

FYI Travel: Trick-or-treat off your street this Halloween

by Tom_Roebuck

Now that Halloween, the trickiest of all holidays, has become oh-so predictable, venture to ghoulish places that spark a scare this season. Below is a sampling of resorts and destinations offering an array of fright and fun this Halloween:

SCARY STREET - Tours of historic Benefit Street in Providence (pictured) will search for the ghost of Edgar Allen Poe this Halloween season, rumored to still roam the area. CNS Photo. Providence, R.I: The hauntingly historic city of Providence kicks off another Halloween season this October with the Providence Ghost Walk Tours featuring renowned local "ghostologist" and historian Rory Raven. The tours begin on historic Benefit Street and wind through the streets of Providence offering stories of the tormented but prolific life of horror writer HP Lovecraft and a hunt for the ghost of Edgar Allen Poe, who is still said to roam the streets of Providence. The Rhode Island Film Festival will also join in the Halloween celebration as the host of the eighth annual Horror Film Festival, which will showcase 40 of the world's greatest independent fright films from Oct. 18-21.

FYI: For more information visit www.pwcvb.com or call 800-233-1636.

Mount Washington Resort - New Hampshire: Located on nearly 800,000 acres of White Mountain National Forest, Mount Washington Resort is the perfect place for families to experience the fall colors while enjoying the resort's extensive list of activities - including mountain biking, rock climbing and fly fishing. This Halloween, the resort will host the 11th Annual Hallow-Brew Weekend from Oct. 26-28. With costume rentals, cookie-decorating parties, live music, ghost tours and jack-o'-lantern displays, the entire resort will come alive with Halloween spirit. The stables will offer unique carriage rides where the driver will delight passengers with ghost stories. Fortunes will be told by tarot card readers in the Webster Room and tall tales will be shared around a roaring campfire. Younger guests will enjoy Saturday afternoon's costume party while adults can show off their duds at The Cave's costume party from 9 to midnight.

FYI: Rates start at \$209 per person, per night, including breakfast daily and the Hallow-Brew dinner Saturday night, featuring beer pairings from a local brewery. For more information, visit www.mountwashingtonresort.com or call 877-873-0626.

Great Wolf Lodge - North America: In October, Great Wolf Lodge, North America's leading chain of indoor waterpark resorts, will offer the yearly signature Howl-O-Ween program, with activities, decorations and haunted fun for families and fiends alike. Goblins, ghosts and ghouls will take over properties in Wisconsin Dells, Wis.; Sandusky, Ohio; Traverse City, Mich.; Kansas City, Kan.; Williamsburg, Va.; the Pocono Mountains, Pa.; Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada; and Mason, Ohio, but delight and not fright will be the order of the day. Guests are encouraged to bring their costumes and take part in interactive trick-or-treat trails, where colorful characters come to life throughout the resorts. Rooms decorated in haunted forest, candy land, wizard, dragon and pixie themes make for spooktacular fun. And, story time with classic tales of monsters and magic will cast a spell on both kids and parents.

FYI: Details of Howl-O-Ween celebrations vary at each property. For more information, visit www.greatwolf.com or call 800-905-WOLF.

Planters Inn - South Carolina: From Oct. 1 through Nov. 18, Charleston's historic Planters Inn will offer adventurous visitors the paranormal opportunity to go on a spectral safari in one of the country's most haunted cities. The two-night, three-day package includes a choice of two ghostly walking tours, The Haunted Jail Tour or The Darkside of Charleston Walking Tour, both provided by Bulldog Tours; an autographed copy and bedtime reading of "Ghosts of Charleston & Other Macabre Tales"; a picnic lunch from the Peninsula Grill to savor in Charleston's most scenic graveyard; a private twilight carriage ride to the marsh site where 49 captured pirates are rumored to haunt the grounds; and continental breakfast daily.

FYI: Rates are \$1,499 double occupancy, children staying in their parents' room are an additional \$125 each. For more information, visit www.plantersinn.com or call 800-845-7082.

The Pocono Mountains - Pennsylvania: An easy drive from many major Northeast cities, the Pocono Mountains will be decked with spectacular fall foliage colors to celebrate Halloween and October with a variety of activities including The Great Pocono Pumpkin Festival Oct. 1-31 in Lehighton; Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Oct. 5-26 at the Inn at Tannersville; Art Walk Oct. 13 in Jim Thorpe; 8th Annual Black Bear Film Festival Oct. 11-14 in Milford; Autumn Timber & Balloon Festival Oct. 12-14 at Shawnee Mountain; and the 33rd Annual Harvest Festival Oct. 6-7 at Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm in Stroudsburg. A number of participating hotels will offer seasonal packages, including: Murder Mystery Weekends at Brookview Manor Inn; Halloween Party Weekend at The Resort at Split Rock; and Halloween Weekends at Woodloch Pines Resort.

FYI: For more information, visit www.800poconos.com.

FYI Travel: Trick-or-treat off your street this Halloween by Tom_Roebuck