Last year, Fango posted a list of the top 20 haunts across the U.S. With the most wonderful time of the year quickly approaching, here's a look at those various spooky locales to check out!

At FANGORIA we know Horror, and there is nowhere you can find live movie and video-game style FX-laden horror than at the best hometown haunted houses in America! They take you into an experience that you won’t soon forget. We have searched for some of the scariest, most over-the-top haunted houses (not including theme parks) and now we present our list of the Top 20 Hometown Haunted Houses in America! So once you’ve watched your favorite horror movies and survived a zombie attack in LEFT 4 DEAD 2, go out into the October night to one of these terrifying events…and don’t say we didn’t warn you!

1) Netherworld – Norcross, GA (Atlanta area)

One of the most creative and ingenious Haunted houses ever created; movie quality special effects, elaborate sets, a powerful acting troupe and remarkably unique scares made Netherworld our #1 Haunted House in 2009!

2) House of Shock - New Orleans, LA
The House of Shock is one of the most infamous Haunted Attractions in the world! A full horror pre-show features pyrotechnics, explosions and even a freak show.

3) 13th Gate – Baton Rouge, LA
Louisiana takes 2 of our top 3 spots with 13th Gate coming in at #3 on our list.
Journey through 13 intensely detailed areas where your worst nightmares come true and anything can happen.

4) The Darkness - St Louis, MO
With a total renovation for 2009 you’ll see props and sets beyond your imagination at this fright complex in the city under the arch.

5) Dead Acres – Pataskala, OH (Columbus area)
An all out extreme haunted house on the outskirts of Columbus, OH; Dead Acres is a full on sensory assault performed every night right before your very eyes!

6) The Edge of Hell - Kansas City, MO
This granddaddy of haunted houses is 35 years old this year and features a 24 foot live Python and a four story Slide!

7) Cutting Edge - Fort Worth, Texas
This Texas behemoth was just named the world’s largest walk through haunted house by the Guinness Book of World Records...what else is there to say.

8) Haunted Schoolhouse & Haunted Laboratory – Akron, OH
These huge events span 7 floors of terror in two large buildings and the folks behind them have been scaring the pants off of patrons since Michael, Freddy and Jason were in diapers.

9) Headless Horseman Hayrides and Haunted Houses – Ulster Park, NY
An awesome excuse to visit the scenic Hudson Valley area of upstate New York; with plenty of big time scares for those brave enough to handle it plus lots of fun stuff for the little monsters to do as well.

10) The Bates Motel - Glen Mills, PA (Philadelphia area)
With a 20 minute long haunted wagon ride (packed with monsters, special effects and spine-tingling stunts), a corn maze and a world class haunted attraction, this event takes Halloween to a whole new level of Horror!

11) Erebus - Pontiac MI
A four story monstrosity of a haunted house where you will be eaten and buried alive!

12) Thrillvania – Terrell, TX
Highlighted by the classic and long standing Haunted Verdun Manor, Thrillvania features eight different attractions on over 50 acres! If werewolves are your thing…this is the place!

13) House of Torment - Austin TX

Great production value, over the top designs, and intense in your face monsters land House of Torment in the unlucky #13 spot on our list!

14) Scarehouse - Etna, PA (Pittsburgh area)

It takes a full year of design and construction for the ScareHouse team to turn their nightmares into your reality.

Pittsburgh…it’s not just for Zombies anymore!

15) Dent School House – Cincinnati OH

Steeped in history and one of the scariest buildings you’ll have the displeasure to step foot in, some say it’s actually haunted by the buildings eerie past.

16) Shocktoberfest – Reading, PA

Complete with multiple haunted houses, a 3-D asylum, a hayride and a haunted midway…this multi-attraction event is not to be missed.

17) Raven’s Grin Inn - Mount Carroll, Illinois

Perhaps the most bizarre event on our list…guest are given personal tours through this real life fun house of the macabre! Part haunted house, part carnival attraction, part folk art project gone terribly awry.

18) Haunted Overload - Lee, NH

Originally started as a charity home haunt, Haunted Overload has taken the leap to professional haunt in big way.

The authentic farm location provides the perfect backdrop for hundreds of lighted pumpkins and movie quality sets.

19) Dark Raven Manor - Hamburg, NY

Featuring many custom created effects and specializing in originality; you’ll see things at Dark Raven Manor you won’t see anywhere else.

20) Phobia – Houston, TX

With nine free standing attractions in two locations we suggest you wear your running shoes.

Comments

#7 CREEPYWORLD IS #1 —

CREEPYWORLD IS THE BEST HAUNTED HOUSE IN ST LOUIS MISSOURI IT IS #1 HAUNTED HOUSE. THE SETS AND PROPS ARE ALL SOME BLOXIE REALY COOL THIS YEAR BLOXIE SETS AND PROPS ARE ALL SOME THEY HAVE A GUN THAT GOES OFF WHEN YOU WALK BY IT IT IS REALY SCAREY WHY WALK BY THE GUN.
#6 spooky house boo

there is a spooky house here in fortuna at the cemetery up by campton heights with the ghosts and spirits boo

Quote

#5 spooky monstera

I think that old houses are really haunted here in fortuna where all of the people are moving out of fortuna and moving somewhere else boo.

Quote

#4 Haunted Overload

Just a quick note to second Fangoria's recommendation for these guys. It's really great, especially now that they've moved it into the woods. They go for dark/creepy/really Halloween-y feel rather than the blood'n guts stuff. Much more effective and cool in my opinion. Being in the woods in the dark and never really being able to tell just what that shape is up ahead until...

Quote

#3 RE: FANGORIA's Top 20 Hometown Haunts

We had been hearing how good Dead Acres was so we drove from New York to see it, and it was worth every penny and every second. Still can't believe how great it was. It's like a multi million dollar haunted house run by Charles Manson, and produced by Rob Zombie.

Go SEE IT. you won't be sorry

Quote

#2 Vortex/NYC

Check out these guys - http://www.nychalloweenhauntedhouse.com/. I've been to dozens of haunted houses around the northeast and FL and these guys are doing something really twisted and different. Almost nothing for special effects - all creepy adult horror stuff. They touch you. A LOT. Definitely recommended (and no I don't work for them - just went on Sat night and loved it).

Quote

#1 RE: FANGORIA's Top 20 Hometown Haunts

I have been to Dead Acres aka the Haunted Hoochie and let me tell you if those ones that beat it our are better than the hooch? man i wanna go, because that place is off the chain good. and I have been to a lot of haunted halloween houses

Quote