**HEADLESS MAN**

**Where:** Edinburgh Castle in Scotland

**Characteristics:** This spirit is often seen desperately searching for his head, which he lost halfway through the 17th century. Along with this ghost, many other spirits live in this ancient castle: a cook, a woman thought to have been a witch during her lifetime, and even a dog. There are so many spectres that you may not be able to visit the castle without being bothered by at least one!

**How to beat it:** Since he can't see you, he probably won't know you're there, so there's nothing to fear. However, you may end up feeling sorry for him and decide to go looking for his head. Don't do it! There are so many ghosts in this castle that you may find some of the ghastlier ones.
**The Green Lady**

*Where:* Castle of Mey in Scotland

*Characteristics:* The spirit that haunts this castle has been named the Green Lady. She looks like a sad little girl, and in fact, her death hides a tragic love story. If you meet her, give her a smile. It won't change her fate, but it will certainly cheer her up.
**DRACULA**

*Where:* Bran Castle, Transylvania, by day. Flying around in the form of a bat by night.

*Characteristics:* He is the most notorious of all vampires – nocturnal creatures that feed off of human blood. As an undead creature, he won’t be easy to kill. Pale, with long canine teeth used to suck the blood of his victims, he stays out of direct sunlight and can’t set foot in places that have been blessed. Although some vampires have recently reformed, don’t be fooled into thinking that Dracula has turned over a new leaf; quite the contrary. He is stronger, more devious and more violent than ever.

*How to beat it:* Even though Dracula is one of the strongest monsters, he is also more vulnerable in a few ways. He hates garlic, so always wear some around your neck, where he normally sinks his canines. If you find him asleep in his coffin, you could kill him easily by driving a wooden stake through his heart. Another, more complicated way to defeat him would be to lure him out of his castle and into the sunlight, where he would turn to dust. Also remember that he loathes holy water and the sign of the cross.

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Illustrations by Laura Brenila
Text by Federica Magrin
**Mapinguary**

*Where:* The Mato Grosso do Sul jungle in Brazil

*Characteristics:* This monster looks like a huge, hairy sloth but it is definitely not as friendly. In fact, it has a large mouth full of tapered teeth, and long arms with sharp claws. Thanks to its terrible smell and ear-splitting cries, it can be identified from pretty far away. Strange but true: it only has one eye and it's quite large.

*How to beat it:* Its fur is bulletproof and there are no weapons that can kill it. Instead, focus on its eye. If you're able to blind it — even temporarily by throwing dirt in it — that'll give you enough time to escape or set a snare. Although, trapping it will only work if you have a stomach strong enough to deal with its terrible smell...
Lemish

Where: Patagonia  
Characteristics: If you see a Lemish, don’t hide in your house. This kind of aquatic tiger has a bad reputation for destroying homes.
La Llorona

Where: Near bodies of water throughout Central and South America.

Characteristics: This ghost looks like a young woman floating in the air or through the waters of a river. What is most frightening about this spectral figure is the noise she makes – a shriek that could make your blood run cold.

How to beat it: One thing to do is block out her terrifying cries – so maybe try some headphones with loud music! Even better, since her ghostliness comes from her suffering during life, you could try giving her a warm, comforting hug. But there’s just one problem... she has no actual body to hug! Try some sweets, maybe. Everyone likes sweets.

Content taken from
"Monsters and Ghosts" by Federica Magrin
Illustrations by Laura Brenila
Text by Federica Magrin
JÉ ROUGE

Where: Haiti

Characteristics: Beware of the Jé-rouge! This half werewolf half vampire is famed for being particularly fierce.
Where: Argentina

Characteristics: If you sail on the waters of Lake Nahuel Huapi, keep an eye out. You may see the prickly spine of the Nahuelito, a powerful monster that's an oversized mix between a fish and a snake.
**Suguriju**

**Where:** The Amazon rainforest

**Characteristics:** It looks like a snake, but is much, much larger. The one spotted in Nueva Tacna, in Peru, was over 40 metres long and 4 metres wide. Just think, that’s bigger than 20 men! It eats anything it can find and hunts by wrapping itself around its prey and strangling it, just like a boa constrictor!

**How to beat it:** This monster is particularly difficult to beat. Since it’s enormous and very strong, wrestling it with your bare hands may be fatal for you. So what can you do? Focus on your speed. Its heft makes it slow, so try to escape its grasp quickly. If you do have to fight it, the best thing to do is to find a large, sharp stick. If you can paralyse it at the neck just below its jaw, it won’t be able to harm you!
**The Witches of Pendle Hill**

*Where:* England  

*Characteristics:* There is a dark presence at the top of Pendle Hill. It's believed to be the 12 ghosts of accused witches who once lived in the area, until they were executed. They are seeking revenge, so before trespassing on their land, make sure you have an amulet to protect yourself from their tricks.

Content taken from *Lonely Planet Kids: Monsters and Ghosts* by Federica Magrin. Illustrations by Laura Brenlla.
Loch Ness Monster

Where: Loch Ness, Scotland

Characteristics: The creature that lives in Loch Ness – sometimes called Nessie – is a rather curious monster. It has a massive body, a long snake-like neck, a tiny head, and fins. It’s good at swimming and is rumoured to be able to slither on dry land, too.

How to beat it: All the photos taken of Nessie show it swimming, so if you want a close encounter, you’ll need to board a boat. This isn’t a good idea though, because the monster is big and aggressive. Even if it hasn’t hurt anyone recently, in 565 AD, a monk wrote about the funeral of a man killed by the “loch monster”, which was the first reported sighting of Nessie. Better not risk it!

Lonely Planet Kids

Content taken from

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Text by Federica Magrin