

GHOSTHUNTING NORTH CAROLINA

KALA AMBROSE



AMERICA'S
HAUNTED ROAD TRIP

GHOSTHUNTING NORTH CAROLINA

KALA AMBROSE



CLERISY PRESS



Ghosthunting North Carolina

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To Robley, Lottie, and Sharon, who showed me the way...

“It is the secret of the world that all things subsist and do not die, but retire a little from sight and afterwards return again. Nothing is dead. People feign themselves dead, and endure mock funerals and mournful obituaries, and there they stand, looking out the window, sound and well in some new disguise.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR *Ghosthunting North Carolina*

“The charming and delightful Kala Ambrose has invited me on her radio program *Explore Your Spirit with Kala* many times, and I have always thoroughly enjoyed myself. In the pages of her fascinating new book, *Ghosthunting North Carolina*, she has invited all of us to join her on a haunted road trip through North Carolina, and once again, I found myself completely enjoying the journey. Kala received the “gift” of paranormal talents, including the ability to see and sense spirits, when she was only a child. She generously shares this gift with her readers as she explores a remarkable number of haunted houses and places in North Carolina. I very much appreciated Kala’s sharing the history of some of these very famous locations, as well as her psychic impressions of certain ethereal residents who have never left their beloved homes. Kala allows us to perceive her insights into a wide range of ghostly entities from the frightening to the benign, from the violent to the gentle. I highly recommend this book.”—**Brad Steiger**, author of more than 170 books, including *Real Ghosts*, *Restless Spirits*, and *Haunted Places*

“Not everyone can write a ghost story. Luckily for us, Kala Ambrose can. In *Ghosthunting North Carolina*, Kala takes us on a fabulous armchair road trip featuring pirates, flaming ghost ships, haunted hotels, and spirits of every persuasion, including the friendly, the eerie, and the downright scary. Kala also provides clear, concise, user-friendly instructions on how to transform a virtual trip into an actual one. I, for one, was ready to start driving to and through North Carolina as soon as I finished *Ghosthunting North Carolina*. I suspect you will be, too.”—**Judika Illes**, author of *The Encyclopedia of Spirits*, *The Encyclopedia of 5000 Spells*, and *The Weiser Field Guide to Witches*

“A road trip with a difference! Kala Ambrose explores the spectacular beauty of the Tar Heel State while using her psychic skills to seek beneath the surface for the phantom soldiers, pink ladies, and lost spirits who still inhabit the houses or wander the roads of this beautiful landscape. A skillful mix of lore and legend that will linger on in the reader’s mind long after the book has been closed.”—**Dr. Bob Curran**, author of *Dark Fairies*, *Vampires: A Field Guide to the Creatures that Stalk the Night*, *Lost Lands*, *Forgotten Realms*, and more than 24 additional books on paranormal lore

“If you’re into all things spooky, spectral, and spine-tingling, then Kala Ambrose’s *Ghosthunting North Carolina* is the book for you! Best devoured on the proverbial dark and stormy night!”—**Nick Redfern**, author of *The Real Men in Black*

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Welcome to America's Haunted Road Trip

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?

If you are like 52% of Americans (according to a recent Harris Poll), you *do* believe that ghosts walk among us. Perhaps you have heard your name called in a dark and empty house. It could be that you have awoken to the sound of footsteps outside your bedroom door, only to find no one there. It is possible that you saw your grandmother sitting in her favorite rocking chair, the same grandmother who had passed away several years before. Maybe you took a photo of a crumbling, deserted farmhouse and discovered strange mists and orbs in the photo, anomalies that were not visible to your naked eye.

If you have experienced similar paranormal events, then you know that ghosts exist. Even if you have not yet experienced these things, you are curious about the paranormal world, the spirit realm. If you weren't, you would not now be reading this preface to the latest book in the *America's Haunted Road Trip* series from Clerisy Press.

