

13 GHOST STORIES FROM THE DESERT



HAUNTED ROUTE 66

Arizona's Mother Road



FOLLOW ALONG LIVE • spooky66.com

PHOENIX

2026

ARIZONA'S ROUTE 66



- 380+ miles of nostalgia, kitsch & natural wonders
- Red Cliffs of Lupton to the Colorado River at Topock
- Longest uninterrupted segment of the original Mother Road
- Active 1926 — 1985, three generations of travelers
- Known as 'America's Most Haunted Highway'
- Tonight: three acts, east to west — meet the ones who never left.



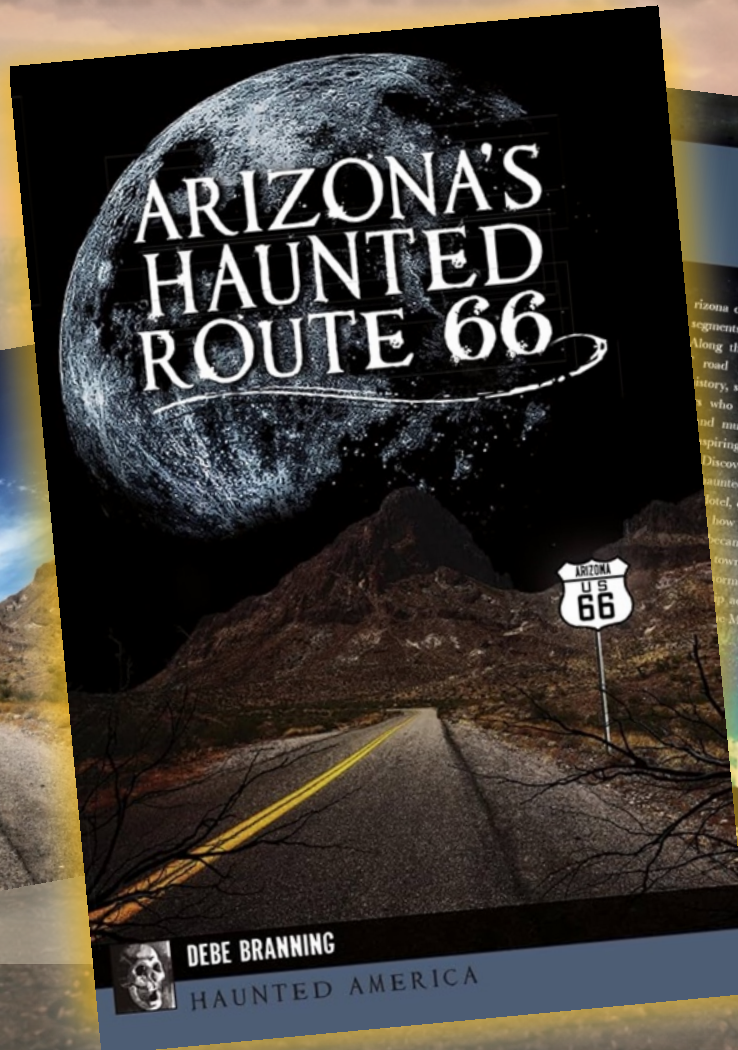
02.



Debe Branning - Haunted America

ARIZONA'S HAUNTED ROUTE 66

Debe Branning
Carolee Jackson
Colleen Sulzer
Chance Houston
Fallon Franzen



ACT 1 OF 3

THE EASTERN HIGH DESERT

Lupton to Winslow.

From the Navajo Nation through colorful badlands and quirky roadside icons.

LUPTON • ALLENTOWN • HOUCK • SANDERS • HOLBROOK • JOSEPH CITY • WINSLOW



★ STOPS & SIGHTS ALONG THE EASTERN HIGH DESERT ★

01 PETRIFIED FOREST NAT'L PARK



The only national park Route 66 cuts directly through. 225-million-year-old fossil logs.



