



## 2019 Festivals and Special Events in Salem, Massachusetts

From Salem Film Fest to Holiday Happenings, special events in Salem will have something for everyone

Released: February 8, 2019  
Photos Available

**Salem, MA.** . . Salem, Massachusetts officially has a festival in every season. Most known for the annual Haunted Happenings festival, which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors, Salem's annual schedule also includes a wonderful Arts Festival, annual Salem's So Sweet event, Antique and Classic Boat Festival, and more.

For a complete list of events, festivals, exhibits, and programs, please visit the calendar on [Salem.org](http://Salem.org) or contact Destination Salem for additional information.

### **Salem's So Sweet** **February 8 – 10**

Chocolate, ice sculptures, and a Golden Ticket take center stage at Salem's annual Valentine celebration in February. Always a sell-out, the Chocolate & Wine Tasting at Colonial Hall opens the festival on February 8 at Colonial Hall. Ice sculptures – at least a dozen of them – will be installed around Salem on February 9, and the Golden Ticket Raffle will run February 9 – 10. Downtown businesses will offer promotions, events, tastings, and great shopping throughout the festival. [SalemSoSweet.com](http://SalemSoSweet.com) , [SalemMainStreets.org](http://SalemMainStreets.org) , [Salem-Chamber.org](http://Salem-Chamber.org) , [Facebook.com/SalemSoSweet](https://Facebook.com/SalemSoSweet)

### **Salem Restaurant Week** **March 17 – 21, 24 – 28**

Salem Restaurant Week is the perfect time to dine out at the dozens of excellent eateries. There will be a wide variety of delicious foods, including steak, seafood, Italian classics, contemporary cuisine, American favorites and exotic ethnic treats. Restaurants will offer multiple choices for appetizers, entrees, and desserts. [Salem-Chamber.org](http://Salem-Chamber.org)

### **Salem Film Fest** **March 29 – April 4**

Come to Salem, see the world during the largest all-documentary festival in New England. Film screenings and talk-backs with the directors are the highlights of the weeklong film fest. [SalemFilmFest.com](http://SalemFilmFest.com)

### **Salem Arts Festival** **June 7 – 9**

For three days each summer, this free festival transforms downtown Salem into an opportunity for the local arts community to showcase their talents. The 2018 festival was attended by more than 5,000 people, featured more than 80 artists, a juried art show, outdoor performance at the

East India Square Stage, interactive art presentations, and artists located in 20 downtown businesses. People of all ages and backgrounds enjoyed viewing art, participating in art making and purchasing art. [SalemArtsFestival.com](http://SalemArtsFestival.com)

### **Salem Farmers' Market**

**June 13 – October 17**

Every Thursday, Derby Square turns into a convenient means to purchase locally grown or prepared food products and support local agriculture and producers. With new vendors every year, the Salem Farmers' Market always has something new to offer. [SalemFarmersMarket.org](http://SalemFarmersMarket.org)

### **North Shore Pride Parade & Festival**

**June 22**

Join dozens of local businesses, faith groups, and community organizations for the fourth annual North Shore Pride Parade and Festival. All are welcome to attend this day-long event celebrating unity in the community. [NorthShorePride.org](http://NorthShorePride.org)

### **Salem Celebrates the 4<sup>th</sup>**

**July 4**

Bring your beach blankets and folding chairs to enjoy the 42-piece Hillyer Festival Orchestra on Derby Wharf at the Salem Maritime National Historic Site for a grand celebration of our nation's Independence Day. Featuring a Pops concert, a Kid Space play area, and fireworks launched over Salem Harbor, this is a quintessential celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. [Salem.com](http://Salem.com)

### **Salem Heritage Days**

**August 2 – 11**

Celebrate the past and the present during the annual Salem Heritage Days. Featuring food, fun, and activities for all ages, highlights include the Essex Street Fair, the Ice Cream Bowl, and the Car Show on Chestnut Street. [Salem.com](http://Salem.com)