Over the last several years, I have investigated haunted locations across the country, and with each new site, I found myself becoming more fascinated with ghosts. What are they? How do they manifest themselves? Why are they here? These are just a few of the questions I have been asking. No doubt you have been asking the same questions.

The books in the *America's Haunted Road Trip* series can help you find the answers to your questions about ghosts. We've gathered some of America's top ghost writers (pun intended) and researchers and asked them to write about their states' favorite haunts. Each location they write about is open to the public so that you can visit it for yourself and try out your ghosthunting skills. In addition to telling you about their often hair-raising adventures, the writers have included maps and travel directions so that you can take your own haunted road trip.

People may think that North Carolina is nothing more than beautiful green mountains and miles of sandy beaches, but Kala Ambrose's *Ghosthunting North Carolina* proves that the mountains are home to shadowy entities that are seen only for an instant before disappearing among the trees, and spirits that leave no footprints in the sands. The book is a spine-tingling trip through the state's various regions with stops at inns, plantations, churches, lighthouses, historic sites, and cemeteries, and even a battleship—all of them haunted. Ride shotgun with Kala as she seeks out Civil War–soldier ghosts at Fort Fisher and the spirits of sailors who served aboard the USS *North Carolina*. Travel with her to Asheville's Grove Park Inn, where the Pink Lady still roams the halls, or sit for a spell in the gardens of the Biltmore mansion and watch for the ghostly—and incredibly rich—members of the Vanderbilt family to stroll by. And can that swaggering spirit stalking the moonlit beaches near Beaufort really be the ghost of the infamous pirate Blackbeard? Hang on tight; *Ghosthunting North Carolina* is a scary ride.

But once you've finished reading this book, don't unbuckle your seat belt. There are still 49 states left for your haunted road trip! See you on the road!

John Kachuba

Introduction

WELCOME TO *Ghosthunting North Carolina!*

As your travel guide to the haunted state of North Carolina, it seems appropriate to let you know who is traveling with you on this journey. For as long as I can remember, I've seen ghosts. I was also born psychic, as well as an empath. As a child with these abilities, I didn't quite understand what was happening to me. In large crowds or during the holidays, I would feel the intensity of emotions around me until I would experience severe stomachaches as I absorbed the emotional energy of the people around me.

Later, as I understood what I was experiencing, I learned how not to absorb as much of the energy. I also was able to define the energy that I was feeling, whether it was coming from a person who was upset, or if I was in an area that was holding a significant amount of negative energetic residue. I also learned how to detect if there was a noncorporeal entity or spirit around me.

During this time, I also discovered that I had the psychic ability of psychometry, the ability to read the energy imprint that resonates from an object while holding it in your hand or touching it directly. I found that when I put an object in my hand, I could feel its connection to the person who owned it, and sometimes I would see an image of what they had been doing when wearing or using the object.

The first time I became aware of this ability, I was at my grandmother's house and she had let me play with her jewelry. As I went through the jewelry box, I tried on her bracelets, watches, and rings. As I slipped on one of her watches, I had a vivid image of my grandmother with my grandfather when they were much younger. It was like seeing a film clip of them.

I ran to my grandmother and said, "I know what you used to do with Grandpa," and described the scene to her. She asked me who had told me this, and I explained that when I put her watch on my wrist, I saw it. That evening, when my grandfather came home from work, I heard my grandmother ask him if he had told me the story that I had related to her.

To be discreet here, it was a rather romantic story and not one that my grandmother would have been open to sharing in polite company. Hearing the conversation in the other room growing more heated and animated between my grandparents, I ran into the room with the watch and climbed into my grandfather's arms. "Here, Grandpa," I said, "When I put the watch on my arm, it tells me a story." I held the watch on my arm again and began to tell him what I could see. He held his arm around me and gave me a hug and said that I should take the watch and go put it back in the jewelry box on my grandmother's dressing table. I did as I was told, and as I walked back toward the kitchen where my grandparents were still discussing the event, I heard my grandfather say that I was like him and like his mother, my great-grandmother, who was French and read tea leaves for a living. He said to my grandmother, "She has the gift."

