

The Shore Club in Turks & Caicos, the shore club



6 travel trends for fall

KIMBERLY WILSON
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Fall is full of amazing things to do and places to visit. Whether you're looking to whisk your partner away for romantic weekend or trying to plan a getaway with the family, there's something for everyone.

For Families:

The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee | Greensboro, GA

The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee is a peaceful lakeside resort with a strong sense of exploration and connection. It is ideal for families of all ages, with activities like lakeside water sports, indoor and outdoor pools, hiking, fishing and boating and the popular Ritz Kids program. The luxury resort has a slew of seasonal events this fall and winter season like haunted hayrides, costume parades, pumpkin carving, scavenger hunts, spooky story time, and complimentary

shores by the fire every evening. And locally-inspired spa treatments and access to five championship golf courses help round out the experience for mom and dad as well. ritzcarlton.com

For Couples:

Shore Club | Turks and Caicos

The Shore Club is approaching its one year anniversary after opening on Long Bay Beach in Providenciales last January as the first and only development on the island of beach. This special piece of heaven offers pure relaxation and refined luxury, despite being minutes from town. Whether you'd like to unwind by the water with a book from the resort's on-site library, indulge in a candlelit dinner at the fine dining restaurant Sui-Ren, explore for the day on a yacht excursion into the bay or get pampered together at the sumptuous Dune Spa, The Shore Club is the ideal setting for couples to relax together. theshoreclubtc.com

For Wellness Aficionados:

The Ritz-Carlton | Amelia Island in Florida

This fall, Amelia Island will have its first ever Wellness Festival, an all-encompassing event with classes, panels and programming led by acclaimed names in yoga, meditation, and fitness. Heidi Powell, celebrity trainer and transformation specialist will headline the series, which will be emceed by yogi-musician MC YOGI. The event will feature instructed classes by yogi-influencer and NJ-resident Laura Kaspernik (@laurykaspernik), dance-inspired cardio studio, DanceBody, and MENDL, New York City's fast-growing meditation center. In addition to the selection of sessions, the Amelia Island Wellness Festival will include a welcome reception and communal dinner on Saturday, including a panel discussion with the wellness masters. The festival will be held Nov.

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Colorful skulls abound at Day of the Dead celebrations. COURTESY, GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Four destinations for traveling Halloween lovers

KIMBERLY WILSON
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We spoke with Elena Borrero, luxury travel consultant at SmartFlyer, who shared her recommendations for destinations to travel to for Halloween.

Mexico

The Day of the Dead events in Mexico are hugely popular and a fun way to celebrate Halloween.

The top spots to experience it are in Oaxaca, Mexico City, Merida and Riviera Maya.

California

California features the Annual Napa Coffin Races on October 28, where teams come with hand built and decorated coffins and judges pick the fastest and best looking. The day also includes zombie races and pumpkin decorating, among other seasonal activities.

South Carolina

In Charleston, South Carolina, Boone Hall Plantation has Fright Nights from September 29 - October 31, where four

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Haunted houses tell us plenty about ourselves

BETH J. HARPAZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Haunted houses tell us a lot of stories. But those stories are not just about ghosts.

Colin Dickey, the author of “Ghostland: An American History in Haunted Places,” went around the country visiting haunted houses to see if they “could tell us something about who we are as a country, or as a people, or how we understand the past.”

In an interview for the AP Travel podcast “Get Outta Here,” Dickey said ghost stories help us “talk about things in the past we might not otherwise have confronted.” It might be a place with a violent or brutal history like a prison or asylum, or a just an old building with creaky stairs and dark hallways where someone’s life took a tragic turn due to the death of a child or an unrequited love.

Places with a disturbing past

Examples of places with a disturbing past that bill themselves as haunted attractions include the LaLaurie Mansion in New Orleans, where slaves were treated with extraordinary brutality, or Philadelphia’s Eastern State Penitentiary, an abandoned prison. Dickey describes Eastern State as “a broken-down castle with stone crenellated towers” where “it’s easy to imagine” a history of “atrocities and violence.”

“Ghost stories in many ways are a way for us to approach our own history,” Dickey said, “and our own history is complicated.”

Winchester Mystery House: Myth of the lonely woman

Dickey also noticed that haunted stories sometimes revolve around women who never married or who were widowed young. Sometimes these women were viewed as having been frozen in time, living out their lives in a decaying house. But he says the facts often tell a different story, suggesting that these individuals may have been viewed as odd or even spooky because their lives as single women didn’t fit cultural norms for marriage and childrearing.

The Winchester Mystery House, a 161-room mansion in San Jose, California, which Dickey visited often growing up, is a good example. Sarah Winchester’s father-in-law developed the Winchester rifle, so she and her husband were wealthy heirs. Their only child died in infancy, and Sarah’s husband died soon after. Dickey says stories often paint her as having lived out her life in perpetual grief, haunted by the ghosts of everyone who’d ever been killed by a Winchester rifle, and “building this labyrinth to keep them at bay,” Dickey said.

But Dickey says the truth differs from the legend. “She got on with her life as a widow, but all things considered, a relatively happy widow,” he said. The



Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, took in its first inmate in 1829, closed in 1971 and reopened as a museum in 1994. The site is mentioned in the book “Ghostland: An American History in Haunted Places.” FILE/AP PHOTOS

ghost stories came about, he speculates, because “a woman living alone happily just doesn’t fit in our culture.”

Merchant’s House Museum: Using ghost stories to engage

Dickey also points out that the haunted house industry has become important as a way to raise money to preserve old buildings. Many historic sites have embraced haunted tours as a fun way to engage visitors who will gladly pay for a ghost tour, but who might not sign up to learn about 19th-century customs.

