

Haunted Charleston: Our Pick For a Fun Halloween Destination

By: Susan B. Barnes

Friday, October 18th, 2013



41 people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

With its rich history, Charleston, SC is ripe for haunted happenings. That's what we were hoping for, anyway, when my girlfriends and I spent the weekend in the heart of the Low Country.

Our haunted jail tour with [Bulldog Tours](#) started at 10 p.m. After checking in at the office on bustling Market Street in the middle of the historic marketplace, we took our map and made our way to the jail. As we walked, the crowds started to thin. Soon, we were the only people on the streets. We joked that the walk to the jail may be as scary than the tour itself.

We were wrong.



credit: SusanBarnes

Cory with Bulldog Tours started our tour at the jail's front door with a brief history of the building, from its first jailer to the 10,000 people who met their demise in the building, and in public forums. Children as young as 11 years old spent time inside, in addition to murderers, pirates and more. The jail stands as it did when its doors closed in 1939.

Inside the jail, the only light was from Cory's flashlight, which he kept pointed to the ground. As we moved from room to room, he continued with the history and stories of recorded events that had happened between the walls.

While in the octagon, the first room on the tour, it got hot. Very hot. Sure, it was a warm Charleston night, but it was hot in that room. As Cory continued to talk, it got hotter. We could only wonder what made the room so hot. Perhaps the energy in the room? After we (finally) left the room for another, cooler, part of the jail, one of the girls on the tour nearly fainted. As her friends took her outside, Cory explained that her fainting wasn't an uncommon occurrence: women tend to have physical reactions whilst in the jail - fainting, or even reporting noticeable scratches on shoulders or backs. Creepy!

As we made our way through the jail, Cory's recounting of stories continued - the 'gentleman' who stabbed his wife in the back more than 40 times with an ice pick on their anniversary, and then asked the police what took them so long when they showed at his door. We found out about the jail's most infamous prisoners, Lavina Fisher, known as America's first female serial killer, and John, her husband/partner in crime. The couple were both jailed here in 1819 (proclaiming their innocence until the end) for the multiple murder of travellers visiting their inn on the outskirts of Charleston. Another spooky tale was of a man who seemingly enjoyed killing women, and is said to be responsible for the aforementioned scratches.

Outside the "doctor's office"/mortuary, Cory told us that whenever he tries to go into the room, he feels a slight electric jolt and backs out. No wonder... the jail "doctor" was a criminal himself, admittedly killing inmates.

Throughout the tour, I snapped photos in the dark, wondering what might show up in photos. I didn't expect too much, but you never know... When I looked at my photos on the way back to the hotel, I saw one with a white swoosh that was particularly unnerving. There's no explanation as to the transparent white wisp that's going through... other than that I caught something on camera.



credit: SusanBarnes

After such a fright, it was nice to return to our non-haunted hotel just outside of the historic district. The [SpringHill Suites](#) Charleston Downtown/Riverview is bright and cheery, overlooking a marine and marshlands. The hotel offers an evening complimentary shuttle to Charleston's historic district, making it easy to get to the incredible restaurants, bustling rooftop bars and, of course, haunted happenings that the city has to offer. And in the morning, an amazing breakfast spread is yours to choose from, easily chasing away any ghosts from the night before.

*Susan B. Barnes is a travel writer and photographer. A proud Army brat, she was born on a military base in Belgium and has been on the go ever since. While Susan has traveled across the United States and into Canada, she has also managed to visit such European cultural hot spots as Paris, London, Ireland, Athens and Rome, and has even explored the second largest reef in the world off the coast of Belize and the cloud forest of Venezuela, among many other exotic locales. Having learned to rock climb in Yosemite National Park, surf in La Jolla and swim with whale sharks in Mexico, she's always looking forward to her next adventure. Be sure to follow Susan on Twitter to keep up with her latest adventures @travlin\_girl.*

For more ghostly photos of our Haunted Charleston tour check out the slideshow below:



Back entrance of the Charleston Jail. SPOOKY!

Photo Credit: Susan B. Barnes

share the love: [social media icons]



Comment on this story:

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

Tell it from the heart, dish it, spill it, tell it like it is...

Post Your Comments

What all the girls are saying:

Posted By : [Mary @ Green Global Travel](#)  
October 18, 2013 at 2:42 PM  
I think you may have found the creepiest ghost tour ever! Great review and recommendation! Please forgive me for choosing not to partake in the fabulously terrifying tour!

Reply

Posted By : [The GypsyNesters](#)  
October 22, 2013 at 4:31 PM  
We love Charleston and we LOVE seeing old favorites from new angles. However, your "swoosh" photo scared the crap out of me - I can't imagine how you felt when it showed up on your camera! I also shoot constantly for the same reason when in spooky places and have yet to catch something like that. Congrats - I think! 😊 -Veronica

Reply

Posted By : [Dian Emery](#)  
October 22, 2013 at 4:43 PM  
yeah, totally spooky, right?! Just imagine visiting this place on a dark, rainy Hallowe'en night:)

Reply



Do a Discount Double Check® and get discounts up to 40% on auto insurance.

Travel Deals & Ideas



Discover Egypt With Intrepid Tours  
Source: Intrepid Tours

more deals

more ideas

Trip Talks

Beautiful Beach Getaway!  
Fun diving trip in Bonaire  
Galapagos Islands

talk about your trip

More Stories on Charleston

Charleston's Sweet Antebellum Style  
Charleston SC: Urban Chic with a Southern ...

read more