

EVERYDAY GHOST HUNTING

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On any day, you can go ghost hunting, informally. You might pass by several haunted locations every day, and not realize it.

I'm not suggesting that *everyone* is around a haunted location *every* day. That would be silly. 80% of the sites that I'm told are haunted, seem to have *no paranormal energy at all*. Among those that *are* haunted, only a small percentage actually have ghosts. The vast majority are simply residual energy hauntings.

First, I'm going to describe *where* to look. Then I will summarize the tools you can use. After that, I'll tell you *what* to look for. Finally, I'll share tips for what to do next.

Where to look

Most people know whether or not their own homes are haunted. So, the best place to start everyday ghost hunting might be where you walk every day. For example, look closely at any parks you walk past. Was there some reason why they placed that park at *that* location? Was it previously a sacred site? Had they tried to build on it earlier, but -- for one reason or another -- it seemed like a bad place for a building? Maybe it was just a pretty spot for a park... but there might be more to the story.

Ask the same question about empty lots. That's how I discovered some hauntings in Austin, Texas.

Learn about regional folklore related to locations you pass daily. Check online to see if anyone has reported ghost stories near where you live, go to school, or work.

Sometimes, haunted or spiritual sites can be "hiding in plain sight." For example, in an area that's generally level, have you overlooked any random mound? In some cases, they relate to prehistoric or native cultures, or early, mostly forgotten history.

Take a walk around your neighborhood. Make the same kinds of observations I described earlier.

While I would never want to suggest that a church is haunted, some places of worship are deeply spiritual sites. As a result, especially if you're psychic, you may sense visiting spirits. They may be there to listen to, and give comfort to, members of the congregation. This is especially true of old and ornate churches.

Do you go past old buildings regularly? Study their exteriors closely. You may find historical plaques or markers on them. Sometimes, those stories can indicate a good reason for a haunting.

Look closely at new buildings that are on old sites. What happened to the old building? Old buildings have stories and sometimes ghosts of their own. They don't go away just because they tore down the building.

Museums and antiques stores often hold objects that store considerable energy. You don't need to be a haunted collector to sense energy on or around those objects. Put enough powerful objects in one location, and you may have enough collective energy to create something like a haunting.

Tools to use

To go ghost hunting every day, you may want a portable ghost hunting kit. You might choose electronic devices, some low tech tools, or learn to work without ghost hunting equipment at all.

With a smartphone, you may have everything that you need. With the right apps, you could be carrying more sophisticated ghost hunting equipment than was available to us just a few years ago.

For example, your phone could include a ghost radar, an Ovilus style real-time communication device, a good flash camera, and other high tech. ghost-related tools.

With a phone and a reliable non-contact, ambient temperature thermometer, and a flashlight, you may have all of the equipment you need. (Make sure your thermometer detects *air* temperature, not surface temps.)

Some people will choose low tech alternatives. A hiking compass, dowsing rods, or a pendulum can substitute for an EMF device. Disposable flash cameras work fine on their own or as secondary options for ghost photos. And, though they're inconsistent, a loosened flashlight may work for some researchers.

If you choose to go ghost hunting with no tools at all, you can sense hot and cold spots with your bare hands. If you follow my advice and do a personal baseline check, you can sometimes tell if you're picking up paranormal energy. Of course, if you are psychic, you already know that no ghost hunting tools are necessary for effective paranormal research.

What to look for

To find haunted places you may pass every day, imagine that you're a tourist, seeing things for the first time. Would any thing seem *odd*? It's easy to overlook things that you've seen every day, for years.

Especially in warm weather, notice unexplained cold spots. They can occur outdoors as easily as indoors. Look for unexplained hot spots. Be on the alert for any surprising temperature changes as you go about your everyday routines.

When you pass a memorial, learn more about it. There may be a useful story connected with it.

Look for historical plaques, especially when one marks a tragic event, typical of a haunted site.

Outdoors, look for signs from nature. Just as branches of trees sometimes curve to avoid power lines, nature may provide clues to haunted and spiritual locations. Many haunted sites include faerie rings. Likewise, some birds - - especially black birds - - seem to be attracted to locations with unusual histories. If they seem to flock in one particular tree, but you see no nests nearby, look into the history of that location.

Post-discovery research

After you have discovered one or more anomalies, look deeper. Online, at Google or any search engine, see if you can find any reference to a ghost connected with that location, memorial, building, or plaque.

Search for the history of that street address. Ask the local historical society about that location. Paragenealogy may help you understand how an individual was connected with that location, or perhaps why you are more sensitive to that location than others might be.

Finally, revisit the location and double-check to see if the anomaly or experience recurs. If it does, the location may be worth a full, formal, paranormal investigation.