

FRIDAY NIGHT HAUNTED GHOST TOURS

ON THE INDEPENDENCE SQUARE

Experience a “ghostly” tour of the 1859 Jail, Marshal’s Home and Museum plus a covered wagon historical live narrated tour sharing ghost stories and yarns of haunted places on the historic Independence Square.

- Tours are every Friday night in October – October 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th
- Tours are approximately 50 minutes in duration.
- Tour Times – 7pm, 8pm, and 9pm, 15 maximum in each tour with reservations.
- \$18 for adults, \$12 children ages 7-11, not recommended for children under 7.

Here are some facts about the 1859 Jail -

This historic attraction housed many prisoners before, during and after the Civil War in the cramped quarters of gloomy two foot thick walls of native limestone. Included in the inmates were famous outlaws such as members of the Jesse James Gang, and Civil War guerillas such as William Clark Quantrill of Quantrill’s Raiders. The city of Independence was a Confederate Southern stronghold. When martial law was imposed, many innocent women and children were imprisoned if they refused to swear a loyalty oath to the Union. A number of prisoners died of natural deaths or were executed by hanging. According to a local Kansas City psychic, this historic attraction has “hundreds” of ghosts, including men, women, children and even cats. The psychic, who belongs to the Kansas City Ghost Hunters Association, says there are some strong personalities that dominant which she can identify.

One of the most important ghosts is an older woman who keeps a strong hand over the more mischievous ghosts and protects the modern day staff at the jail from their pranks. There are also ghosts of women crying and wailing and saying the food is bad, which makes them sick. Upstairs in the marshal’s home, there is a ghost with a handlebar mustache who is very comfortable and inhabits one of the bedrooms. There is often a smell of pipe tobacco in the bedroom, although smoking has not been allowed for years. This ghost was probably a U.S. Marshal, who lived in the home (adjacent to the jail cells) or perhaps a judge. In the children’s room upstairs, there are little indentations in the bed, which, when straightened out, always return. The psychic says that these are the children ghosts who lived and play up in their old bedroom, and that they are happy to be there.

Visitors have reported seeing a black and white cat, even though the jail does not have any cats, and interestingly enough, also doesn’t have any mice. Strange occurrences, such as lights and radios going on and off at unexplained intervals, a large painting mysteriously falling off the wall and professional photographers having “orbs” appear in their photos also indicate the presence of active spirits. One year at Christmastime, a decorated tree in the cell of outlaw Frank James was violently thrown down to the floor when no one was in the cell and the staff decided that Frank didn’t appreciate the holiday decorations so they have not returned the tree to his room.

Reservations required – Please call (816) 461-0065.