

DERBY – GREAT PLACE, GREAT BASE

Is there a better place to spend Halloween than 'The Dead Centre of England'

A trip to Derby this Halloween could haunt you for a lifetime.

Created in conjunction with a former presenter of TV's *Most Haunted*, Richard Felix, Derby's "Ghost Breaks" follow in the bloody footsteps of some chilling episodes of a city famous for being the scene of England's final hanging, drawing and quartering, and the venue for the very last pressing to death in this country.

And it's especially frightening to think that it's possible to decide for yourself whether Derby really does have more "ghoulies, ghosties, long-leggety beasties, and things that go bump in the night", than any other city in England!

All the ingredients for a truly hair-raising visit are available on the breaks. Take, for example, the chance to join one of Felix's renowned guided ghost walks - at £21 per person - featuring a spine-tingling visit to the tunnels and catacombs beneath the Guildhall, which linked the Lock-Up to the Assize Courts and were, at one time, populated by a procession of miserable souls who had just been sentenced to a period of imprisonment, transportation...or death. Or else, take part in an overnight Derby Ghost Vigil - at £45 per person - in Derby Gaol.

More traditional accommodation in Derby is also available, and special-offer prices can be found online at <http://www.visitderby.co.uk/stay>.

Ghosthunter Felix explains that the city lies at the geographical and historical cross-roads of Britain. As such, he claims, Derby is "The Dead Centre of England".

The tours, tales and overnight stays will introduce visitors to some terrible tales, including that of executioner John Crossland, a criminal who earned a pardon for carrying out the sentence of death on his own father and brother, and whose spirit roams restlessly around the Cathedral.

Elsewhere, St Peter's Churchyard was literally filled with the 'undead' in the 14th century, when some of the victims of the Black Death who fell into a coma were buried alive; England's first factory, the Silk Mill, is 'home' to the ghost of a boy killed after being kicked downstairs for not working hard enough; and the cellar of the oldest pub in Derby, Ye Olde Dolphin Inn - once the site of a doctor's house and dissecting slab - is populated by a (presumably legless) poltergeist.

Available all year round, Derby's "Ghost Breaks" are expected to become increasingly popular during Autumn, and up to Halloween.

For further details visit <http://www.visitderby.co.uk>.

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