

Paranormal Country

User Guide

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A practical guide for members, investigators, group admins, venue owners, sellers, and site admins.

This guide explains how to use the main site features, how to post and share media safely, and what to expect from account, privacy, marketplace, event, and message tools.

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Audience: Members, investigators, venue owners, sellers, group admins, and site admins

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1. Quick Start

Paranormal Country is a community site for paranormal, UFO, cryptid, folklore, mystery, and investigation topics. It combines social posting, groups, events, messages, sightings, ScareBnB venues, marketplace listings, and evidence sharing.

First things to do

- 1 Create your account or sign in.
- 2 Complete your profile with your real profile details where required.
- 3 Add a profile photo and short bio if you want other members to recognise you.
- 4 Review your privacy and online-status settings.
- 5 Browse the feed and react/comment on a few posts.
- 6 Join or request access to groups that match your interests.
- 7 Create a post, sighting, field report, event, venue listing, or marketplace listing when ready.

Main areas of the site

- 1 Feed: Your main social timeline for posts, media, questions, sightings, and discussions.
- 1 Groups: Topic or team spaces where members can post and coordinate.
- 1 Events: Meetups, investigations, festivals, livestreams, and hybrid gatherings.
- 1 ScareBnB: Haunted or investigation-friendly venues listed by members.
- 1 Marketplace: Member-to-member paranormal gear listings.
- 1 Messages: Private member chats, group chats, media messages, GIFs, stickers, and voice notes.
- 1 Sightings and field reports: Structured reports for unusual observations and investigation notes.
- 1 Search: Site-wide search across members, groups, events, venues, listings, and posts.
- 1 Settings: Account, privacy, notifications, security, online status, and account lifecycle options.

2. Accounts and Signing In

Create an account

- 1 Open the sign-up page.
- 2 Enter your required account details.
- 3 Complete any security check shown on the form.
- 4 Submit the form.
- 5 If email confirmation is enabled, confirm your email before logging in.
- 6 If email confirmation is disabled for testing, you may be signed in immediately.

Sign in

- 1 Open the login page.
- 2 Enter your email and password.
- 3 Complete the security check if shown.
- 4 Select Log in.

If login fails, check:

- 1 The email address is typed correctly.
- 1 The account exists.
- 1 The password is correct.
- 1 Email confirmation is not still required.
- 1 The account has not been suspended, deactivated, or scheduled for deletion.

Password reset

Use the forgot-password page if you cannot sign in. Enter your email address and follow the reset link sent to your inbox. If no email arrives, check spam/junk and confirm the email address is the one used for the account.

3. Profiles and Privacy

Your profile helps other members understand who they are speaking with and what kind of investigator, researcher, believer, sceptic, venue owner, or community member you are.

Profile information

Depending on current site settings, your profile may include:

- 1 Display name
- 1 First name and surname
- 1 Avatar/profile image
- 1 Cover image
- 1 Bio
- 1 Location or hometown
- 1 Interests, skills, gear, and highlights
- 1 Birthday or personal details if you choose to add them
- 1 External links

Editing your profile

- 1 Open Profile or Settings.
- 2 Update your display details, bio, location, avatar, and cover image.
- 3 Save changes.
- 4 Check your public profile to confirm it looks right.

Profile privacy

Privacy controls can affect what others see. A private profile may limit public visibility of personal information and post history. Some basic identity information may still appear where needed for safety, community features, or messages.

Online status

You can choose whether other members can see your online/presence status. If hidden, your profile should not show active/away indicators to other members.

4. Home Feed, Posts, Comments, Reactions, and Shares

The feed is the main social area. It supports normal discussion as well as paranormal-specific posting options.

Create a post

- 1 Click the post composer.
- 2 Type your post.
- 3 Choose an audience.

- 4 Add optional media, location, status/activity, tags, poll, schedule, or CTA where available.
- 5 Click Next if the composer asks for settings.
- 6 Review the settings.
- 7 Click Post.

Post audiences

Audience controls determine who can see the post. Depending on available data and relationships, options may include:

- 1 Public
- 1 Friends
- 1 Friends except selected people
- 1 Specific friends
- 1 Only me
- 1 Acquaintances
- 1 Close friends
- 1 Group-scoped audience when posting into a group

If a post is scoped to a group, it should use the group access rules rather than being visible to everyone.