### **Salem Maritime Festival**

**August 3 – 4**

Celebrate ships, sailors, sawdust and song at this annual free family festival. Hosted by the National Park Service, the festival features live music, historical re-enactors, tall ships, demonstrations, and interactive programs and crafts for families. [NPS.gov/SaMa](http://NPS.gov/SaMa)

### **Salem Jazz & Soul Festival**

**August 17 – 18**

The Salem Jazz and Soul Festival recreates and renews the vibrant jazz scene that began at the Salem Willows in the 1920s, when Duke Ellington and other musicians from the Big Band era played at the seaside park in Massachusetts. The festival builds on this rich jazz history – adding soul, blues and funk to the mix – and shining the spotlight on talented musicians from Boston's North Shore and beyond.

[SalemJazzSoul.org](http://SalemJazzSoul.org)

## **Antique & Classic Boat Festival**

**August 24 – 25**

A rare chance to see vintage motor yachts and sailboats, board vessels, meet skippers and crews and vote for your favorite boat! A crafts market, artists, old-time band music, children's activities, the Blessing of the Fleet and more! The vessels will be on display to the public over the weekend at Hawthorne Cove Marina. [BoatFestival.org](http://BoatFestival.org)

## **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Salem Haunted Happenings**

**October 1 – 31**

A festive celebration of Halloween and fall in New England, more than 250,000 people come to Salem Haunted Happenings each year. Events include a Grand Parade, the Haunted Biz Baz Street Fair, Family Film Nights on Salem Common, costume balls, ghost tours, haunted houses, live music, and chilling theatrical presentations. An ABA Top 100 Event. [HauntedHappenings.org](http://HauntedHappenings.org)

## **Salem Restaurant Week**

**December 1-5**

Salem Restaurant Week is the perfect time to dine out at the dozens of excellent eateries. There will be a wide variety of delicious foods, including steak, seafood, Italian classics, contemporary cuisine, American favorites and exotic ethnic treats. Restaurants will offer multiple choices for appetizers, entrees, and desserts. [Salem-Chamber.org](http://Salem-Chamber.org)

## **Salem Holiday Happenings**

**November 29 – January 1, 2020**

Celebrate, shop, and dine in Salem during the holiday season. Festival highlights include Historic Salem, Inc.'s annual Christmas in Salem Historic House Tour and Santa's arrival atop the Hawthorne Hotel. And don't miss the fifth annual Launch! celebration on New Year's Eve, featuring an early family-friendly event. [Salem.org](http://Salem.org)

## **Salem Comedy & Spirits Festival**

**January 16 – 18, 2020**

Warm up winter with laughter and spirits at the first annual Salem Comedy & Spirits Festival. Top area comedians and delicious locally-made spirits highlight this weekend celebration. [SalemComedyFestival.com](http://SalemComedyFestival.com)

This is a sampling of the diverse programming found in Salem, Massachusetts each year. In addition to these annual events and incredible exhibitions, programming at Salem State University, Salem Theatre Company, the House of the Seven Gables, the Hawthorne Hotel, Historic New England's Phillips House, and the many restaurants and bars guarantee a different experience for every visit. Visit [Salem.org](http://Salem.org) any time to find more information on all of the programs, events and festivals in Salem, Massachusetts.

Join the conversation with Destination Salem on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram! Follow @destsalem and use hashtag #SalemMA.

# # #

## **Contact**

Kate Fox, Destination Salem  
(978) 741-3252 | [kfox@salem.org](mailto:kfox@salem.org)

**About Salem:** Salem, Massachusetts, is a destination recognized around the world for its rich history, which includes the tragic Salem Witch Trials of 1692, the glorious maritime era that left its indelible mark on Salem through architecture, museums, and artifacts, and for its month-long celebration of Halloween. Today nearly one million people visit Salem annually, generating more than \$99 million in tourism spending.

**About Destination Salem:** As the destination marketing organization for the City of Salem, Destination Salem cooperatively markets Salem as one of Massachusetts' best destinations for families, couples, domestic, and international travelers who are seeking an authentic New England experience, cultural enrichment, American history, fine dining, unique shopping and fun. For more information, visit [Salem.org](http://Salem.org).