My grandmother never allowed me to play with her jewelry again. Looking back at this now, I have to chuckle. In my innocence at the time, I didn't fully understand the romantic encounter that I saw back then. Now, in my adulthood, I can sympathize with my grandmother and see why having her privacy invaded with that particular memory would be overwhelming.

I can also understand, after feeling the intensity and passion of that event, why its memory was imprinted so strongly on the watch. Thus began my understanding of psychometry and my journey of feeling energy in objects.

My first memory of a psychic prediction in childhood was about my little dog. It was bedtime for me, and I became very agitated. I explained to my parents that someone was going to take our dog that night and we needed to bring him inside. My parents tried to calm me down and put me to bed. I slept fitfully all night, sensing a stranger who was going to take our dog. The next morning, as I awoke, I ran outside to find our dog was gone and the gate was thrown wide open. I ran crying to wake up my parents to tell them. My parents have no idea who took the dog, and he was never seen again. With this experience, I began to understand that sometimes I would see or feel psychic events that I would be somewhat powerless to do anything about at the time. This continues at times today with feeling earth changes and weather movements.

Each night before I went to sleep, I would say my prayers, and when I was done, I would often see and sometimes feel an angelic being or a spirit around me. I was raised Catholic and thought it perfectly normal that I would see my guardian angel at night before I went to sleep. I assumed everyone saw spirits and ghosts, and I talked with my angel each night before going to sleep.



Photo of Kala Ambrose with her mother in front of the window where the young ghost boy would appear (Photo by Kala Ambrose)

The first ghost I remember seeing lived right outside my childhood home in Louisiana.

In our dining room was a window that looked out to the front yard. My mother had planted orange daylilies out there, and I loved to look at them while sitting at the table in the dining room. One day while I was eating my lunch, I noticed a young boy standing there at the window, looking at me. I smiled and waved at him, and he waved back to me. A moment later he was gone. The next time he appeared, I noticed something was wrong with part of his head. I called out to my mother to tell her that he was hurt. When she looked through the window, she said no one was there, yet I could still see him standing there. I remember seeing this boy around our home for as long as we lived there. He was very shy and would not speak much. He liked my younger brother and would often appear around him as my brother played outside or in his room. I would always either see him around my brother or standing outside the dining room window in the orange daylilies.

From that point, my experiences continued to grow, from prophetic dreams at night to waking up and realizing that my grandfather was passing away. I experienced his death empathically before anyone else knew it had happened. By the time I was seven, I remember seeing auras, sensing positive and negative energy around people and places, and seeing ghosts and spirits around people, places, and things. I had the good fortune to be raised by parents and grandparents who encouraged my spiritual exploration and education. I was allowed to attend and study almost all forms of religions and their places of worship, and I explored them in depth, beginning in my teen years. My parents also supported my unique abilities. At the age of 13, I began to study the tarot and astrology and was creating astrological charts the old-fashioned way (before computers), along with reading tarot for friends. I also began to study the symbols in dreams and dream interpretation, as I have consistently had at least three dreams a night that I can remember. I've classified them into three categories: teaching and prophetic dreams, which I refer to as "going to night school;" subconscious dreams, which allow us to work through situations here on the earth plane; and dreams with others, where we encounter beings from the spirit world. In my adult years, I began to study many forms of spirituality, including Eastern mysticism, esoteric teachings, earth wisdom, and many others. My connection and interest in the metaphysical, supernatural, and paranormal has only grown over the years, never diminishing.

Along my journey, I came to this understanding: "Spirit does not exist in just one location; rather, it is all encompassing, living within and among us in each moment, thought, and action. I believe that Spirit is raised to its highest level when individuals gather with wisdom, compassion, and a discerning desire to provide service to humanity."

