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Get ready to be riveted this Halloween

Dark Tourism Professor Pens Guide To England's Disturbing Past

Lancashire, England: A new guidebook explores 'dark tourism' and leads visitors to the most poignant and intriguing places across England. *111 Dark Places in England That You Shouldn't Miss* (Emons Publishing, October 15, 2021; £12.99) is the first-ever travel guide by Dr. Philip Stone, Director of the Institute for Dark Tourism Research at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston.

"As human beings, we're drawn to sites of death, disaster or the seemingly macabre," says Stone. "My aim with this guide is to provide an authoritative and accessible way for people to go to these places and learn the stories of England's 'heritage that hurts'."

This guidebook is part of the international *111 Places* series, with colourful photographs illustrating every chapter. Detailed maps provide the location of each place, so readers can plot their excursions to dark places across the country.

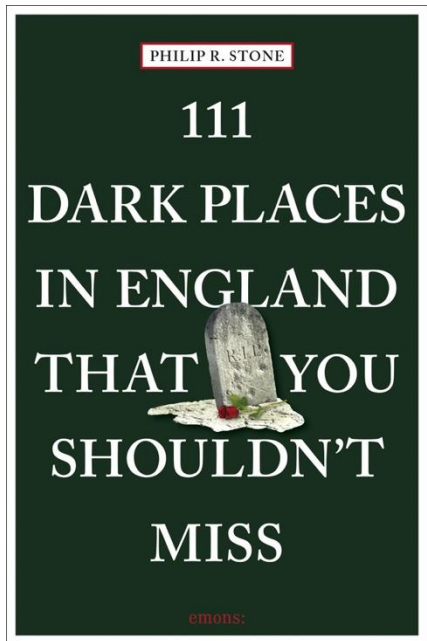
Crime and punishment loom large throughout England's history. A visit to the Bodmin Gaol in Cornwall reveals the invention of long-drop hanging, which was actually more humane than earlier practices of shorter drop hangings. Nottingham's National Justice Museum tells the tales of pirates, murderers, war criminals, and traitors – and their final fates. For anyone wondering where the term "in the clink" originated, this guidebook leads directly to the Clink Prison Museum in London.

There are many unique memorials that are both fascinating and emotional. The National Monument Against Violence and Aggression in the Midlands features a 27-foot-tall Knife Angel, made from 100,000 knives surrendered in police amnesties, as well as some that were used in actual crimes and killings. The National Cyclists War Memorial in Meriden commemorates all the members of the Army Cycle Corps who perished in the World Wars.

"The stories of some individual people loom large after their deaths as well," says Stone. "Sometimes their stories just cannot be forgotten – nor should they be."

There's a memorial in Devon to William Donaghy, a teacher who died under mysterious conditions in 1914. The Grace Darling Museum is a tribute to a young woman who risked her life to save nine shipwreck survivors in 1838. At the grave of an enslaved boy named 'Sambo' in Lancashire, visitors must remember the region's involvement in Britain's international slave trade. The only British prime minister to be assassinated is remembered at the Spencer Perceval Memorial in Westminster Abbey. And, Alan Turing, who cracked the Nazi Enigma codes but was persecuted for homosexuality, is memorialized with a statue in Manchester.

Wars are always times of great loss and sacrifice. The Dock Museum in Cumbria tells the often forgotten World War II event, when German bombers attacked the town of Barrow-On-Furness, killing 90 people and destroying over 25 per cent of the homes there. At the Bevin Boys Memorial in Staffordshire, many visitors will learn for the first time about World War II military conscripts who were sent to the coal mines rather than the battlefield. The Ilford Pet Cemetery hosts 12 recipients of the Dickin Medal, awarded to animals for bravery in the face of conflict, including Simon the Able Seacat, who survived the 1949 attack on the HMS *Amethyst*.



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This book is part of the illustrated *111 Places* guidebook series for locals and experienced travelers. Each guidebook presents a city, region, country or specialty theme from a wonderfully different and personal perspective. Go off the beaten path to find the hidden places, stories, shops, curiosities and neighbourhoods that unlock a destination's true character, history and flavour. The series is published by Emons Publishing in Cologne, Germany and New York, NY. www.111Places.com

About the Author



Philip R. Stone, Ph.D. is an internationally recognised scholar in the field of 'dark tourism' and 'difficult heritage'. He has published extensively about the subject in the academic literature and has presented his work at conferences across the world. Philip is also a media consultant on dark tourism, with clients including the BBC, CNN, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Washington Post*.