

“Haunted Spaces, Sacred Places: A Field Guide to Stone Circles, Crop Circles, Ancient Tombs and Supernatural Landscapes”
by Brian Haughton

Reviewed by Marie D. Jones for CurledUp.com

OK, I admit it, I don't get out much, busy as I am, but author Brian Haughton gives me a book that is chock-full of vicarious thrills with “Haunted Spaces, Sacred Places,” a field manual to some of the most mysterious and enigmatic locales on the planet. Places I hope to one day visit myself, along with a good backpack, and Brian's book as my guide.

Also the author of “Hidden History” and webmaster of the popular site, mysteriouspeople.com, Haughton takes an in-depth, hands-on and birds-eye view of places around the world thought to be filled with magic and mystique, places that seem to resonate to a whole different frequency than others. Places that have some major history behind them. As a researcher, the author excels at providing a detailed background of each location, adding in local flavor and legend and myth to help potentially explain the varieties of paranormal and anomalous phenomena associated with such sites as Chartres Cathedral, Stonehenge, the stone alignments of Carnac, France, the Ohio Serpent Mound, Chinese pyramids and other more generally known enigmas.

But what really makes this book stand out is Haughton's in-depth look at some locations most of the general public might not be as aware of in terms of magical and paranormal associations: Native American locations and Cambodian temples and caves in Greece and chamber/tombs in Orkney, Scotland... There are so many places covered in this book, it almost leaves one breathless, providing a fascinating and comprehensive tour that could easily cover a few good seasons on The History Channel. From ancient megaliths to more modern cathedrals to unusual natural spots seething in high strangeness, there is no stone left unturned in “Haunted Spaces.”

I hope to visit some, if not all, of these places one day, and appreciate the author's ability to combine fact, myth and storytelling as he presents the reader with a complete “landscape” of these amazing landscapes. What I really found the most intriguing in the focus on combining archeology and field research with subjects like folklore, legend and myth in an attempt to arrive at some truth about these most shadowy places.

Haughton's book is a gem for anyone interested in the unknown, ancient civilizations, paranormal anomalies and even the more general subjects of archeology, history and religious ritual and belief. The author covers 32 sites in this book, leaving me wanting another 32 or so in what I hope will be “Haunted Spaces” Part 2.