This understanding led me to study and later become a teacher of the ancient wisdom teachings and the hidden mysteries. It also guided me to create the *Explore Your Spirit with Kala* show, where I speak with authors, teachers, researchers, and other experts on metaphysical and paranormal topics.

I've lived in North Carolina for the past 15 years and have met up with many ghosts who wander this great state. Over the years I've worked to help people here who have experienced problems of a supernatural nature, which led to my founding of The Rowan Society in 2004. The Rowan Society (TRS) is a private organization founded to research and explore paranormal phenomena in many of its forms, including hauntings, psychic development, and ancient mysteries. We respond to reports of paranormal activity and are dedicated to scientific and compassionate research in these areas. In our endeavors, we present what we believe to be documentation of paranormal activity. This includes, but is not limited to, ghost activity, folklore, exploration of ancient sites and cultures, and other paranormal research.

What we've discovered over the years with our research is that with all of the highly

technical equipment available, the best receiver to detect ghosts is still someone with the psychic ability to see or sense the presence of a noncorporeal entity. Since my childhood, I've seen ghosts and restless spirits. As an adult, I've had many experiences with the supernatural and paranormal realms. I've interacted with powerful beings of light, faced encounters with beings from the dark side, and seen ghosts from every walk of life. In my work, I share my experience and training in workshops around the country. I teach others how to become more intuitive, how to connect with the other side, how to sense negative energy in a home or building, and, more importantly, how to discern whether the energy can be removed and cleansed or whether it is best left alone.

Over the past decade, I have seen a rise in paranormal activity, which corresponds to the lifting of the veil between the earth plane and the spiritual realms at this time. I believe that a conscious evolution is occurring at the mind, body, and spirit level, and as this evolution continues, many people will connect with their intuitive abilities and be able to communicate with the spirit world, including with ghosts that have remained on the earth plane.

I write about some of these experiences in Kala's Bohemian Blog, and it is now my pleasure to share with you these stories from the ghosts of North Carolina. Each haunted site here has a profound and deeply moving story to tell.

So gather your family and friends, and join me as I share what I see and what I experience as I go ghosthunting across the state of North Carolina. The journey begins in the coastal wetlands of East Carolina, where I explore haunted lighthouses, battleships, and the shipwrecked beaches where Blackbeard and his pirates still roam. Next I journey across the Piedmont area of North Carolina, where I spend the night in the most actively haunted capitol in the United States and interact with the ghost of a former North Carolina State Governor. My research continues west into the Blue Ridge Mountains, where the ghost known as the Pink Lady and her friends await your presence at the historic Grove Park Inn, where many presidents, celebrities, and ghosts have stayed over the decades.

I visited more than 100 reportedly haunted sites located in North Carolina and culled this list down to the 25 chapters here in this book. My reason for choosing this particular 25 had to do first and foremost with finding historical research that confirmed some of the details of the legend of a reportedly haunted site. The second most important criteria in my selection process included being able to confirm reports of ghost activity around the site from a variety of people over a generous span of time. After each site made the cut on these two selections, the final decision then came down to my personal experiences at each of these locations, including what I psychically experienced firsthand at each location relative to paranormal activity. My intent in this book is to provide you with all three of the above-listed criteria in order to assist you in your paranormal research and investigations.

As a psychic and paranormal researcher, I have often been asked what it's like to see or sense a ghost. The best way I can describe the experience is that most of the ghostly activity I immediately feel when entering a new space or building is the time loop/energy imprint type of haunting activity. That's the easiest to detect because it's like seeing a projector playing a movie in the home. To imagine what it looks like to me, picture walking into a home that you have never been in before. You don't know your way around and so you cautiously walk around the home. You have been told that no one is home, but as you continue walking through the rooms, you hear a sound. As your ears strain to detect where the sound is coming from, you hear the soft murmur of voices. You are now fairly sure that someone is here in the home, but you are not sure what room they are in. You're now a little ill at ease because you've been told the house is empty, but you can hear the sound of voices and as you move

toward them, they are getting stronger. You see a closed door and can see a bit of light coming from this room, and you softly open the door to see what's inside. As the door opens, you see what looks like an image from a projector that has been left on playing a family movie. The projected image plays a scene from the family's life, and when it ends, it rewinds and plays the movie over and over again. Sometimes the image is crystal clear, and sometimes it's worn and old with parts of the film missing, having burned away like the old celluloid films that would become damaged on the reel in old theaters. Many times, this is similar to what I see, only there's no projector playing, it is just happening in the room, like a 3-D video being projected in the open.

