

The Crescent's Ghostly Guests

Ages: 10-12

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The Grand Old Lady of the Ozarks is calling. Come inside, unpack your bags, stay a night, but be aware you may be sharing a room with some unexpected guests. The 19th century Crescent Hotel and Spa in Eureka Springs, Arkansas is considered one of the most haunted hotels in the United States.

When the hotel opened in 1886, it was a spectacular resort featuring spacious rooms with high-end furniture, an elevator in the lobby, and outdoor activities such as swimming, tennis, and horseback riding. The resort drew wealthy visitors to experience the healing waters of the Ozarks. In order to build this grand hotel, the Eureka Springs Improvement Company hired stonemasons to help construct the limestone building. One in particular was Michael, an Irish stonemason, who while helping build the Crescent in 1885 fell to his death in the area, which is Room 218 at the Crescent Hotel today.

It is said if you head to the second floor and step inside Room 218, you'll find the ghost of Michael. Some guests staying in this room have reported seeing his hands emerge from the bathroom mirror and hearing the sound of his final scream. Glen Couvillion, supervisor for the Crescent Hotel ghost tours, explains, "Ghosts have to draw energy to manifest." They draw off other people's energy. So it really depends on the person. This may explain why each guest may have a different paranormal experience when visiting the hotel while others may not experience anything. Couvillion says, "Alternatively, some people are more attuned than others."

The haunting doesn't stop at Room 218. Several rooms at the Crescent Hotel are known to have paranormal activity. So double check. If the concierge hands you the keys to Room 419, be prepared to meet someone from the 1930's. During this time, the hotel was turned into a pseudo hospital by an imposter named Norman Baker. Many cancer patients came to the hospital looking for a cure to their sickness, but were unaware that



he was a phony and had neither a cure nor any medical training. Today, remnants of this era linger in the room. Guests can find a patient from the 1930's named Theodora. She has made it clear that she enjoys staying in her room. If guests don't like her room, their belongings are found outside in the hallway.

If you're kicked out of Theodora's room and ready for another spook, travel to the basement. Here, you'll find the morgue, once used by Norman Baker. Recently, Glen recounted a paranormal experience while leading a group of thirteen people on a ghost tour. On their way to the morgue, the group was passing through the laundry room. Glen wanted to move through quickly because the smell was unpleasant. But, one man on the tour spotted a curtain hanging and got curious. He said he wanted to look behind it. When the man pulled back the curtain, a "dark 3D shadow figure" came towards them and then disappeared through the wall. Glen said at first, it looked like a "cardboard cutout," but then it started to move in a "disjointed" manner. It appeared to be a male figure. Although it happened quickly, everyone on the tour saw the ghost except one woman who wasn't paying attention.

This is not the first time a full figure was spotted at the Crescent. When Jason Hawes and Grant Wilson, from the television show *Ghost Hunters*, investigated the morgue using a Thermal Camera, they photographed a full body apparition. They said the figure “looked like a guy wearing a military cap.”

Paranormal experiences not only involve sight, but they can also involve the physical touch. Glen explains while traveling through the morgue, visitors have felt hands grasp onto their ankles. When exiting, some felt hands push them on the back as if they were being ushered out.

Rest assured, Glen has been conducting ghost tours for quite some time and says, “There’s no evil spirits at the Crescent. Just mischievous ghosts and a grumpy ghost in the morgue. They’re not going to hurt anyone.”

So it’s up to you. Whether you decide to check in or check out, be prepared to share a hotel with ghostly guests.

