboy that looked to have two bullet holes through it and old blood stains. There's also a common apparition of a child who would run around the hallways. There's also sounds of laughing, running and knocking on doors all throughout the tavern. You can still book a room to go and visit this haunted hotel.

15. Los Angeles, California: The Hollywood Sign

You might not have been expecting one of Hollywood's largest tourist attractions to be extremely haunted. However, there was a woman who was an extremely failed actress. She threw herself off the Hollywood sign, and now tourists have reported seeing a woman roaming around the sign. Some people even have seen the woman physically jumping off of the building.

16. San Diego, California: The Winchester Mystery House

In San Diego, there is an old Victorian house called the Winchester House that was built by Sara Winchester. The eerie estate is haunted by all different types of ghosts and spirits, making it a haunting place to visit. One of the ghosts that roams around is the wheelbarrow ghost who is seen carrying around a wheelbarrow full of ashes and coal.

There have been reports of people being touched during tours, and a maintenance worker even reported hearing sounds of footsteps while doing work in the mornings. Shadowy figures appear

in windows, corners, and down long corridors. The spirits here are said to be welcoming to the guests who come to visit the Winchester Mystery House on tours.

17. Temecula, California: The Palomar Inn

The Palomar Inn seems like a normal space at first, but once you see the statue, you'll never be the same. Visitors have reported seeing a bird totem perched above the entrance, and they've seen scary things happen with this statue. Sometimes it's seen opening its eyes, and other times people have even gotten pecked on the shoulder by this statue.

When you walk through the hotel, you can feel the presence of all the guests that never seemed to check out and now stay rent free. The Palomar Inn is still open to the public, and it is right in the heart of Southern California's wine country, so if you're looking for a beautiful area with a haunted history, you can still visit the inn.

18. West Hollywood, California: The Viper Room

This nightclub was a popular place for celebrities to visit during the 90's. One of the celebrities who came to the nightclub, and is said to be the reason for all of the eerie activity, is River Phoenix. River Phoenix was a beloved actor who came to the nightclub one night and died of a drug overdose. After his death, the nightclub had more and more issues with paranormal activity.

When Ghost Adventures visited The Viper Room, they heard sounds of disembodied voices, and felt cold presences all around them. They heard a spirit specifically mention River Phoenix, and they saw a hand of a ghost waving them along to follow. The Viper Room is still a hotspot for celebrities and many of them have died from all of the illegal activities that go on in the club.

Honorable Mentions

While these are not main attractions, there is a ghost story everywhere. There are places all along both parts of California that are haunted, and here are a few that are just plain scary to visit.

- **Griffith Park Zoo:** An abandoned zoo that has rusted displays that are all abandoned.
- **Hollywood Forever Cemetery:** Resting place of many of Hollywood's famous stars.