These energy imprints/time loops are the easiest to detect when ghosthunting because they are running on a frequent basis like a movie, appearing nightly at a haunted house near you.

Ghostly visitations and apparitions that I have experienced, on the other hand, are much more subjective, and the ghost has the choice to appear or not appear and decides whether or not to engage with you. This is why on ghost television shows and investigations you will see some investigators attempt to draw out the ghost to interact with them by asking them questions or goading them at times to make them angry enough to show themselves. I don't recommend doing this, as you may run into the wrong ghost who just may decide that rather than hanging around where they have been, they are now angry enough to spend their time hanging around you. One thing ghosts have that we don't is all the time in the world. They don't eat, they don't sleep, and they don't need to work for a living. Would you really want to antagonize a being like this who would have all the time they wanted to mess with you? Or worse, you could find out that it's not a ghost, but an entity that is stronger and could cause even more trouble for you. Most of us don't go to a dangerous part of town and attempt to pick a fight with thugs, inviting them to show us what they've got, so why would we want to invite this kind of trouble from a ghost? Most of the people I've met who do quickly regret their actions. My advice is to tread lightly and respectfully when ghosthunting. Have respect for the living and the dead at each location, protect yourself at all times, and ask politely to connect with the other side in the same manner you would if you were knocking on a stranger's door and asking to tour their home.

The ghost stories in this book begin in East Carolina. Eastern North Carolina can be lonely and desolate in some places. There are still some areas along the Outer Banks that are only reachable by foot, horseback, or with a 4x4 vehicle. These areas are remote, isolated, and sometimes dangerous.

The shoreline of North Carolina is not welcoming to ships, and even with the abundance of lighthouses warning ships to steer clear, the number of shipwrecks reported along the coast is in the hundreds. Pirate ghosts wander the land, looking to save their sunken ships, hide their treasure, or settle a score. Blackbeard is the most famous and infamous of them all, and remains in good company with the men and women who followed a similar path.

Traveling along the coastline and the Outer Banks, I visited areas where nature appears untouched. The land appears as fresh as the day early European settlers arrived to colonize the area, including young Virginia Dare and the legend of the Lost Colony of Roanoke. Standing there looking at the shore, I was touched by the beauty of the land and sea and by the bravery of those early colonists who arrived here not knowing what was in store for them. I'm struck by the fact that here on these tiny barrier islands, we now have 24-hour communications advising us of hurricanes days before the storms arrive in order to evacuate to safety. In the days of the early colonists, there was little warning, and the wind and waves crashing down on

these tiny islands had to be extremely frightening to both the living and the dead.

~~— This is where our haunted history of North Carolina begins, on the beaches and outer islands of the state. Join me as we step back into time and walk in the footsteps of pirates, colonists, adventurers, plantation owners, and the people who loved them. Perhaps Blackbeard will finally share where his treasure has been buried all this time.~~

Some believe that your soul can't rest when you are lost at sea, and thus you remain a ghost. The coast of North Carolina is full of stories of ghosts said to appear and disappear at will, some to warn of approaching storms, others on patrol to guard a fort, and lighthouse keepers who remain at their station long after their final retirement.

I find it interesting to note that should you sail directly east from the coast of North Carolina, you will reach Bermuda, putting you directly into the Bermuda Triangle. Were the souls who dared to cross the Bermuda Triangle to enter the North Carolina coast doomed even before they began?

