

# Poe's Haunted House Tour

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Hello! My name is Poe.  
I'm the little ghost who lives in  
this haunted house, along with  
many other spooky residents.  
There's always something  
happening around here,  
especially on Halloween night!  
In fact, we're having an All  
Hallows' Eve party. Would  
you like to take a tour of my  
house? . . . Yay! Follow me.









Did you know the origins of Halloween dates back three thousand years? Ancient Europeans known as Celts held an annual festival of Samhain, which means *summer's end*. The festival was a way of bidding goodbye to the lighter, warmer half of the year as the darker and colder months crept across the land.







It was a time when the veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead was said to be at its thinnest. During Samhain, it was believed that the souls of the departed could drift back and forth from one world to the other. The Celtic people would build bonfires and hold large feasts on the last day of October and the first of November. Years later, the Catholic Church renamed Samhain to All Hallows' Eve on October 31st and All Saints' Day on November 1st until it eventually became known simply as Halloween. Over time, this spooky night has transformed into the holiday we celebrate today.











There's some trick-or-treaters!  
My favorite Halloween  
tradition.

The earliest form of trick-or-treating came from the Celts' custom of giving offerings, such as sweets and food, to spirits and fairies.

In medieval times, children from poor families would go door-to-door, begging for soul cakes and in exchange they'd sing songs, even offer prayers to souls who needed them.

Another early version of trick-or-treating is called *guising*. It took place in both Scotland and Ireland. Children would dress in costumes, sing songs, and sometimes tell stories in exchange for

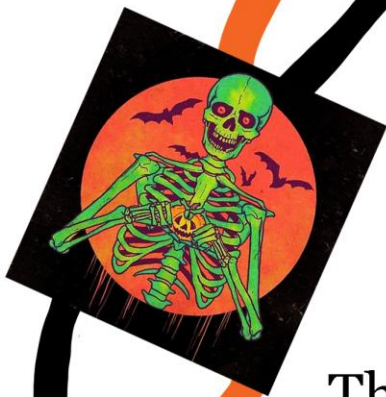
treats and money. The term 'guising' was even used in North America until the 1930s, when it was renamed Trick-or-Treating.

What are you going to dress up like this Halloween?









This is our graveyard. We have plenty of space for our dancing skeletons. Skeletons are one of the most recognizable symbols of Halloween. They are very well known in the Mexican celebration, *Día de los Muertos*.  
The Dead of the Dead.











Every year, people visit the gravesites of loved ones and decorate the graves with marigold flowers and candles.

People have Day of the Dead parades and wear wooden skull masks called *calacas*. Living relatives celebrate and honor their dead by making altars for them. These altars usually have a portrait of the lost friend or family member and the altars are decorated with sugar skulls, cempasuchil flowers, crosses, candles, and a sweet bread known as *Pan de Muerto*. In the Mexican culture, death isn't scary, but instead it's a continuation of life. It's believed that life is a dream and only in death do we fully awake.

Let me show you inside the house.









Inside our modest  
place, we have lots of  
creepy crawly things. Closet  
monsters, crooked clocks,  
creatures coming out of the floor,  
and more ghosts like me.  
Yep, this is my kind of house!





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