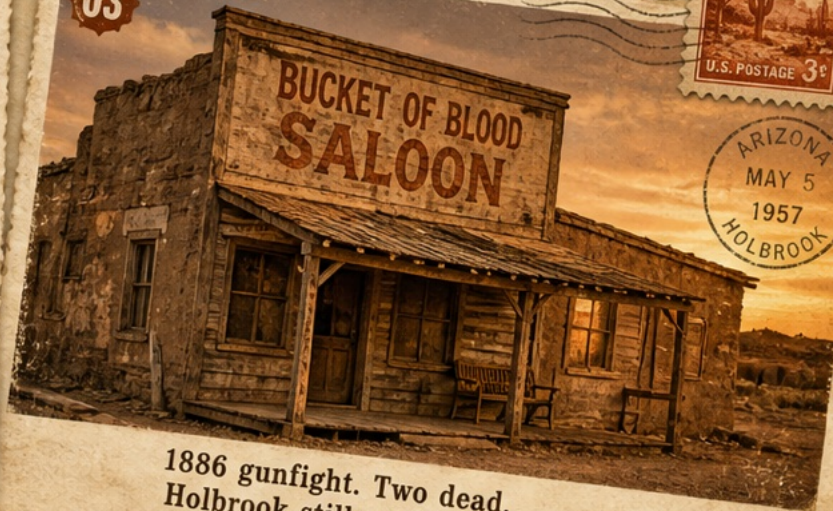
02



Sleep in a concrete tipi — Holbrook.



03



1886 gunfight. Two dead. Holbrook still watches.



04

STANDIN' ON THE CORNER · WINSLOW



Where the Eagles' "Take It Easy" was born, 1971.



05



JACK RABBIT TRADING POST · Joseph City — since 1949.



04.

STORY

01

/ 13

1. THE CURSE OF THE PETRIFIED FOREST

Petrified Forest National Park · Holbrook Area

- 225 million years buried, slowly turning to stone
- 1,200+ 'conscience letters' from regretful thieves
- Reported curses: divorce, illness, death, ruin
- Navajo tradition: 'Yei-bits-in' — bones of the gods
- 90 letters in 7 months after Dead to Me (2019).



05.



*My life has been
destroyed since we've
been back.
Please take these so
my life will get back
to normal.*

STORY

02 / 13



06.

2. GEORGE SMILEY'S GHOST

Historic Navajo County Courthouse • Holbrook • 1899

- Holbrook 1886: 26 shootings in a town of 250
- Smiley sentenced to hang Dec 8, 1899
- Sheriff sent printed 'hanging invitations' as a joke
- Story went worldwide; President McKinley postponed it
- Hanged Jan 8, 1900 — humiliated and furious
- Today: cold spots, footsteps, a shadow pacing the cells.



INVITATION

*You are cordially invited
to attend the hanging of*

GEORGE SMILEY

• Dec 8, 1899.

3. LA POSADA HOTEL'S MYSTERIOUS GUESTS

La Posada Hotel • Winslow • 1929.

- Designed by Mary Jane Colter — Harvey Houses' crown jewel
- Hidden passages & secret spaces built into the architecture
- Closed 1957, abandoned, lovingly restored in the 1990s
- Investigators felt watched, sensed 'guests from the past'
- Footsteps in empty halls; guests feel they are not alone
- Benign spirits — guests who simply never checked out.



07.



ACT TWO:

ACT 2 of 3

THE MOUNTAIN & PINE REGION

— Winslow to Williams.

As you climb in elevation, the desert gives way to the ponderosa pines of the world's largest continuous forest.



METEOR CITY ★



TWO GUNS ★



WINONA ★



FLAGSTAFF ★



BELLEMONT ★



WILLIAMS ★



5500

6000

6500

7000

7500



08.