As with all of the *America's Haunted Road Trip* books, travel information is provided for each haunted location for those brave enough to make the journey in person to see these sites for themselves and for paranormal researchers who are interested in exploring haunted North Carolina.

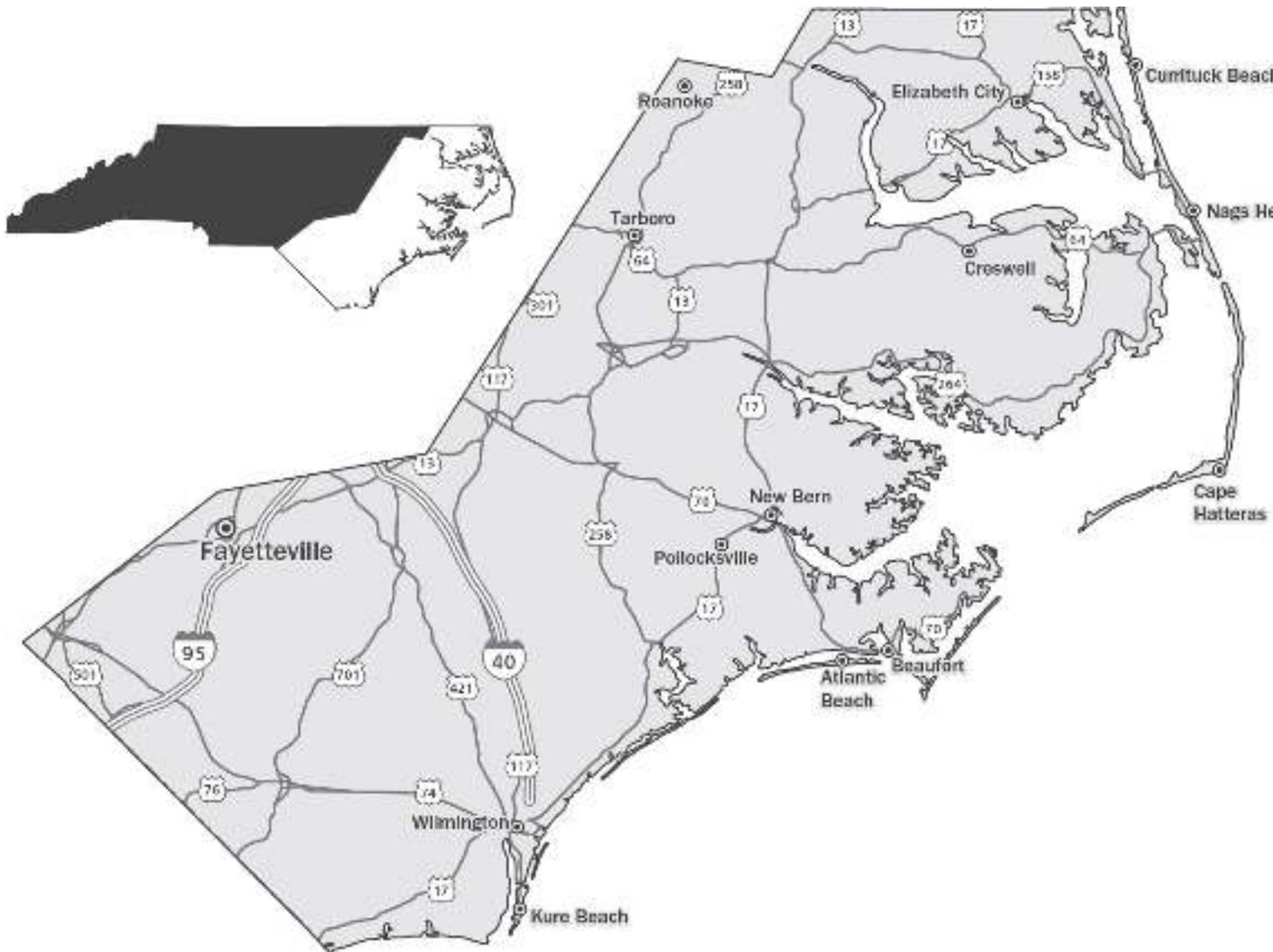
Tuck *Ghosthunting North Carolina* in your pocket and take the journey behind the scenes with detailed historic and personal information that I share about each destination.

