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**TRAVELMETRO**

**HAUNTED HOTELS** IF YOU'RE A FAN OF THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT, **JAMES ELLIS** LISTS THE BEST PLACES TO BED DOWN

# Spooktacular sleepovers

**S**o Hallowe'en is this Friday and there's a plethora of supposed spooky happenings taking place all over the country. Here's a round-up of the most haunted places in the British Isles – and they're all places you can stay or visit. Prepare yourself for one heck of a fright...

**Lunan Lodge**  
**Lunan, by Montrose, Angus, Scotland**  
**Background:** Built on top of a hill, Lunan Lodge saw tonnes of action thanks to Montrose being the epicentre of the action between Lowlanders and the Highlanders caused by the landing of Bonnie Prince Charlie.  
**Where's the action?** The B&B only has four rooms but is thought

**Huntington Castle**  
**Clonegal, County Carlow, Ireland**  
**Background:** Huntington is widely thought to be the most haunted place in Ireland. Built in 1625 by the First Lord Esmond, it's crammed with all sorts of paranormal paraphernalia including suits of armour, stuffed animals and family portraits.  
**Where's the action?** The ghost of one of Cromwell's soldiers supposedly turns up at the front door and you should look out for the portrait of Barbara St Leger that hangs inside. Her spirit roams the hotel followed by her maid, Honor Byrne. One of them jangles keys. The 'four-poster room' is thought to be haunted by a certain Bishop Leslie of Limerick.  
**Spook rating:** 5/5  
**Cost:** An eight-night self-drive tour of Huntington and other haunted Irish locations starts from €889 (£704) per person.  
**Book at:** [www.irishluxury.com/ghost](http://www.irishluxury.com/ghost)

**The Schooner Hotel**  
**Northumberland Street, Alnmouth, Alnwick, Northumberland**  
**Background:** A 17th-century coaching inn, The Schooner's history seems unremarkable at first glance but it's twice been voted the most haunted hotel in Britain.  
**Where's the action?** The Schooner is home to more spirits than you'll find behind its well stocked bar. There have been more than 3,000 alleged sightings in the hotel, including a limping RAF pilot and several small children.  
**Spook rating:** 5/5 **Cost:** From £35  
**Book at:** [www.theschoonerhotel.co.uk](http://www.theschoonerhotel.co.uk)

**Donnington Valley Hotel**  
**Old Oxford Road, Donnington, Newbury**  
**Background:** One of the only modern hotels in the country that is haunted, thanks to Civil War action that took place here. Key spook is a young blond lad Fred, thought to be the son of a cavalier commander.  
**Where's the action?** Fred has been known to appear in room 215, although 107 and 309 (immediately above and below) have also experienced happenings. Head housekeeper Helen has seen him staring from the Castle Suite window, while some guests report feelings of unease in room 404.  
**Spook rating:** 3/5  
**Cost:** £99 per night  
**Book at:** [www.donningtonvalley.co.uk](http://www.donningtonvalley.co.uk)

**Ruthin Castle**  
**Ruthin, Denbighshire, North Wales**  
**Background:** Ruthin has a drowning pool, a whipping pit and dungeons, all thought to have been put in place by Reginald de Grey, the Sheriff of Nottingham of Robin Hood fame. During the reign of Edward I, the wife of a powerful military man murdered her lover with an axe here, was sentenced to death and is now buried in the grounds.  
**Where's the action?** Mostly outside, so wrap up. The seemingly ubiquitous 'Grey Lady' (every haunted hotel must have one) is said to walk the battlements while spectral soldiers and ghostly gals have also been spotted.  
**Spook rating:** 4/5  
**Cost:** From £120 per night.  
**Book at:** [www.hauntingbreaks.co.uk](http://www.hauntingbreaks.co.uk)

■ For more on holidays in the British Isles, visit [www.enjoyengland.co.uk](http://www.enjoyengland.co.uk), [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com), [www.visitwales.co.uk](http://www.visitwales.co.uk), [www.discoverireland.com](http://www.discoverireland.com)

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