STOPS & SIGHTS ALONG THE MOUNTAIN & PINE REGION

1 • METEOR CRATER



50,000 years old • nearly a mile wide • NASA trained Apollo astronauts here.

2 • LOWELL OBSERVATORY • FLAGSTAFF



Where Pluto was discovered, 1930. World's first Dark Sky City.

3 • WALNUT CANYON NAT'L MONUMENT



800-year-old cliff homes of the Sinagua people.




4 • FLAGSTAFF • 7,000 FT



High-altitude heart of Route 66 in Arizona.

5 • THE POOZEUM • WILLIAMS



1,000+ fossilized coprolites — Guinness World Record. Yes, really.

6 • WILLIAMS • GATEWAY TO THE GRAND CANYON



Last town bypassed by I-40, 1984. The Grand Canyon Railway.

STORY

04 / 13



TWO GUNS
ZOO
LION HABITAT

SEE
THE LION
FEED!



4. APACHE DEATH CAVE & CURSED TWO GUNS

Two Guns Ghost Town · Canyon Diablo · Exit 230.

- 1878: 42 Apache warriors suffocated in the cave — sacred ground
- 1925: Harry 'Two Guns' Miller built a tourist trap on the grave
- Apache skeletons displayed as carnival attractions
- 1926 murder · 1929 fire · 1930 flight · 1971 town destroyed
- Every subsequent owner — disaster
- Today: moaning from the cave · rocks thrown by unseen hands.

STORY
05 / 13

5. HOTEL MONTE VISTA'S CELEBRITY GHOSTS

100 N. San Francisco St. • Flagstaff • 1927

- Hollywood royalty: Wayne, Cooper, Bogart, Alan Ladd
- The Phantom Bellboy — Wayne himself encountered him
- Room 306: two murdered women, still felt
- Room 305: a woman who watches the street
- Room 309: Alan Ladd walks through closed doors
- Also: a dying bank robber, dancing couple, crying infant, rocking chair.



11.



STORY
06 / 13

6. WEATHERFORD HOTEL'S ETERNAL HONEYMOONERS

23 N. Leroux St. • Flagstaff • 1897.

- Built by John Weatherford — "finest hotel in the southwest"
- Theodore Roosevelt & William Randolph Hearst slept here
- Newlyweds died under mysterious circumstances, early 1900s
- Whispers, soft laughter, footsteps in the night
- A couple in wedding attire on the wrap-around balcony
- Doors slam • cold spots • the hotel feels stuck in 1897.

