

OLD HAUNTS

Dine with someone special this Halloween: These spots are famous for their resident ghosts.



MURIEL'S JACKSON SQUARE New Orleans

Pierre Antoine Lepardi Jourdan died in 1814, but if you play your cards right, you could meet him today...or his ghost, at least. An incorrigible gambler, Pierre literally bet his house in a poker game. He lost the game along with his will to live: Rather than hand over the keys, he hanged himself on the second floor—and locals say his spirit stayed behind. Today, his French Quarter building houses the restaurant Muriel's (muriels.com), and every night servers set a table for him complete with bread and wine. But the ghost prefers to lurk in the shadows of the second-floor Seance Lounges near where Pierre took his last breath. If you snap a photo in the space, you might spot a bright orb in the background that many diners say is the man himself.

POOGAN'S PORCH Charleston, SC

A person waving hello from a front porch is a perfectly normal sight in the South—except when the waving person died more than 60 years ago. Zoe St. Amand, the resident ghost at the famed Charleston joint Poogan's Porch (poogansporch.com), is often visible on the second-story deck after dark. Zoe, a spinster schoolteacher, lived in the Victorian house with her sister Elizabeth. After Elizabeth's death in the mid-1940s, Zoe grew reclusive and mentally unstable, calling out for her sister every night. She died in a local hospital, but her ghost never left the house that is now Poogan's Porch. Visitors often feel someone brush up against their arm while eating, and some have even spotted Zoe walking into the ladies' room.



ONE IF BY LAND, TWO IF BY SEA New York City

One if by Land, Two if by Sea (oneifbyland.com) is considered one of New York's most romantic restaurants—and one of its most haunted, with more than 25 ghosts floating around (as tallied by professional ghost hunters). On the guest (or ghost) list in this nearly 200-year-old building: an early-1900s showgirl, a blacksmith, a black-clad woman who, according to legend, broke her neck falling down the stairs, and Vice President Aaron Burr's illegitimate daughter. Ghost hunters don't know why the spirits hang around, but there is no doubting their presence: The place is known for flickering lights, the occasional flying plate and footsteps running down the stairs but never up them—probably the woman in black.

MURIEL'S: CHRISTIAN HEEB/LAIF/REDUX; POOGAN'S PORCH: PAUL CHENEY