

Humor

10 Places You Have to See After You Die

By: Richard A. Shury



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Richard A. Shury recently returned to New Zealand after haunting London for many years. He's an unabashed sci-fi nerd, who dabbles in the literary arts. His story *Chiaroscuro* was read at Liars' League, and several of his short stories, such as *A Guide to Navigating Your Grief*, *The Formula*, *Gamer*, and *Milieu*, have been published in magazines and anthologies. He's a part-time optimist.

It's known that the afterlife is well-stocked with places to see, but did you know the most recommended by travelers to the NetherRealms and beyond? Read on for Fuzzbeed's top ten picks!

1. **Hades** – for our first entry we're going classical. It's a place not many people visit as a matter of course these days, so they've recently introduced a few innovations to entice souls back to the underworld. The place has been brightened up with stunning new décor, and Charon's toll no longer applies. Save those pennies! The crossing of the Styx is a leisurely jaunt, and once you reach the Fields of Asphodel you can (for a small fee) purchase some blood libations and have a ball feeding them to the lesser spirits. Next, take a dip in the newly renovated Lethe pool (complete with spa jets) and let all your troubles melt away. The last step on your journey is the spectacular Palace of Hades and Persephone, a stunning architectural marvel. What will your fate be? Cast yourself before the judges and find out!

2. **Cryptochron** – next on the list we're bounding forward to one of the newer places you can go, the Cryptochron. This is where newly-scanned (or the most recently backed up version)

deceased are sent, first for processing and then for dissemination into the Network. Watch as discrete information streams flow through into the main Heptoprocessor, a phenomenon many believe to be like the soul's flight from the body – only in binary form. The Heptoprocessor calibrates and stabilizes the data streams, ensuring that the patterns of the individuals are correctly defined. A light show for the ages!

You can then take in the view as these beings of pure information integrate with their new surroundings, becoming one with the Great Data Flow, while also creating their own worlds and virtual bodies within the mathematical <DataSpaceConstruct>.

3. **The Pillars of Creation** – this next one is hard to beat, but it will require you to master astral travel. (*You can sign up for courses through FuzzBeed and get 10% off.*)] Once you have achieved sufficient skill, perhaps taken some quick trips to Proxima and Tau Ceti to get the hang of things, try homing in on the visitors center right at the base of the Eagle Nebula. From there you can observe one of the wonders of the universe in spectacular fashion; either float around the nebula using an audio assistant or take one of the famous Pillar Tours and hear interesting facts from one of their knowledgeable guides. Observe the gas and dust in real time, or switch to fast stream for a classic time-lapse experience of a

star being born.

4. Haunting – ok, we know this one is a little bit cliched, but bear with us. Some things are classic for a reason. This isn't so much a specific place to go as a thing to do, but it will require you to be tied to a location for a certain period. This option isn't for everyone, but if you're interested in seeing the evolution of a fixed point, one which holds emotional significance for you and which you don't want anyone else disturbing, then this slow burner is the option for you. Please note terms and conditions apply.

5. Stalking – on the other hand, you may prefer following a particular individual around. Perhaps someone did you wrong and needs to feel an inexplicable chill in their bones, an angst they can't quite shake? Or do you wish to serve as a silent protector, watching over a dear one until you know that someone else has come to fulfil that role?

Whichever you choose, experience the confidence of knowing that you'll be bound to your chosen person for years or even decades to come. Enquire about our upgrade to poltergeist mode, which allows you to protect – or scare – your chosen mortal with even more real-world influence than ever! We've heard some hilarious stories about our reader's exes (feel free to leave your stories in the comments below).

6. Valhalla (or Fólkvangr) – another classic which has seen a decline in visitor numbers in recent years, but is no less beautiful for that. It too has undergone some restructuring to make the most of its prized real estate. This location has strict

entrance criteria: you must have died in glorious combat, which probably accounts for the drop in numbers, but we prefer to think of it as an exclusive club!