ROUTE

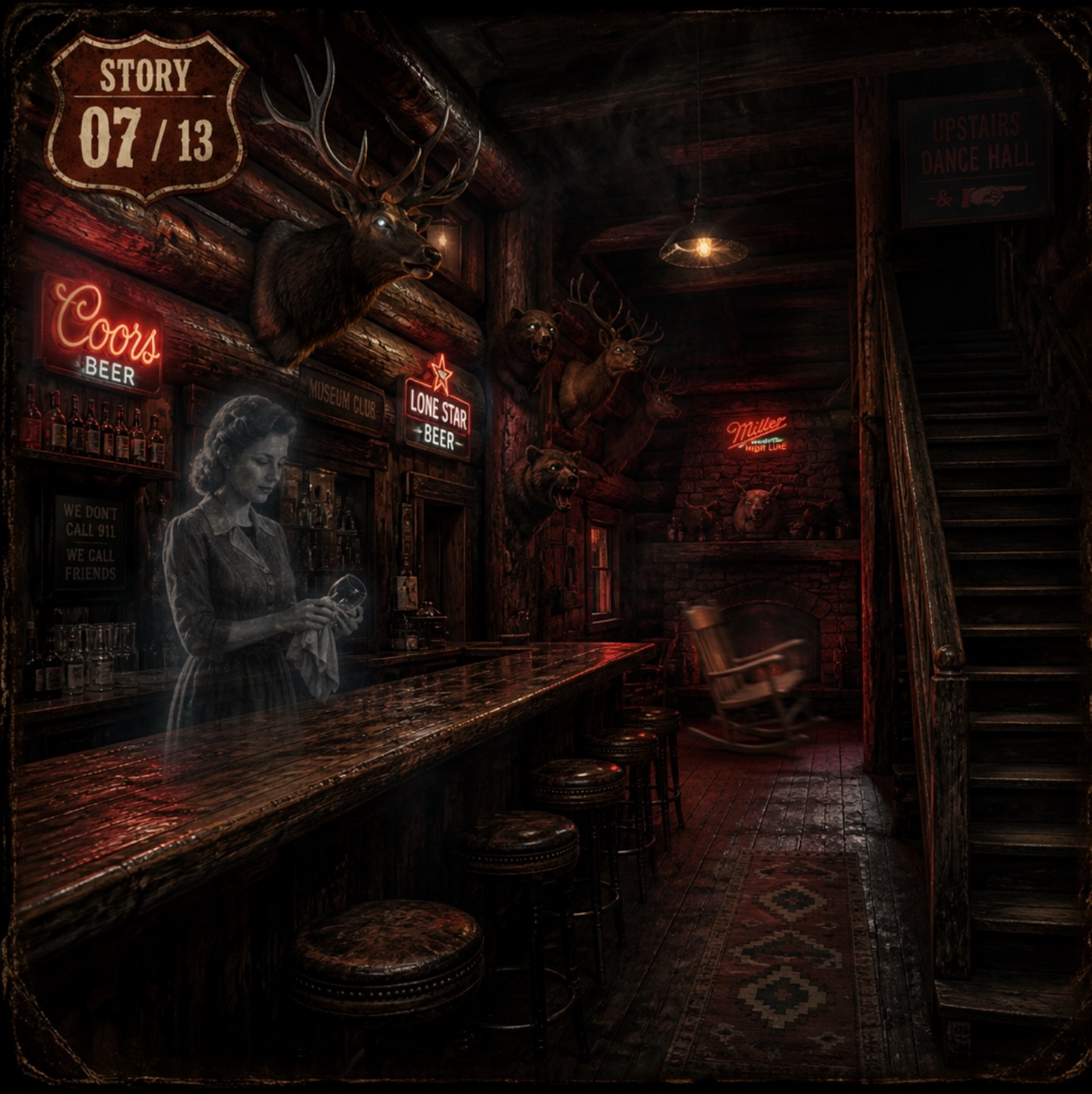
66

12.



STORY

07 / 13



7. DON AND THORNA'S MUSEUM CLUB

3404 E. Route 66 · Flagstaff · 1931.

- Originally Arizona's largest log cabin & taxidermy museum
- 1963: Don & Thorna Scott turned it into a country honky-tonk
- Willie Nelson, Wanda Jackson, a 14-year-old Tanya Tucker
- 1973: Thorna fell down the stairs · 1975: Don shot himself
- Thorna at the bar — 'You should only fear the living'
- Don's fireplace lights itself · chairs rock · cold sweeps in.



13.



ACT THREE:

ACT 3 of 3

THE WESTERN WILDS

Seligman to Topock.

*The longest continuous stretch of the old road,
winding through wide-open plains and rugged mountains.*

ASH FORK



SELIGMAN



PEACH SPRINGS



TRUXTON



VALENTINE



HACKBERRY



KINGMAN



OATMAN



TOPOCK



14.

STOPS & SIGHTS

ALONG THE

WESTERN WILDS



1. SELIGMAN · ROUTE 66 REVIVAL



Angel Delgadillo's barbershop sparked the preservation movement. Inspiration for Radiator Springs in Cars.

2. GRAND CANYON CAVERNS · PEACH SPRINGS



Largest dry caverns in the U.S. · 21 stories underground · darkest motel room on Earth.

3. HACKBERRY GENERAL STORE



A treasure chest of Route 66 nostalgia.

