

THIS GHASTLY TOWER IS FILLED WITH GHOSTS

The Tower of London, visible throughout England's capital, always was about intimidation—first as a fortress, then as a prison where, over eight centuries, “guests” often met bloody ends.



It has no shortages of ghosts. Anne Boleyn spent her final days there. Two English princes in line for the throne vanished and were likely murdered within its walls. Queen Jane, just 17, ruled for only nine days before she was jailed there (pictured left)—and hanged.

The executioner has been silent since offing a Nazi spy in 1941, but the original Tower of Terror still exudes a spooky chill. What other secrets does it hold?

Visit and find out for yourself.

What causes the Northern Lights—and when might we see them again?

The aurora borealis is caused when the sun shoots electrically charged protons and electrons toward the Earth during a solar storm. As those elements meet the Earth's magnetic field, they're attracted to the poles, where they excite and mix with the gases in our atmosphere. When the particles mix with oxygen, green and red lights appear; they glow blue and purple when they join with nitrogen. It's the same process at work in neon signs.

Even if you don't get to see the kaleidoscopic illuminations this time, your chances will only improve over the next few years. There's an 11-year cycle that has historically predicted when the lights would be most visible. In the years closest to solar maximum (slated to happen in 2024), the shows are more frequent, energetic, and colorful (whereas they're more lethargic in the years near solar minimum). They're only going to get better and more frequent in the coming years, although they are also more active around the fall and spring equinoxes.

Baked Mummy Jalapeno Poppers

INGREDIENTS—5 oz. softened cream cheese, 3 oz. shredded Cheddar cheese, salt and freshly ground pepper to taste, six large jalapeno peppers, halved lengthwise and seeded, one 10 oz. can refrigerated crescent rolls, one egg (beaten), 1 tbsp. of milk, 1/4 cup all purpose flour and 24 candy eyeballs.

DIRECTIONS—Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Combine cream cheese and Cheddar cheese in a bowl and season filling with salt and pepper. Spoon filling into jalapeno halves.

Roll out crescent dough on to lightly floured surface and cut thin strips using a pizza cutter or small knife. Wrap stuffed jalapenos with dough strips, leaving a small space unwrapped where the eyeballs will go. Combine eggs and milk in a bowl. Add flour to another bowl and season. First dip peppers in the egg mixture then roll in the flour. Place on baking sheet. Bake in the preheated oven until dough is slightly browned, 15-20 minutes. Remove from baking sheet and stick candy eyeballs in the melted cheese.



— EXPLORE — THE 15 MOST HAUNTED PLACES IN NOLA

New Orleans is full of spooky spots just waiting to be explored in and around the French Quarter. Why not grab a go-cup and take a stroll? Here are 15 of the most haunted places in New Orleans.

Muriel's Jackson Square

After losing this house in a poker game, Pierre Antoine Lepardi Jourdan committed suicide upstairs in 1814. His ghost doesn't appear human, but as a glimmer of sparkly light. There's even a séance room that guests can visit that honors Jourdan's spirit.

Le Petit Theatre

Here you might bump into an actress from the 1930s named Caroline who accidentally tumbled over the railing to her death in the courtyard below, dressed in a white wedding gown for the play that night. You might also run into the captain who watches plays from his balcony seat, hoping for a glimpse of an actress he was sweet on.

Pere Antoine's Alley

Pere Antoine was a beloved priest who worked tirelessly for the poor. Visitors to the alley that runs alongside St. Louis Cathedral say you can see Pere Antoine's ghost in the early morning hours, clad in Capuchin black and sandals. He's also been seen inside the Cathedral.

Site of the Old French Opera House

This site is said to be haunted by Marguerite, the ghost of an aging Storyville madam. Spurned by her young lover, she committed suicide more than 100 years ago after leaving a note that read, "I will return, and kill those that have hurt me!"

Faulkner House Books

William Faulkner wrote his first novel while staying in this house in the 1920s. People swear they've seen his ghost sitting at the writing desk inside and say you can smell his pipe.

Ursuline Convent

In the 1700s, the Catholic Diocese sent young girls from the French convents to New Orleans to find husbands. They carried their belongings in coffin-shaped chests and became known as "the Casket Girls." Some say the caskets really held vampires from the old country.

Marie Laveau's House

Voodoo queen Marie Laveau lived on this site between 1839 and 1895. Her spirit is said to still conduct wild voodoo ceremonies here.

St. Louis Cathedral

St. Louis Cathedral is believed to be haunted by Pere Dagobert, pastor of St. Louis Cathedral in the mid-1700s. After worship, people have seen Dagobert's spirit walking with his head lowered through the aisles.

Old Absinthe House

This 200-year-old bar is haunted by famous customers who used to imbibe there. You might pull up a stool next to General Andrew Jackson, voodoo queen Marie Laveau, or the pirate Jean Lafitte. Doors open and close on their own while bottles, glasses, and chairs have been seen moving around the bar.

The Bourbon Orleans

The Bourbon Orleans was home to the famous Quadroon Balls. Today a lonely ghost can be seen dancing beneath a crystal chandelier. The hotel is also home to a ghost nun who slapped a man working on a stairwell for swearing.

Antoine's Restaurant

It's said that Antoine Alciator, the founder of this famous family-owned restaurant, returns to check up on his ancestors. Other spirits in 19th century clothing peer from mirrors in the washrooms.

Hermann-Grima House

Built in 1831 for prosperous Creoles, this house is said to be alive with pleasant, friendly Southern ghosts who scatter scented rose and lavender around the rooms and light the fireplaces to make it cozy.

Napoleon House

The second floor of this building was an infirmary during the Civil War. As night approaches, a soldier in gray can be seen on the balcony.

Hotel Monteleone

A stay at Hotel Monteleone comes with a dose of haunted history. Legend has it, the 14th floor (actually the 13th floor) of Hotel Monteleone is home to some paranormal activity. Guests have reported hearing the footsteps of Maurice Begere, the young ghost child who haunts the hotel.

Sultan's Palace

The Gardette-LePretre House, also known as the Sultan's Palace, was leased by a brother of the Turkish Sultan in the late 1790s. One stormy night, assassins brutally murdered everyone they found in the house. Ghostly forms have been seen there for many years.