



right sites

America can be a spooky place, especially around this time of year. It's almost eerie, isn't it, that we live in a country with a Lake Erie and a Cape Fear? And that's not all. Here are nine other places that sound ready for Halloween year-round, with details provided by local Web sites, historians, and residents from these areas. (Most populations are their rough estimates.) Scaredy cats, beware! — *Ryan E. Smith*

9. Skull Valley, Ariz.

Pop.: 450. Popular lore says that the name dates back to 1864 when the first white settlers entered the area and discovered piles of bleached human skulls that were left behind after a battle between two Native American tribes.



8. Tombstone, Ariz.

Pop. 1,504. An old mining camp, this city's slogan is: The Town Too Tough to Die. In 1877, Ed Schieffelin named his first claim the Tombstone after he left a fort to prospect and his comrades told him he'd find his tombstone rather than silver.



1. Frankenstein, Mo.

Pop. 50. One theory is this German Catholic settlement got its name from Gottfried Franken, who donated land for a new church in 1873 (stein means stone in German). A few years ago, parachuters dressed as Frankenstein's monster descended on the town to promote the re-release of Young Frankenstein.

2. Witch Lake, Mich.

Pop.: 200. The area got its name from a lake that is shaped like a witch.



3. Hell, Mich.

Pop. 72. When George Reeves, the first settler here, was asked what to call his town in 1841, he allegedly threw his arms up in the air and said, "Call it Hell for all I care. Everyone else does."

4. Devils Lake, Mich.

Pop. 2,080 (including Manitou Beach). One story tells how Native Americans decided the lake here was home to a devil that claimed the life of their princess, an expert swimmer, after she went swimming and was never seen again.



5. Bat Cave, N.C.

Pop. 300. This place is named for Bat Cave, home to thousands of bats and the largest known granite fissure cave in North America.

7. Transylvania, La. *Pop.: 938.* Dr. W.L. Richards bought a large amount of land here in the 19th century and decided to name his town after Transylvania University, the school he attended in Kentucky.

6. Pumpkintown, S.C. *Population not available.* No surprise, this name stuck thanks to a man in the 1700s who noted the pumpkins growing in the soil here.

