

Paranormal "U"

Sacred Relics

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In most religions, a sacred relic usually consists of the physical remains of a saint or the personal effects of the saint or a venerated person and reliquaries are containers used to protect and display relics. A few examples of relics from Christianity are listed below:

- The Sandals of Jesus Christ were donated to Prüm Abbey, Germany, by Pope Zachary (741-752) and Pope Stephen II (752-757).
- St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican contains [Saint Peter's](#) relics
- The Apostle Paul's relics are allegedly contained in the [Basilica of Saint Paul](#).
- St John the Evangelist's tomb is purported to be in the [Basilica of St. John](#) at Ephesus in Turkey
- Relics claimed to be those of [John the Baptist](#) were discovered in a Bulgarian monastery in 2010. Other countries claiming to have remains of St John include Turkey, Montenegro, Greece, Italy and Egypt.

In Islam, the following relics reportedly exist. A collection of more than 600 of these called the Sacred Trusts are said to reside at the [Privy Chamber](#) of the [Topkapi Palace Museum](#) in [Istanbul](#). Some of these trusts are:

- Hair from [Prophet Muhammad's](#) beard and footprint
- Staff of [Moses](#)
- Turban of [Joseph](#)
- Sword of [David](#)

For as much as these relics reportedly exist in various locations around the world, fraudulent relics also exist. One of the most common faked relic is the True Cross of Jesus Christ. This is the cross he was crucified upon. Rumor has it that if all the pieces of the True cross of Jesus Christ were brought together, it would be enough wood to make an ark. The fraud associated with these relics is due to the huge economic impact they have on a location. Thousands of visitors go to holy sites each year spending millions of dollars.

Many people believe that some of these relics have supernatural powers. The most commonly reported ability these items have is some form of healing. Among the faithful, stories of the blind being able to see, or the crippled being able to walk around. While many of these reported miracles are explainable, several are still under investigation as to the cause.

No matter what religion someone holds dear, relics of the Saints hold a special place. These are tangible pieces of history that can give one a strong connection to history and faith. No matter if they can heal the sick, or just offer a pretty picture to remember a trip by later, relics are a sign that what you believe is as real as the relic itself.