

The New York Times

October 6, 2016
UMV: 75,422,066

Fright Festivals and Other Chilling Reasons to Travel

The Getaway

By ELAINE GLUSAC

Trick or treat? How about a trip instead?

Halloween has long since expanded from the childhood holiday of begging for Milky Ways and Smarties to include the adult celebration of costumed role-playing. Now, driven by theme park pop-up events, festivals and destination-worthy frights, it's even become its own travel season.

The Haunted Attraction Association, a trade group, estimates there are more than 1,500 scary installations across the country this season. The following aim to attract fearless travelers.



Bloody Attractions

For the creepiest mise-en-scène, it's hard to get more realistic than the [Eastern State Penitentiary \(easternstate.org\)](http://easternstate.org) in Philadelphia. With crenelated walls, barrel-vaulted hallways and tall windows, the 19th-century prison was designed to enlighten its occupants, including Al Capone. Closed in 1971, it now offers tours, none as chilling as [Terror Behind the Walls](#) running through Nov. 5 (admission from \$19). During the nighttime tour, the compound is broken into six haunted areas, from prison cells to an infirmary filled with demons and convicts lurking for maximum chilling effects.