

Steve Ronin Interview Script:

This interview will center around the [video](#), *The Diplomat Hotel*, found on Steve Ronin's YouTube channel. The hotel houses countless tales, and is known for being the most haunted place in the Philippines. It is a place of luxury, intended initially for the Dominican. Then in World War II, Filipinos fled to the hotel to seek refuge from the Japanese onslaught. The Japanese invaded and took over the space, and so then the hotel was used by the Japanese, as a rest site and sanatorium, and likely was the site of many atrocities, and though its history is shaky, likely more than one suicide. After this, it was purchased and used as an actual hotel, but after the owners death in 1982, the hotel was abandoned. The structure suffered from the countless natural disasters which battered the Philippines, but ultimately still stands.

**You said that the site had been on your mind for many years, what was it that initially sparked this interest?**

**There's very little obscene graffiti on this site, but there is an art installation and other impressive works, is this the norm in sites you visit? How did it impact the experience?**

**The paranormal aspect of your exploration is a more controversial one, are you a true believer?**

*If he says yes, I can ask this, but skip it if no:*

**Do you think the spirits you investigate would appreciate your content?**

**At a site like this, in a mountainous region, it brings to question whether altitude sickness may be the cause of some of the irregularities, what are your thoughts on that?**

**Watching the video, I wanted more history — the occupation, what actually happened inside these walls. Do you think you struck the right balance?**

*Note: If he says yes, follow up with this:*

**Can I share a personal reaction? I felt the paranormal investigation crowded out the history. Is that fair?**

*Note: If he acknowledges the imbalance, follow up with this instead:*

**How would you fix that in practice?**

**Moving along...**

**The site has three distinct chapters in its history. Which chapter of that history do you think about most?**

**Did you feel welcome in the space? Many people fled and were forced into this hotel by circumstance, you chose to go there, did you consider their experience in the space while having your own?**

**For me, what draws me to ruins is the ambiguity, their significance across human history, and the aesthetics—what would you say draws you to ruins?**

**Did anything happen which you didn't include in your video?**

Thank you.

Overall, I didn't mind the video all that much, but I found the paranormal part of it a tad gimmicky, particularly when they pulled out their iPhone and used an app to speak to "whoever committed suicide around here". It seemed disrespectful but he also clearly puts in an effort to convey that he's at least trying to be respectful. They're still loud and afflicted with a rampant "YouTube personality", but the site itself makes the video worth watching.