Post types and options

The post composer supports or may expose:

- 1 Status text posts
- 1 Evidence media uploads
- 1 Attachment links
- 1 GIFs and stickers
- 1 Background colour/style choices
- 1 Investigation location
- 1 Investigator status/activity
- 1 Reels or short video posts where enabled
- 1 Stories where enabled
- 1 Carousel/multiple media uploads
- 1 Tagging investigators
- 1 Polls
- 1 Scheduling
- 1 Pinning
- 1 Call-to-action links

Only use an option if it is relevant. For example, uploading a normal photo does not automatically mean it is formal evidence.

Comments

Use comments to ask questions, add context, or discuss a post. Some posts may have comments disabled by the author or by moderators.

Reactions

Posts can be liked or reacted to with available reaction icons. Reactions help show agreement, interest, surprise, humour, or support without requiring a full comment.

Sharing

Sharing lets you point other members to a post or item. When sharing, add your own context so people understand why you are sharing it.

5. Evidence Media and Image Viewing

The site supports images, videos, documents, and other media depending on the area.

Uploading evidence or media

- 1 Open the relevant composer or listing form.
- 2 Choose the media/image upload option.
- 3 Select your file.
- 4 Wait for upload and any scanning or processing steps.
- 5 Confirm the file appears in the preview.
- 6 Post or save the item.

Virus scanning and upload delay

Some uploads may take longer because media is scanned before it is fully available. This protects members from unsafe files. If a scan takes a while, the best experience is to show upload progress or let the user continue while the media completes processing.

Click to enlarge images

Many content images can be clicked to open a larger viewer. This includes:

- 1 Feed and post images
- 1 Post media attachments
- 1 Inline post images and stickers
- 1 Chat image attachments
- 1 Marketplace listing images
- 1 ScareBnB venue images
- 1 Event cover images

- 1 Detail page cover images

Use Escape or the close button to leave the image viewer.

Media safety tips

- 1 Avoid uploading private documents unless you intend members to see them.
- 1 Check images for private information in the background.
- 1 Be careful with GPS/location metadata in photos.
- 1 Do not upload copyrighted media unless you have permission.
- 1 Do not upload dangerous, illegal, or harmful content.

6. Groups and Join Requests

Groups are spaces for teams, topics, regions, clubs, research interests, or investigation crews.

Find groups

Open Groups from the top bar or sidebar. You can browse available groups, search by name/topic, and review descriptions before joining.

Create a group

- 1 Open Groups.
- 2 Choose Create Group.
- 3 Add a name, description, category, and visibility if available.
- 4 Save the group.
- 5 The creator is added as an owner or admin.

Join a group

Public groups may allow joining directly. Private or restricted groups may require a join request.

Join requests

If a group requires approval:

- 1 Click request to join.
- 2 Answer any qualification questions if shown.
- 3 Wait for a group admin to approve or reject the request.

Group admin tools

Group admins may be able to:

- 1 Review join requests
- 1 Approve or reject members

- 1 Change member roles
- 1 Remove members
- 1 Manage group rules
- 1 Manage group-specific posts
- 1 Delete inappropriate group content where policy permits

7. Events and RSVPs

Events are for turning online interest into real plans, livestreams, hybrid meets, or public gatherings.

Event types

Events may include:

- 1 Public paranormal investigations
- 1 Private investigations
- 1 Paranormal festivals
- 1 Paranormal meetups
- 1 Online livestreams
- 1 Hybrid online/in-person gatherings

Create an event

- 1 Open Events.
- 2 Select Create event.
- 3 Choose the host: personal profile, page, or group.
- 4 Add title, description, date, time, format, location, and optional venue.
- 5 Add a cover image or gallery images if available.
- 6 Set privacy and capacity if available.
- 7 Save the event.

RSVP

Events can show:

- 1 Going
- 1 Interested
- 1 Invited
- 1 Past
- 1 Hosting

Click Interested or Going to set your status. Clicking again may remove or change your response depending on the current UI behaviour.

Event safety

For in-person events:

- 1 Confirm permission to attend the venue.
- 1 Follow local laws and venue rules.
- 1 Do not trespass.
- 1 Tell someone where you are going.
- 1 Take appropriate lighting, phone battery, weather gear, and first aid.
- 1 Avoid unsafe buildings, restricted spaces, or solo night visits.

8. ScareBnB Venue Listings

ScareBnB is for member-listed haunted, historic, unusual, or investigation-friendly venues.

