

HAUNTED CASTLES



HAUNTED HOUND

WHAT? Unlucky black dog
WHERE? England
Leeds Castle, in Kent, is known as the Ladies' Castle as it's been home to so many queens. But anyone who stays there doesn't want to spot one of the castle's ghosts – a phantom black dog. Legend has it that seeing this canine ghost brings bad luck. But one guest claims she saw the dog padding through a stone wall. As she rose from a window seat to investigate, the seat and nearby wall crashed into the moat below. The ghost dog is said to have brought bad luck to the castle, but good luck to this relieved lady. What a good boy?!

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Is this creepy canine in Kent a good or bad doggy?

Do ghosts lurk in these historic halls?

Old castles have stories to tell about conquered kings, fierce battles and tragic lost loves. "Fortresses have seen everything – every human emotion that's possible to see," says Richard Jones, author of *Haunted Castles Of Britain And Ireland*. "Events from the past may leave something behind." But do spirits from these scary stories linger? Here are five haunting tales to help you decide...

THE PIPER PLAYS ON

WHAT? Lost bagpiper **WHERE?** Scotland
Edinburgh Castle is perched high above the Scottish capital, but not all its history is above the ground. When secret tunnels were found beneath the castle, several hundred years ago, a lone bagpiper went exploring in them, playing his music so people on the street could hear his progress. Suddenly the music stopped and the piper vanished. Apparently, his ghostly bagpipe music can still be heard today!

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Listen out for Edinburgh Castle's lost bagpiper!

GHOST HUNTER

WHAT? Heroic hunter **WHERE?** England
Windsor Castle was built by William The Conqueror in the 11th century. A few hundred years later, a hunter named Herne threw himself in front of a charging deer near the castle to save King Richard II. Herne died, but it's said his spirit gallops across the sky at Windsor whenever England is in trouble. Herne was last spotted in 1936, the night before King Edward VIII gave up his throne. Spooky!

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This royal residence has a ghost warning of trouble!

PHANTOM HELP

WHAT? Helpful kitchen maid
WHERE? Denmark
Home to royalty since the 13th century, Denmark's Dragsholm Castle was eventually turned into a hotel in 1937. And one kitchen maid, who served the castle, is said to still be helping the guests. Visitors sensing her spirit are asked to bow respectfully. "In return, she'll take care of you while you're a guest," says Dragsholm senior guide Niels C Ewald. That's what you call first-class service!

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You get scary room service at this Danish castle hotel!

CREEPY CARETAKER

WHAT? Unhappy caretaker
WHERE? Ireland
Ireland's magnificent Malahide Castle belonged to the Talbot family for about 800 years – except for a 10-year period after a politician evicted the family. The castle was later returned to them, then sold in 1975. It's rumoured that when the Talbots were first thrown out, Puck, the ghost of the castle's caretaker, first appeared. Ever since, Puck shows up when he's unhappy about something happening at Malahide. One terrified man claims he saw Puck angrily shaking his head just before an auction of the castle's furnishings. Perhaps Puck is just one very castle proud spirit?!

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Look after Malahide Castle or Puck won't be a happy spook!

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