

## America's Haunted Lighthouses-Florida

Florida has played a major role in American history, and its three haunted lighthouses have added to its history, folklore and legends. These three lighthouses contain stories of pirates, jealous rage, strange happenings and a happy little girl.

### Blood Stains & Pipe Smoke Pensacola Light – Florida

Would you visit someone who threw things at you, moved your personal possessions or laughed at you? This type of hospitality awaits anyone who stays in the Pensacola Lighthouse keeper's quarters.

The ghost, believed to be Jereamiah Ingraham, the first keeper of Pensacola Light, is not shy about making his presence know to visitors. He slams doors, moves items left downstairs back to his quarters, and hurls objects at people who stay there. Guests reported hearing ghostly laughter.

Workers reported unearthing blood like stains in a corner of the keeper's bedroom during renovations. Some reported an odor of pipe tobacco, although none of the workers smoked pipes. The lighthouse has felt cold on hot days and a ghostly form seen in the window of the locked lighthouse. The back door to the keeper's quarters has also mysteriously opened when tightly locked.

There is much speculation as to whether or not a murder occurred here, as Ingraham died most mysteriously. Legend says his wife stabbed him to death, and her punishment was taking on all her husband's duties for the rest of her life.

Did a murder really occur here? The Navy decided to cover the bloodstain with polyurethane and a transparent sealer so visitors could reach their own conclusions. One lighthouse keeper's son claimed his mother tried in vain to remove the stain before deciding it was blood. What do you think?

### A Happy Child – A Rejected Suitor Port Boca Grande Lighthouse – Gasparilla Island, Florida

Is it possible for angry and happy ghosts to co-exist in the same lighthouse? Apparently, this is the case at Port Boca Grande Light. Area residents reported two spirits, poles apart in temperament have inhabited America's oldest lighthouse for hundreds of years.

During the day, this lighthouse museum welcome many visitors, however, at night when visitors are gone, this becomes the exclusive domain of two resident spirits.

Some say a little girl, perhaps the daughter of a former keeper can be heard giggling and playing upstairs. The locals believe the child died here and relives her happiest memories.

The second ghost is more sinister. According to legend, the notorious pirate, Jose Gaspar, for whom the island is named, captured and hopelessly fell in love with the Spanish princess, Josefa. Josefa, wanting nothing to do with him refused all his advances. Jose, not being used to rejection became so angry with Josefa, that he drew his sword and beheaded her with one angry slash.

Filled with guilt and remorse for his wretched deed, Jose buried Josefa under the sand, and according to legend, Josefa's spirit roams the shoreline seeking her missing head.

#### A Ghost Hunter's Paradise St. Augustine Light – Florida

People interested in ghost hunting find St. Augustine Light on Anastasia Island near America's oldest city, offers a plethora of spirited exploration. Some believe St. Augustine Light, towering 165 feet above sea level is indeed the most haunted in America. Its keepers were certainly among the most tragic, and there are many tales of pirate hangings.

John Carrera mysteriously died after the first tower was built, Joseph Andreu fell to his death and William Ham died of tuberculosis. One lighthouse keeper's wife died here and there is much speculation as to who smoked cigars in the fuel house.

A terrible tragedy occurred in 1873 when Superintendent Hezekiah Pittee, brought his wife and five children from Maine to be with him as he oversaw the construction of the tower. A tram was built stretching from somewhere in out in the ocean to the station making construction easier. The children and their friends, attracted to the tram, had great fun riding it, until the tram derailed plunging four Pittee children and a companion into the ocean. Workers labored feverishly to save the children but were able to rescue just one boy and one girl. According to one legend, delighted children's laughter is often heard coming from the tower. Sightings of a young girl in a blue dress have also been reported.

Another legend of tells us that thirteen pirates roaming Florida's coast were captured and hanged, and their spirits still haunt the grounds. Yet another legend claims that when the original lighthouse keeper refused to leave, and the light taken by eminent domain, he decided to walk the grounds at night.