Happy haunting! I look forward to hearing from you as you ghosthunt your way across the state. Visit me at www.ghosthuntingnorthcarolina.com.

All the best,
Kala Ambrose
May 2011

EAST CAROLINA

THE COAST AND OUTER BANKS



Atlantic Beach

[Fort Macon](#)

Beaufort

[The Old Burying Grounds](#)

Cape Hatteras

[Cape Hatteras Lighthouse](#)

Creswell

[Somerset Plantation](#)

Kure Beach

[Fort Fisher](#)

New Bern

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Roanoke

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Tarboro

[The Blount-Bridgers House](#)

Wilmington

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[The USS *North Carolina* Battleship](#)

The Haunting of the USS *North Carolina* Battleship

WILMINGTON



The USS *North Carolina* commissioned in 1941, was considered to be one of the greatest weapons on the sea.

“Wherever we went, we were North Carolina sailors. We always carried that with us. It had a spirit, an infectious spirit.”

—Rear Admiral Julian T. Burke Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.)

COMMISSIONED IN 1941, the USS *North Carolina* was considered to be one of the world’s most formidable ships. During World War II, the *North Carolina* participated in every major naval offensive in the Pacific, earning 15 battle stars, and was known as the protector of aircraft carriers—it even saved the USS *Enterprise* in 1942.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor using 353 Japanese fighters and torpedo planes. Four battleships were sunk, and four others damaged. Two destroyers and 3 cruisers were sunk, and almost 350 aircraft were destroyed or severely damaged. More than 2,400 men were killed, and more than 1,200 were injured. The overwhelming devastation was a huge shock to the nation.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, almost all of the Pacific Fleet was destroyed. The first wave Japanese attack inflicted most of the damage, and the second wave returned to demolish anything left standing. Japan and the United States were in peace talks at the time, so the attack came as a surprise. No declaration of war had been delivered before the attack. After this act, the United States declared war and entered World War II.

The surviving sailors in Hawaii were in a state of despair; they had lost many of their

friends along with the ships, and they were isolated on an island far away from the mainland. ~~The attack had been swift. Reinforcements and supplies were going to take months to arrive in Hawaii.~~ Feeling alone and grieving, the men waited for seven long months for reinforcements to arrive.

Then one day, the first naval ship arrived in Hawaii. It was the USS *North Carolina*, and she was greeted in a mass celebration by an overwhelming crowd of soldiers, sailors, marines, and Air Force pilots hailing her presence from the beaches with cheers and delight. Upon her arrival in Hawaii, many sailors were quoted as saying that she was, “the most beautiful thing they had ever seen.”

In my experience as a psychic and paranormal investigator, I have found that powerful emotional experiences of the most positive and the most negative nature leave an energy imprint on the object of the attention. Energy imprints are also left on objects surrounding the area, as well. I believe that the USS *North Carolina* battleship soaked up all of that energy that day upon her arrival in Pearl Harbor. In the water and in the air, she felt the pain and loss of the destruction that had occurred, while at the same time, she was greeted and filled with joy by sailors, pilots, and marines who saw her as a saving grace and point of hope. This, I believe, buoyed the battleship, giving her great luck and fierce determination in battle.

She was known to be a feisty fighter; stories are still told about the day she fought her first battle against the Japanese Imperial Navy. Her guns roared from the ship and surrounded her in so much smoke that the nearby USS *Enterprise* reported that they believed her to be on fire. When the smoke cleared, the facts showed just the opposite. The great lady had shot down seven planes and reportedly assisted in bringing down seven more, and she was just getting started. She also fought in Okinawa, where during 40 days of constant battle, she shot down hundreds of Japanese kamikaze pilots.

