

SANTA MARIA INN

Santa Maria, California | Historic Hotel

FIELD INVESTIGATION / SANTA MARIA INN

A Central Coast landmark with Hollywood history and ghost stories.

Opened in 1917, Santa Maria Inn welcomed travelers along California's Central Coast. Its historic rooms and celebrity associations are part of its heritage.

DOCUMENTED HISTORY

Opened in 1917 by Frank J. McCoy, the hotel became a Central Coast landmark. Its architecture, hospitality, and Hollywood connections are documented.

REPORTED PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

Local legends associate Rudolph Valentino with the older rooms and describe a mysterious sea captain, footsteps, knocks, and unusual activity.

LEGEND CHECK

DOCUMENTED

The 1917 opening and historic hotel are documented.

PARANORMAL TRADITION

Valentino apparitions and the sea captain are unverified stories.

PARANORMAL HOTSPOTS

HISTORIC ROOMS Valentino and captain legends; respect guests.

OLD HALLWAYS Compare footsteps with ordinary acoustics.

PUBLIC AREAS Observe only where hotel staff permit.

GARDENS Consider wind, traffic, and changing light.

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WHAT TO WATCH FOR

☐ Footsteps / creaks

☐ Knocks / room noises

☐ Shadows / reflections

☐ Doors / latches

☐ Temperature / airflow

☐ Ventilation / plumbing

☐ Guests / hotel staff

☐ Street / garden sounds

BASELINE NOTES

SOUND / ACOUSTICS

LIGHT / REFLECTIONS

AIRFLOW / TEMPERATURE

PEOPLE / ACTIVITY

WEATHER / EXTERIOR

OTHER CONTROLS

INVESTIGATOR NOTES

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THE HOTEL SOUND-AND-LIGHT TEST

From an authorized area, compare ordinary hotel sounds and lighting before interpreting unusual experiences. Respect guests and staff.

1. POSITION

Identify the permitted room or public space.

2. BASELINE

Note HVAC, guests, traffic, and building sounds.

3. LIGHT

Check windows, mirrors, and reflections.

4. SOUND

Compare knocks with nearby activity.

5. REPEAT

Record recurring conditions or timing.

6. RESULT

Distinguish likely causes from unknowns.

LOCATION PROTOCOL

Santa Maria Inn is an operating hotel. Follow staff rules and obtain permission before organized investigations or recording.

CHALLENGE RESULT

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VISITOR INFORMATION

Historic Santa Maria Inn | 801 S Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93454. Phone: (805) 928-7777. Confirm current reservations and property policies.

LINKS + RESOURCES

OFFICIAL HOTEL



CONTACT / RESERVATIONS



HOTEL HISTORY



VISIT COMPLETION

☐

Respected guest privacy

☐

Reviewed hotel history

☐

Checked hotel rules

☐

Researched reported legends

☐

Completed sound-light test

☐

Followed hotel protocol

FIELD JOURNAL

INVESTIGATION #

VISIT DATE

ONE THING I COULD NOT EXPLAIN

Research basis: Santa Maria Inn official history and attributed local folklore.