



Paranormal Phenomenon: Ghosts, Spirits & Hauntings



Episode 17:

Hauntings & Haunted Places



Hauntings

- The term **haunt** comes from Old French *hanter*, meaning “to frequent, or visit regularly”. In other language roots, it denotes: home, bring home, settle, dwell. This is in line with why so many homes are said to be haunted.
- A **haunting** basically refers to **the repeated occurrence of inexplicable sensory and physical phenomena** said to be caused by ghosts, spirits, poltergeists, or inhuman entities.
- **People, places, and objects** can become haunted; though places such as homes are much more common.



Hauntings

Characteristic of hauntings:

- Most hauntings consist of **noises** such as footsteps, thumps, poundings, whispers, and howlings or animal-like sounds.
- They can also involve distinct **smells** (e.g., rotting flesh or similar foul odors, sulfur, perfume, cigar smoke, etc.)
- Another feature can include **temperature changes** (usually colder) in specific spots.
- **Towards people or animals**: many **ill effects** can occur such as being physically touched, scratched, pushed, or harmed in other ways; the afflicted can also experience **negative moods & emotions** (anger, fear, hatred, depression, and aggression). These tend to happen to people who are weaker or more vulnerable.

Hauntings

Causes of hauntings:

- Most hauntings involve those of **ghosts or spirits of the dead**, particularly from those who died tragically, violently, or in an untimely way.
- Other haunting entities can include those from **dark or evil spirits such as demons**, or other **mysterious/dark entities**.
- Hauntings can often manifest following the careless **actions of people** who have practiced **magick or occult activities** (such as trying to **conjure spirits using Ouija boards**, holding **rituals**, initiating bewitchments, curses, or casting spells, and the like).

Haunted Places



- There are countless places around the world which are deemed haunted.
- Some locations and countries appear to have more than their fair share of them; the **United Kingdom**, **United States**, and **Japan** figure among the top ones.

Haunted Places

- Though hauntings can take place almost anywhere, there are certain **types of places** that appear to have **higher occurrences** of the spectral phenomena. These include:
 - **Graveyards/cemeteries** (including over indigenous burial grounds), **castles & forts, hospitals, insane asylums, penitentiaries (prisons), hotels, ancestral homes & centuries-old houses, tunnels, caves, battlefields, around or near wells.**



TOP 5 Haunted Locations in the World

Choosing a “top 5” haunted locations remains highly subjective. We must also consider that certain locations have been haunted but no longer are while others seem to remain so no matter what. Regardless, here are those this author considers worthy of your attention:

1. CASTLE HOUSKA, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
2. ANCIENT RAM INN, ENGLAND
3. WHITBY ABBEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND
4. EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY, PENNSYLVANIA, USA
5. THE WARREN OCCULT MUSEUM, CONNECTICUT, USA