During the war, the Japanese reported on their radio six different times that they had sunk the *North Carolina* battleship, all of which proved to be false. The Japanese did manage to hit the ship once with a torpedo, which cost five crewmen their lives. Five other men died aboard the ship from other circumstances, and by some accounts some of them still remain on board and on active duty on the ship to this day.

The USS *North Carolina* battleship is now anchored in Wilmington, North Carolina, where thousands visit her each year. Many of those who visit and work on the ship have shared a number of ghost stories and other paranormal activity they experienced while on board.

From the night watchman who sleeps aboard the ship each night to daily tourists and visitors, the reports of the ship being haunted continue to grow. Some of the ghosts are harmless, though they do catch people off guard, giving them a fright. Mostly, they are seen involved in their daily activities aboard the ship, looking for lunch from the kitchen, preparing for bed in their bunks, and performing maintenance around the ship. The sounds of their banging as they work on parts of the ship can often be heard throughout the night. These ghosts are hard workers; they bang with their tools, knock on walls, open and close hatches, yell at each other, have heated and animated discussions, and enjoy turning televisions and lights on and off.

The ship is massive, and as you approach where she’s anchored on the Cape Fear River, you can’t help but feel excited and swell with a sense of patriotic pride. Upon boarding the ship, you take a step back into history. As you walk through each section, displays are set up to show what life on the ship was like. Life-size cardboard cutouts of men are arranged in some of the rooms, such as the barbershop, the movie theater, post office, laundry, ice-cream

shop, and the infirmary. It quickly sinks in that each ship was a world of its own, where sailors lived for months at sea in cramped conditions, and where all of their daily needs had to be met.

The battleship offers a Ghost Ship weekend, when you can explore the ship with tour guides to see the most haunted areas. I was fortunate on the day I visited that it was a quiet day, midweek, and I was allowed to wander through the ship at my own pace. This allowed me to take my time and linger in some places where I felt the energy shift around me. What I felt first and foremost was a strong emotional bond linked here on the ship. The men who had served on this ship were extremely proud of their work and their commitment to their country. You can literally feel this pride in the air.

When World War II ended, the ship was sent to inactive reserve in 1947 in New Jersey. In 1958, it was announced that the ship would be sent to the scrap heap to be torn apart and the metal recycled. Citizens of North Carolina formed a group called SOS (Save Our Ship) and raised the money to purchase the ship and bring it home to Wilmington.



Five sailors died aboard the USS *North Carolina* when a Japanese torpedo hit the ship's hull in 1942. Five other men have died aboard the ship due to other circumstances. The ghosts appear in many parts of the ship including the kitchen area.

In 1962, the USS *North Carolina* was delivered to the state of North Carolina and dedicated as a memorial to all World War II veterans and those who died in the war.

As I took in the emotional energy resonating from the ship, I compared it to other naval ships I have been on, and I found the *North Carolina* to be quite different in feeling. I've been on several naval ships, including going on a Tiger cruise, where family and friends are invited to cruise on a naval ship as it returns from a deployment, so I'm familiar with the look and feel of a ship. I've stepped through my share of bulkheads to enter rooms, and I appreciate the tremendous amount of thought and planning that goes into building a ship to house so many sailors in one confined space.

As I walked through the ship, I noticed that there were certainly pockets that felt sad (the brig area being a strong one) and a couple of areas that felt very creepy, but overall, the ship bursts with pride. It rings from the walls, and I think the veterans and tourists who visit the ship each day reinforce this energy, building it to even greater levels.

For the most part, according to the history, the men on the ship got along very well and were as happy as men can be when involved in war-time activity. But there was one man aboard that ship who appears as if he has never been happy, and he continues to haunt the ship until this day. I felt his presence on the ship after only being there for a few minutes. If he was

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