

Ten Eerie, Abandoned Places in Wales

Wales has some extraordinarily beautiful abandoned buildings; several are reputed to be haunted, all come with an amazing history and others are just the sad legacy of a family's loss. Here's our guide to the most eerie abandoned buildings in Wales.



A St Winifred's Well, North Wales, UK

Winifred was a young noble woman who spurned the advances of a local prince, in retaliation her head was severed and on the spot on which it came to rest a spring appeared. Mentioned in the medieval Arthurian poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, it is one of the oldest sites of pilgrimage in the UK. The waters are said to have healing properties.



B Denbigh Hospital and Asylum, Denbighshire, Wales, UK

Once North Wales' main psychiatric hospital, this ruined asylum is without doubt the eeriest abandoned building in Wales. With reports of ghostly goings-on, screams in the night and strange shadows, it would take a brave visitor to walk through these terrifying corridors after dark.



C Tintern Parish Church, Monmouthshire, UK

Located, appropriately, on Chapel Hill in the Monmouthshire Village of Tintern, this medieval church overlooks the famous Tintern Abbey. There are many legends associated with its burning down in the 1980s – some have even mentioned witchcraft as a possible factor!



now sits a little way off the Wye Valley Walk – visitors at night cannot help but be spooked by this splendid ruin and during the day the site is peculiarly silent.

D Piercefield House near St Arvans, Monmouthshire,

This once splendid Georgian mansion, now part of Chepstow Racecourse, is certainly one to add to the eerie list. Once the home of mixed-race plantation owner Nathaniel Wells, whose family had once been enslaved, it sat high on a hill above the town overlooking the Severn Estuary until it was abandoned after the last owner died in 1921. Ethereally beautiful, it



E Red Dress Manor, Powys, Wales, UK

Callcott Manor is known as Red Dress Manor due to the abandoned red dress of the last owner, still hanging in the bedroom. This Mid-Wales farmhouse was built in 1725 and abandoned after the last owner died in the 1970s. It has been said that it is 'frozen in time', as if the owner just popped out for a few moments, never to return.



F Swansea's Palace Theatre, Glamorgan, Wales, UK

Legendary Welsh actor, Sir Anthony Hopkins made his stage debut in this wedge-shaped theatre in Swansea, South Wales. Now virtually derelict – it may look normal from the outside but within there are eerie sights aplenty. Lily Langtry, Marie Lloyd and Charlie Chaplin all once graced the stage in this most creepy of abandoned theatres.



G The Mid-Wales Hospital, Talgarth
Asylum, Powys, Wales, UK

In the centre of Wales, this abandoned asylum is extremely popular with ghost hunters and paranormal investigators. With disturbing old medical equipment, beds and filing cabinets, it's certain to send a chill down any visitor's spine – at night it is particularly terrifying!



H Baron Hill, Beaumaris , Anglesey,
Wales, UK

This former ancestral home on the isle of Anglesey in North Wales, is eerie yet romantic. With its ivy-clad walls and elegant architecture there is a profound sadness here. Requisitioned by the government and used as a billet for Polish soldiers in World War Two, it has many secrets hidden behind the overgrown bushes and trees surrounding it.



I Ruperra Castle , Caerphilly, Wales,
UK

This 17th-century castle near Machen in South Wales is an eerily complete shell. Built by the Morgan family of Tredegar House in nearby Newport, the house was abandoned after the Second World War when a fire gutted the building, it is now a rather formidable shadow of its former self.



J Dinorwic Quarry, Llanberis, Snowdonia, Wales, UK

In the heart of Snowdonia, these abandoned workers' cottages were built of slate, a material much quarried in the region. These black-walled, formidable houses were abandoned in 1969 after a great decline in the industry, and the inhospitable countryside made life very hard – however the eeriness in these buildings lie more in their construction than history.

Match the statements to the extracts by writing the corresponding letter in the boxes.

- ☐ Those who look into paranormal experiences are drawn to this place.
- ☐ It used to be a plantation on a hill overlooking the estuary.
- ☐ It is mentioned in a medieval poem and pilgrims walk up to its premises.
- ☐ The residents left the house after a fire damaged it beyond repair.
- ☐ The façade looks fine but the interior keeps some ghastly artifacts.
- ☐ There have been reports of shouts, odd shadows and apparitions.
- ☐ These homes were left empty as a result of a drastic fall in the slate industry.
- ☐ This farmhouse remained occupied for almost two and a half centuries.
- ☐ It has been suggested that there was bewitching intervention in the fire that destroyed it.
- ☐ It is adorned by evergreen leaves and surrounded by lush shrubs and trees.