Browse venues

Open ScareBnB or Locations. You can browse venue cards with photo, price, availability, location, rental type, and owner information.

Create a venue listing

- 1 Open ScareBnB.
- 2 Choose List on ScareBnB.
- 3 Add title, haunted background, address, city, country, price, currency, and rental type.
- 4 Add contact details where appropriate.
- 5 Add a cover photo and gallery images.
- 6 Save the listing.

Rental types

Venue listings may be labelled as:

- 1 Ghost hunt
- 1 Overnight sleepover
- 1 Ghost hunt and overnight sleepover

Venue enquiries

Members may send enquiries to the venue owner. Paranormal Country hosts listings and messages, but arrangements, payment, access, refunds, and safety remain between the parties unless the site states otherwise.

Venue owner reminders

- 1 Be honest about access, condition, safety, and restrictions.
- 1 Do not list places you do not control or have permission to advertise.

- 1 Keep contact details current.
- 1 Remove or update listings that are no longer available.

9. Marketplace Listings and Safety

The Marketplace is for member-to-member paranormal gear and related equipment.

Browse marketplace listings

Listings show gear title, price, category, condition, seller, image, sold/expired status, and a View Gear button.

Create a marketplace listing

- 1 Open Marketplace.
- 2 Choose List Gear for Sale.
- 3 Add title, description, category, subcategory, price, and currency.
- 4 Choose condition and fulfilment method.
- 5 Add delivery/collection notes.
- 6 Add contact email or phone if you want buyers to contact you that way.
- 7 Add cover and product images.
- 8 Choose whether to accept offers.
- 9 Post the listing.

Listing fields

Common listing fields include:

- 1 Title
- 1 Description
- 1 Price
- 1 Currency
- 1 Category
- 1 Subcategory
- 1 Condition
- 1 Collection/delivery method
- 1 Delivery notes
- 1 Contact email
- 1 Contact phone
- 1 Cover image
- 1 Extra images
- 1 Accept offers

Buyer safety

- 1 Paranormal Country does not process payments or provide escrow unless explicitly stated.
- 1 Use safe payment methods.
- 1 Avoid sending money to unknown sellers without protection.
- 1 Inspect expensive items before paying where possible.
- 1 Be cautious of pressure tactics, suspicious links, or off-site scams.
- 1 Report suspicious sellers or listings.

Seller safety

- 1 Describe items accurately.
- 1 State whether batteries, cables, cases, or manuals are included.
- 1 Use clear photos.
- 1 Keep proof of postage or collection.
- 1 Do not share unnecessary personal data.
- 1 Mark an item as sold when no longer available.

10. Messages and Chat

Messages allow members to communicate privately, coordinate with groups, and contact community/page admins where enabled.

Start a chat

- 1 Open Messages.
- 2 Select a friend, group, or followed community channel.
- 3 Type your message.
- 4 Send.

Chat features

Chat may include:

- 1 Text messages
- 1 Image/video/audio/file attachments
- 1 Voice notes
- 1 Built-in GIF choices
- 1 Stickers
- 1 Emoji picker
- 1 Wave hello quick action
- 1 Message deletion for your own messages

- 1 Phone/video request messages
- 1 Chat themes
- 1 Online status visibility where enabled

Message privacy

Messages are account-protected and access-controlled, but they are not end-to-end encrypted unless the product explicitly says so. Site administrators or service providers may be able to access message data where required for safety, support, moderation, legal compliance, or technical operation.

Good chat practice

- 1 Do not pressure other members for replies.
- 1 Do not harass, threaten, or spam.
- 1 Do not send unsafe links or files.
- 1 Do not share another person's private information.
- 1 Report abusive messages.

11. Sightings and Field Reports

Sightings and field reports are for structured accounts of unusual activity, observations, or investigations.

Create a sighting or field report

- 1 Open Sightings or Field Reports.
- 2 Choose the create/new report option.
- 3 Add the title or summary.
- 4 Add location, date/time, category, and description.
- 5 Upload supporting media if available.
- 6 Add environmental details, witnesses, or equipment notes where asked.
- 7 Review and submit.

What makes a useful report

Useful reports usually include:

- 1 Date and time
- 1 Location or approximate area
- 1 Weather and visibility
- 1 Direction of travel or movement
- 1 Duration of observation
- 1 Witness count
- 1 Equipment used

- 1 Photos, audio, video, sketches, or documents
- 1 What was ruled out
- 1 What remains unexplained

Responsible reporting

- 1 Do not trespass to collect evidence.
- 1 Do not reveal private addresses without permission.
- 1 Do not name witnesses without consent.
- 1 Be clear when something is opinion, folklore, theory, or confirmed fact.