Take for example the Merchant’s House Museum on East Fourth Street in Manhattan. The 1830s row house was home to the family of Seabury Tredwell. Five of the eight Tredwell children never married. Seven people died in the house, the last of them Gertrude Tredwell in the 1930s. Regular tours of the Merchant’s House carefully stick to the facts, telling visitors only what is known from Census records and other research about who lived in the house and when, or what can be gleaned from physical evidence, like dents left in the floor by furniture routinely laden with heavy plates of food.

But the Merchant’s House also advertises haunted tours. The theme is especially popular during the Halloween season. Through Oct. 30, the site hosts an exhibition called “Truly We Live in a Dying World: A 19th Century Home in Mourning” with displays of mourning clothes, a



The Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, Calif., is featured in “Ghostland: An American History in Haunted Places.”

coffin covered with lilies and a mannequin of Seabury Tredwell laid out on his deathbed. You can even take a selfie in a coffin.

For decades, Merchant’s House staff members were warned against repeating ghost stories, according to spokeswoman Emily Hill-Wright. But in the last 10 or 15 years, the museum has embraced the opportunity to use ghost stories as “a

wonderful way to bring in new audiences.”

She said the museum has no qualms about using “the interest in ghosts and morbid things in order to educate the public. It’s not just that we’re raising money because of ghosts and having fun with that. There is an educational component. We do feel we’re fulfilling our mission.”

Trends

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venember 10-12 and held exclusively at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island; tickets are \$599 per person for the full itinerary of events. The hotel is offering a special Wellness Festival Room Package for \$299 per evening, requiring a two night minimum stay from November 9-12. ameliaislandwellnessfestival.com.

For Pet Lovers:

Craddock Terry Hotel | Lynchburg, VA
Nestled in Downtown Lynchburg, Craddock Terry Hotel is a 44-room, boutique-style property derived from an old shoe factory, the Craddock Terry Shoe Company. The “official greeter” of Craddock Terry Hotel, Buster Brown is a Wirehaired Fox Terrier who loves to welcome guests and furry friends as they enter the property. Buster even acts as a tour guide - guests may take him on walks or runs on nearby trails or explore downtown Lynchburg during their visit. Today the decor throughout the hotel is accented with historical artifacts mixed with modern artwork, and is the perfect place for pet lovers to travel with their furry child. Guests will receive daily breakfast in-room served in a vintage shoe-shine box, delivered by Buster himself, complimentary shoe shine service in the lobby and a map of closest hikes and trails to explore with Buster. Man’s best friend can enjoy special treats, food/water bowls and a large outdoor space to run - Craddock Terry doesn’t disappoint guests or fur-fluencers. craddockterryhotel.com

For Girlfriends/Guy Friends:

Gurney’s Newport Resort & Marina | Rhode Island
Surrounded by water with frontage on both the Narragansett Bay and Newport Harbor and a few minutes’ walk to Downtown Newport, Gurney’s Newport offers a variety of lifestyle programming year-round and welcomes groups of guys and girls ready to explore the destination together. In addition to a completely new design, the property boasts four new restaurant outlets including Italian hotspot, Scarpetta; a three-tiered deck with eleven fire pits offering hand-crafted cocktails at Regent Lounge; an Italian-style coffee bar with a grab-and-go menu a Corso; and the hottest seats in town come courtesy of The Pineapple Club, bedecked in day beds and a splash-worthy restaurant and bar. For a fun take on its Goat Island location, Gurney’s welcomed two very adorable pigmy goats to graze on property as unofficial hotel mascots. Cornelius and William easily acclimated to their new home, which happens to be a mini replica of Newport’s famed Marble House mansion.



Horseback riding on the beach at The Ritz-Carlton on Amelia Island in Florida. THE RITZ-CARLTON

For easy access to the real Marble House, Gurney’s provides a complimentary water shuttle service straight to Bowen’s Warf, as well as house cars to jet guests to their in-town destination. gurneysresorts.com

For the Fashionista:

Refinery Hotel | New York, NY
Located at a fashionable address in the center of Manhattan, just steps to Bryant Park and and the best shopping, the Refinery brings the city to your doorstep. Originally built as a high-end millinery factory and tea salon in 1912, the Refinery draws on the building’s past combining raw elegance in the guest rooms with refined public spaces. This 197-room hotel includes fashion-forward loft-like guest rooms featuring custom furniture, original artwork and industrial-chic design.
The stunning Refinery Rooftop is open year-round and offers the best vantage point for undisturbed views of the Empire State Building. Offering brunch year-round on the Refinery Rooftop, look forward to indulging in fresh mozzarella doughnuts with tomato jam and roasted parm; Maine lobster tater tots with cheddar sauce, basil and horseradish; and a malted waffle with almond crumble. refineryhotelnewyork.com

Halloween

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major attractions- a Cemetery of Lost Souls, Crypt, Wicked Woods Haunted Hayride, and the 4D Gateway are designed to scare even the bravest guest. Stay at The Restoration Hotel, which features a standout culture library, rooftop restaurant and bar called The Watch, and roster of notable partners such as Beekman 1802, Assouline books, Toby’s Estate Coffee and Martone bicycles.

Ireland

The Sheen Falls Lodge in Kenmare, Ireland is the perfect anchor hotel for the city’s annual “Halloween Howl” event from October 27 - November 4. Events include a spooky pirate cruise on Kenmare Bay, ghost bus tour with storytelling, a haunted forest, and an eerie night kayaking trip. On Halloween there’s a parade, haunted house and cemetery and horror movie. Travelers can engage as much - or as little - as want in the town’s festivities and then retreat back to the sanctuary of Sheen Falls.

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