Once you've received your mortal wound, you'll proceed over the grand spectacle that is the Bifrost, a dazzle of color and light. Upon arrival in Asgard, The Home of the Gods™, you'll be greeted by your own personal Valkyrie, who will offer you a choice: firstly, the majestic and legendary hall of Valhalla, near which stands with the golden tree of Glasir – a sight to behold in itself. Feast with heroes from time immemorial and tell great stories of courage and valor! The other option is the field of Fólkvangr, a place of peace and tranquility, where you can also visit the hall of Sessrúmnir if in need of company. Choose wisely!

7. The Great Sorting – do you believe in God and his righteous judgment? If so, this might be the destination for you. Even if you're unsure of your beliefs, this activity can be an opportunity to observe and learn. You'll either be on the side lines or in the thick of things as the Endtimes appear in earnest.

Fresh from the chaos of Armageddon, Jehovah will descend to Earth to enact the Great Sorting. Believers and non-believers of all kinds will be tested and weighed according to the deeds of their life and the goodness of their heart. They will be divided into those who will spend eternity in God's light, and those who will be cast out into darkness. Beware, there are some who say that to 'sit on the fence' (that is, to observe) will also be cast into darkness. Nonetheless, it is a spectacular, once-in-creation event that is not to be missed!

8. The Reincarnation Route – the activity promises to be one which throws up surprises and enjoyment in equal measure. Strap yourself in for a whirlwind ride as your karma is appraised by the cosmos and your next form determined. Be sure you know what you're in for and consider the myriad possibilities for your immortal soul's journey along the cycle of Samsāra.

Will you enter a state which finally allows you to achieve nirvana, the liberation from the world of flesh and blood, or are you in for another round of soul-crushing drudgery? Take a chance and find out! (It's worth noting the final decision is solely down to the cosmos, so whether you end up as Taylor Swift or just a plain old tailor, there's nothing FuzzBeed can do about this after the fact. We accept no liability for any consequences occurring as a result of Transmigration.)

9. Purgatorio – the least well-known of Dante's three, we include it here as a place which visitors have found is a nice change from the horrors of the Inferno (which, while funny at first, get old after a while). It's also distinct from the outright boredom of the Paradiso; after all there's only so many harp songs one can take, right?

The Purgatorio is not bound by either of these problems, though it has an intensity all its own. Set on an undisturbed island in the Pacific, you are free to make your way up the nine terraces, meeting various groupings of people who may tell you about their various sins (and repentance thereof). Once at the top you can rest your legs in the paradise which is the Garden of Eden, a place of pure tranquility. Overall, Purgatorio is a real hidden

gem which won't stay that way for long, so visit now while it's still untouched by the trappings of tourism.

10. The Multi-Consciousness – this destination is newly-created and growing fast. Unlike many of the other places on our list, it is a place which is constantly evolving, and which is created and changed by the will of those who reside within it. Allow your soul to be absorbed into the Consciousness (waiver required), and become one with an entity unlike any another.

While retaining a sense of yourself, you will also become part of a communal being which is much more than the sum of its parts. You'll experience the feeling of being truly known and truly loved by countless others, and returning those feelings. But a word of warning: for the private and those who have secrets the process can be a disturbing one, for it requires complete surrender, and there is no part of yourself which can be kept hidden. However, if you can submit to the process, you become part of a world which has endless and infinite possibilities of love and cooperation.

11. Bonus – The Void – we added this one in as a bonus, simply because it's not so much a place as the lack of a place. Are you tired of making decisions? Are you sick of demands on your time? Do the ideas of eternal suffering and eternal joy both seem repugnant to you?

If your mind is all-too-human, if you're ready to get off the cosmic treadmill and sink into a state like nothing you have known since before your essence formed out of the pre-cosmic plasma, then the Void is the place for you.

Pure nothingness, pure nonexistence; forget all your troubles and tasks, forget your happiness and sadness, forget everyone and everything you ever knew. Heck, forget forgetting, and simply fade away. (Please note, this choice cannot be undone. Anyone who leaves the Planes of Existence can never return.)

Have you visited any of the above places? If your soul has passed through heavensong or flame, amortality or binary bliss, we want to hear about it. Let us know your top picks for places to visit after you die in the comments below!

End