4. ROUTE 66 MUSEUM · KINGMAN



Dioramas, vintage cars, the full story of the Mother Road. Andy Devine country.

5. OATMAN · LIVING GHOST TOWN



Once 10,000 souls. Today 135 + the burros. Daily gunfights. 191 corkscrew turns.

6. THE WESTERN WILDS



Where the road runs out ahead of you.



STORY
08 / 13

8. RED GARTER INN'S MURDERED MADAM

137 W. Railroad Ave. • Williams • 1897.

- Williams: last town on Route 66 bypassed by I-40 (1984)
- Began as a saloon and second-floor brothel
- Eva — young woman in white, believed murdered
- She touches sleeping guests, shakes beds, opens doors
- Also: a man knifed on the staircase, an old man's suicide
- Now a 'Bed and Bakery' — ghosts and great cinnamon rolls.



★ 16.



STORY

09 / 13

TOUR
THIS WAY



9. GRAND CANYON CAVERNS' RESTLESS SPIRITS

Mile 115 of Route 66 · Peach Springs

- 1927: Walter Peck stumbled in on the way to a poker game
- Mistook iron oxide for gold — pivoted to roadside tourism
- Hualapai sacred remains displayed as 'cavemen' attractions
- Removed eventually — but the disturbance was done
- Moans · shadowy figures · rocks thrown from the dark
- Sleep 21 stories below in total dark — if you dare.



17.

STORY

10 / 13

10. HOTEL BRUNSWICK'S LOVE TRIANGLE

Hotel Brunswick • Kingman • 1909

- 1909: elegant hotel run by two business partners
- 1912: a woman came between them
- They built a wall down the middle — two hotels, one roof
- Decades of bitter, adjacent rivalry
- 1960s wall removed — spirits never got the memo
- A little girl darts between tables • shadow men still feud.



18.





11. OATMAN HOTEL'S HOLLYWOOD GHOSTS

181 Main Street • Oatman • 1902 / rebuilt 1920

- Originally the Durlin Hotel — survived multiple fires
- 1939: Clark Gable & Carole Lombard's honeymoon suite
- Whispers and laughter still echo from their room
- Theater Room Museum: body outlines on empty beds
- 'Oatie' the Irish miner — sometimes with faint bagpipes
- Wild burros wander Main Street, descendants of miners'



12. THE HACKBERRY MINE MURDERS

HACKBERRY • BETWEEN KINGMAN AND SELIGMAN

- 1875: Jim Music struck silver — \$3 million over 40 years
- ~1910: a stranger lured, murdered, body buried, fire set
- Real victim never identified — still unnamed
- Lights moving in the hills • phantom pickaxe strikes
- Children laughing inside the locked, abandoned schoolhouse
- Six Grigg generations + unknown prospectors in stone.



20.

☆☆☆

STORY

13/13

☆☆☆



13. ROUTE 66'S PHANTOM HITCHHIKERS

★
The Entire Arizona Stretch.

- 100 years · 2,448 miles · Chicago to Los Angeles
- Hitchhikers in vintage clothes who vanish from the seat
- Dead gas-station attendants pumping modern travelers' gas
- Vintage cars in rearviews, gone the next moment
- Old oil, cigarette smoke, 1950s music — no source
- They are not lost. They are exactly where they want to be.

'This was the most exciting trip they'd ever taken.'

— Debe Branning.



21.

ARIZONA'S ROUTE 66

More Than a Highway.



*A corridor between worlds — where the past refuses to stay buried,
and every mile holds stories of lives lived, loves lost,
and souls that couldn't quite let go of the open road.*

The road is still there. Some of them are still on it.
Come back and visit. They'll be waiting.

FOLLOW ALONG LIVE • DOWNLOAD THE DECK • spooky66.com

THANK YOU • QUESTIONS? • PHOENIX FAN FUSION 2026.