12. Search, Notifications, Saved Items, and Case Files

Search

Search can help find:

- 1 Members
- 1 Groups
- 1 Pages
- 1 Events
- 1 ScareBnB venues
- 1 Marketplace listings
- 1 Posts

Use specific terms such as a location, subject, gear type, venue name, event title, or investigator name.

Notifications

Notifications may appear for:

- 1 Likes and reactions
- 1 Comments and replies
- 1 Shares
- 1 Messages
- 1 Group activity
- 1 Join requests
- 1 Event reminders and RSVP updates
- 1 Marketplace offers or listing activity
- 1 Venue enquiries
- 1 Admin or safety notices

Saved items and case files

Some content can be saved or added to case files. Use this to collect posts, reports, venues, and events around one topic or investigation.

13. Settings, Security, Deactivation, and Deletion

Settings is where you manage account-level preferences.

Common settings

- 1 Profile details
- 1 Password
- 1 Online status visibility
- 1 Notification preferences
- 1 Privacy settings
- 1 Account lifecycle controls
- 1 Security/MFA prompts if required

Security checks

Some login, signup, contact, or protected actions may include security checks to reduce spam and abuse.

Temporary deactivation

Temporary deactivation is for taking a break while keeping the option to return.

What usually happens:

- 1 Your profile may be hidden from searches and friends.
- 1 Some references to your name may still remain in lists or messages.
- 1 You may still be reachable in some message contexts depending on implementation.
- 1 Reactivation usually happens by logging back in.

Permanent deletion

Permanent deletion is for leaving permanently.

What usually happens:

- 1 Your profile and associated data are scheduled for deletion.
- 1 A grace period may apply, such as 30 days.
- 1 Logging in during the grace period may cancel deletion.
- 1 After final deletion, recovery may not be possible.
- 1 Some backups or legal records may remain for a limited period.

14. Admin and Moderation Notes

Admin features are only for authorised users.

Admin access

Admin users may have access to tools such as:

- 1 User management
- 1 Post monitoring
- 1 Reports and complaints
- 1 Marketplace moderation
- 1 Venue and event moderation
- 1 Storage/media review
- 1 System status
- 1 Security/MFA checks

MFA for admins

Admin accounts may be required to set up multi-factor authentication. This protects higher-risk tools such as user management and content moderation.

Moderation principles

Moderation should focus on:

- 1 Safety
- 1 Legal compliance
- 1 Spam prevention
- 1 Harassment prevention
- 1 Scam prevention
- 1 Protecting minors and vulnerable users
- 1 Keeping investigations and community discussions respectful

15. Troubleshooting

I cannot sign in

Check your email, password, email confirmation status, account status, and security check. Use password reset if needed.

My uploaded image is slow

Large media or security scanning can delay availability. Try a smaller file or wait for processing to complete.

My post did not appear

Check whether it was scheduled, scoped to a group, pending moderation, blocked by missing login, or affected by upload failure.

I cannot see a group post

You may not be a member of the group, or the group may be private/restricted.

I cannot RSVP to an event

The event may be past, invite-only, group-only, read-only showcase content, or affected by your account status.

I cannot delete something

Only owners, authorised admins, or moderators can delete certain content. Some showcase or protected content may be read-only.

Images do not open larger

Only supported content/media images open in the lightbox. Avatars and some link-preview thumbnails keep their normal navigation or link behaviour.

16. New Member Checklist

Use this checklist when joining the site:

- 1 Create account.
- 1 Confirm email if required.
- 1 Complete profile.
- 1 Add avatar and bio.
- 1 Review privacy settings.
- 1 Set online-status preference.
- 1 Read community guidelines and marketplace safety guidance.
- 1 Follow or join at least one group.
- 1 Browse events and ScareBnB venues.
- 1 Save interesting posts or case material.
- 1 Create your first post.
- 1 Check notification settings.
- 1 Keep account and contact details current.

17. Final Safety Reminder

Paranormal Country is designed to help people connect online and coordinate real-world interests safely. Use common sense, respect boundaries, follow the law, avoid trespassing, protect personal information, and report anything that feels unsafe, abusive, fraudulent, or illegal.