



Ghost Hunting in North Carolina

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If you are a believer in spirits, an amateur ghost hunter or just like the fun of exploring historic locations with eerie old wives tales, there are several haunted locales right here in NC that might be just the adventure you're looking for to make your Halloween extra spooky.

THE BILTMORE ESTATE, ASHEVILLE

Asheville's Biltmore Estate was the fabulously decadent mansion of George Vanderbilt and his family. Upon Mr. Vanderbilt's untimely death in 1914 his beloved wife Edith was heartbroken and servants began to think she was going a bit mad when they witnessed her sitting up nights in the mansion holding full conversations with her dearly departed George. Today ghostly remnants of the Vanderbilt's life inside their Asheville home are said to be seen and heard. Reports include hearing the voices of George and Edith talking and laughing next to the marble fireplace in their favorite sitting room.

Guided tours of the beautiful home are offered daily, visit www.Biltmore.com for more details.

USS NORTH CAROLINA, WILMINGTON

The Battleship USS North Carolina served in every major battle in the Pacific Theatre in World War II. Decommissioned in 1947, the ship was inactive for 15 years until the residents of NC brought her to Wilmington in 1962 to serve as a floating memorial for all North Carolinians who gave their lives in the war. Though the USS North Carolina only lost 10 men during her time in battle it is said that a few of the lost sailors remain aboard. Young men have been seen by tourist wearing WWII era sailor's uniforms. When visitors ask guides about these 'actors' in uniform they are informed that no period reenactments take place on the ship. All witnesses say that the ghostly sailors are friendly and one even seemed very concerned that a group of school children were aboard, what he thought to be, a battleship at war!

The Battleship is open for self-guided touring and exploration year round, visit www.battleshipnc.com for more details.

BLACKBEARD'S GHOST, OCRACOKE ISLAND

Everyone loves a good pirate tale and a favorite figure from our area is Blackbeard, the infamous pirate of the Carolina coast. Though Blackbeard sailed the sea in pursuit of loot, he called the quiet fishing town of Beaufort his home and the cove at Ocracoke Island was his favorite hideout. In true pirate fashion, Blackbeard died in a fierce battle against Lieutenant Robert Mayford in 1718. As a trophy of his hard won victory against the fearsome pirate, Mayford hung Blackbeard's head from the bowsprit of his ship and tossed his headless body overboard. Rumor has it that as a result of Blackbeard's un-ceremonial burial at sea his spirit is left wandering the shores of Ocracoke. Locals report seeing his ghostly figure emerge from the waves, sometimes with a lantern in his hand, to search the shores for his missing head. To this day any strange light seen coming from the Island's shore is called "Teach's Light" in reference to Blackbeard's favorite alias as Edward Teach.

Historic walking tours of Blackbeard's favorite hideout, complete with local legends and pirate stories, are offered in season through www.villagecraftsmen.com/ghostwalk.htm

FORT MACON, ATLANTIC BEACH

Fort Macon was strategic defense point for the confederate army during the civil war. It was seized by Union troops in 1862 in a relatively tame battle by Civil War standards. However visitors and caretakers of the Fort alike report seeing Confederate soldiers still faithfully keeping watch from the walls of what is now Fort Macon State Park. Doors have been found shut and locked that were previously open as if a soldier was carrying out his duties of locking down the Fort. After the war the Fort served as a federal prison for several years. Bumps, clanks and rattling chains have been heard coming from empty rooms that once held prisoners.

Fort Macon is now a historical site open to the public daily 9am-5:30pm. Historic reenactments often take place on the grounds and several rooms are furnished to reflect how they looked 150 years ago. More information about visiting Fort Macon can be found through www.ncparks.gov.