

# Ghosts and Haunted Places in Tuscany



Do you believe in ghosts or haunted place? If not, maybe the stories below will change your mind. The places mentioned--all in Tuscany region--are real and can be visited even today.

## **The Ghost of Palazzo Vecchio**

It is not uncommon to hear moving footsteps and squeaking once the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence is closed. There are corners that still remain shrouded in mystery, where the ghosts lurk. There are many ghosts here, but one is more famous than others:



Baldaccio d'Anghiari. There are many rules to be respected: do not scream his name and do not name him without a reason. Baldaccio, a valiant fighter, was betrayed and killed inside the Palazzo Vecchio in 1441. Since then he has wandered around the building.

Take a short tour of Palazzo Vecchio with Rick Steves by [clicking here](#).

## **Castello di Poppi**

The beautiful Castle of Poppi, in a small village east of Florence, has

been a place of battles and violent stories throughout the centuries. A local legend has it that the cruel ghost of the beautiful Matelda still wanders in the castle. It is said that the fascinating countess had a new lover in her room every night. After a night of passion, however, to prevent them from revealing her secret, she killed her lovers by making them fall into a ditch with sharp blades at the bottom. Finally, the women of the village took their revenge by walling the countess alive in the tower.



Take a 3-minute tour of the Castle and the tower by [clicking here](#).

### **The Devil's Bridge**

The 14th-century Ponte della Maddalena, also known as the Devil's Bridge, is shrouded in mystery. According to legend, the head construction worker supervising the building of the bridge was worried about not completing the work on time. Thus,



he made a pact with the devil. In exchange for his help to finish the bridge in one night, the devil demanded the soul of the first passerby to cross the bridge. Feeling remorseful about giving a person's soul to the devil, the construction worker consulted with the local priest and they decided to have a dog cross the bridge first. Furious, the devil plunged into the river with the beast. It is said that the dog, a white Maremma sheepdog, is sometimes seen walking on the bridge in the evenings and that the Devil is still looking for the soul of construction worker.

[Click here](#) to take a brief tour of this beautiful bridge.

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