

Spooky and scary attractions around San Diego

For the Halloween season, haunted houses around the city offer frightening experiences to thrill seekers

BY ALEX ANTONE
OPINION EDITOR

Haunted houses have long been a part of the Halloween mystique. Whether actually haunted or merely inhabited with people who love to scare other people, going to a haunted house is always a great way to spend an evening with friends or on a date. If you're up for a good scare, there are a few exciting attractions to visit in the San Diego area this week, leading up to Halloween on Wednesday.



The Haunted Hotel in Downtown

COST: \$13.99
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Fri. & Sat.: 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Thurs., Sun. - Wed.: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

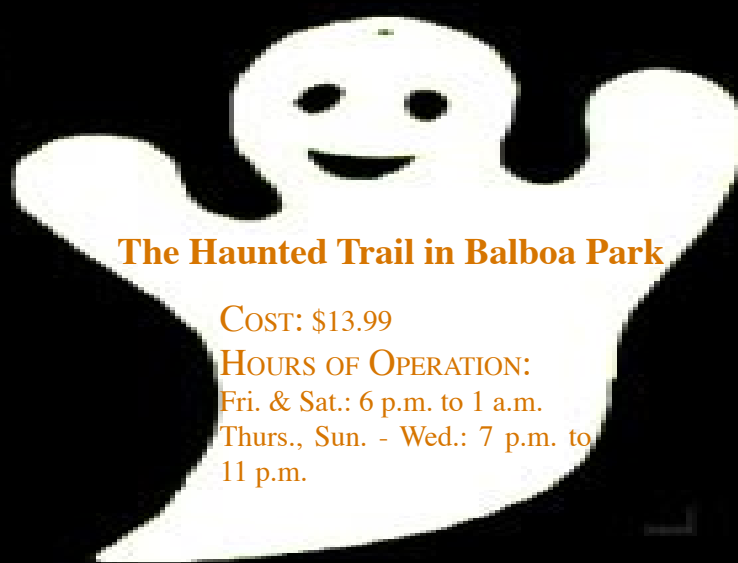
The Haunted Hotel

The Haunted Hotel takes you on a horrifying journey through a hotel based on many Hollywood horror movies including "Hostel" and "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre."

Between flashing strobe lights, moving floors, demented clowns and bloodthirsty butchers of death, the 15 minute tour is certainly action packed.

Guys, this is a great place to go on a date – just make sure she's holding on to you, and not the other way around. Also be prepared for a long wait.

While the line moves pretty quick, don't be surprised if you're waiting for well over an hour.



The Haunted Trail in Balboa Park

COST: \$13.99
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Fri. & Sat.: 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Thurs., Sun. - Wed.: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.



ALEX ANTONE/THE VISTA

Monster Manor haunted house in Mira Mesa displays bloody skeletons to terrify customers.

Haunted Trail

Like the Haunted Hotel, the line is a long one, but once again, the fun that entails is worth the wait.

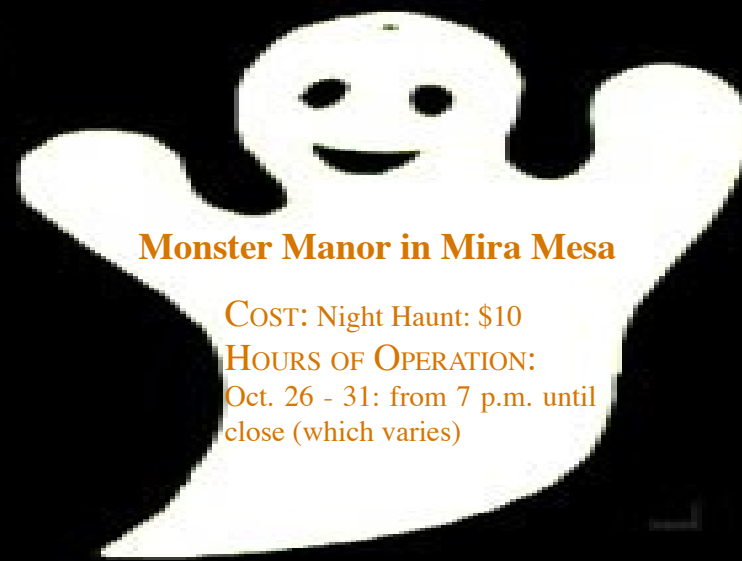
The Haunted Trail takes you on a terrifying stroll through Balboa Park. Once the night falls, one of San Diego's most famous attractions turns into a morbid scene of bloody murder.

The walk is over a mile long, so to be sure to bring a coat to stay warm or a warm body to snuggle up to.

From the hallowed open air to a walk through a real school bus filled with the dead (or undead) the Haunted Trail will leave you shaking in fear. While experiencing San Diego's only all-outdoor haunted attraction, you'll find yourself winding through graveyards among other

spooky locales, and you're sure to spot a ghost or two. The scares are so huge that they had to be held outside

As said on the website, "It's no walk in the park."



Monster Manor in Mira Mesa

COST: Night Haunt: \$10
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Oct. 26 - 31: from 7 p.m. until close (which varies)

Monster Manor

Monster Manor is an all-volunteer, charity, Halloween haunted attraction.

During the last seven years, the Manor has scared and delighted over 10,000 guests, all to the benefit of local community groups such as Boy Scout troop 648, Friends of Ericson Elementary School, Mira Mesa Scripps Youth Football, Mira Mesa Youth Baseball, Poway High Ag. Partners and Sandburg Elementary.

Run by high school students and the Mira Mesa Theatre Guild, this haunted house might not have the budget of other haunted houses, but it delivers real scares for a great cause.

Cannibalism, zombies, ghastly scientific experiments and constant screaming are just a few of



ALEX ANTONE/THE VISTA

People line up in the Gaslamp District to see the Haunted Hotel.

the things you're sure to encounter this year.

Volunteer cast director Trey Barkley said, "We had 14 confirmed wet pants last year, and with six already this year we're on track to break that record. We've made Marines fall to the floor and scared firefighters. I don't know what it says about us here at the Manor, but we just love scaring the hell out of people."

It's a little bit of a journey to get to the Monster Manor from USD, but it's definitely worth the distance and the \$10.

Whaley House

Ranked number one on the Travel Channel's "America's Most Haunted," the Whaley House is definitely the most supernaturally active house in San Diego.

Built on a graveyard, the house is home to many documented ghosts including "Yankee Jim," a man who was hanged in the gallows that used to stand near the house.

The specters of Mr. and Mrs. Whaley and their youngest daughter Lillian have also allegedly been seen along with other unidentified apparitions.

This ain't no Halloween gimmick, folks. The Whaley House attracts visitors all year long, but



ALEX ANTONE/THE VISTA

Even though Monster Manor has a low budget, the haunted house's frights match those of its more expensive competitors.



ALEX ANTONE/THE VISTA

While waiting in line at Monster Manor, hired magicians and frightening statues are available to entertain and help the time pass faster.

while you're in the spooky spirit, why not give it a try?

The house also offers private after hours tours for those interested.



Whaley House in Old Town

COST: Day: \$6 Evening: \$10
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Mon. & Wed.: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thurs. - Sun.: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.



ALEX ANTONE/THE VISTA

The creepy design of the Haunted Hotel sign foreshadows the terror that awaits customers in the hotel.

***At the time of publication, the aforementioned haunted houses were open for business. Due to the San Diego fires, the houses may not be open, or their hours of operation could change. Please call before visiting. ***