



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MARCH 9, 2021

## EXPERIENCE 17th-CENTURY SALEM MASSACHUSETTS IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Historic Landmarks, Art Exhibitions, and Tours Tell Many Interesting Stories



SALEM, Mass. – When people consider Salem, Massachusetts during colonial times, they often think of the infamous Witch Trials, and with the exhibition at the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM), [The Salem Witch Trials 1692](#), closing on April 4, the timing is perfect to consider a 17th-century visit to Salem virtually or in person. Right around the corner from PEM, the Salem Witch Museum is open for in-person visitors and tours. However, it's not only about those accused of being witches in 17th-century Salem--Destination Salem has some suggested experiences to get a full picture.

Enjoying colonial Salem can be done in a day trip, or during an overnight vacation. For an overnight stay, the Daniels House, which was built in 1667 by a sea captain, and predates the Salem Witch Trials, is the perfect place to settle in for the night. This First Period property features open hearth fireplaces, exposed beams, and paneled walls. The Daniels House was restored and reopened in 2019.

“Salem is the perfect place to do a deep dive into America’s early settlement history,” said Kate Fox, Executive Director of Destination Salem. “Between the current exhibition at the Peabody Essex Museum and the rich history represented in so many landmarks around Salem, visitors can observe and absorb the many 17th-century stories that Salem can tell.”

Visitors can choose from hosted historical walking tours, the self-directed mobile t-our app by Salem On Your Own, or a self-guided walk through the City. Most walking tours include Salem’s rich 17th-century history in their program, and the Bewitched After Dark walking tour is almost entirely dedicated to the Witch Trials history. Below are recommended sites to visit, many of which have their own tours in-person or virtually.



**The Ward House and Quaker Meeting House (PEM):** This first Quaker Meeting House in Salem was built around 1688. The current building, erected in 1865 to resemble a Post-Medieval or First Period structure, is a reconstruction of the Quaker Meeting House and may contain some of the original timber framing. It is most interesting today as a very early example of an architectural re-creation.



**The Gedney House:** Salem shipwright Eleazer Gedney built the earliest portion of this property in 1665. Originally the house was asymmetrical, with two rooms on the first floor, a single chamber above, and an attic with a front-facing gable. Significant renovations in 1712 and 1800 resulted in dramatic changes to the house's appearance. Gedney House is significant both for its framing and for its evidence of early decorative finishes in the hall chamber and parlor.



**The Narbonne House** (Salem Maritime National Historic Site): The Narbonne House was built in 1675 for butcher Thomas Ives. It is a remarkable example of a middle-class family home of the 17th and 18th centuries. Images can be found here: [Photo Gallery](#) (U.S. National Park Service) ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov))



**The Samuel Pickman House** (PEM property): The Pickman House, built in 1665, is a Post-Medieval or First Period building, "discovered" beneath a much-later mansard roof. It stands on its original site and exhibits the characteristics associated with this style. The house was restored by Historic Salem in 1969 and purchased by the Peabody Essex Museum in 1983.



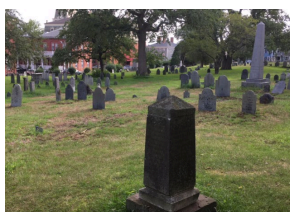
**The Witch House:** (Open) The Jonathan Corwin House in Salem, Massachusetts, USA, known as The Witch House, was the home of Judge Jonathan Corwin (1640–1718) and is the only structure that can be visited in Salem with direct ties to the Salem Witch Trials of 1692.



**The House of the Seven Gables:** Merchant and ship-owner John Turner built this house on Salem Harbor in 1668. It was designated a National Historic Landmark District in 2007 and is best known today as the setting of world-renowned American author Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1851 novel. The House of the Seven Gables will reopen for tours on April 1.



**Pioneer Village:** Built in 1930 to commemorate the tercentenary of Massachusetts, this living history museum sits on three acres of land and contains various examples of colonial architecture: dugouts, wigwams, thatched roof cottages, and the Governor's Faire House. Culinary and medicinal gardens and a blacksmith shop further interpret early 17th-century colonial activities.



Salem has several cemeteries that date back to the 17th century. **Charter Street Cemetery** is closed until May 1; however, **Broad Street Cemetery** and **Howard Street Cemetery** is currently open.

Destination Salem has many resources on its website and has recently launched a new mobile app to assist visitors to Salem in accessing the latest information. This new app features news, information on walking tours, educational content, and location-based notifications. The

Destination Salem app is available for iOS and Android. The app can be found on the App Stores by searching for Destination Salem, Mass.

### **About COVID-19 in Salem, Massachusetts**

Salem has a public health order requiring masks or face coverings be worn in all public spaces, indoors and outdoors, in the downtown district and in Salem parks. Visit [salem.org/covid19](http://salem.org/covid19) or download the Destination Salem app to receive updates.

### **About Salem, Massachusetts**

Salem 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, more than one million people visit Salem annually, generating nearly \$140 million in tourism spending and supporting 1,000 jobs.

### **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).

High-resolution images and interviews available upon request.

### **Image credits:**

1. Tompkins Harrison Matteson, Trial of George Jacobs, Sr. for Witchcraft, 1855, Peabody Essex Museum, Gift of R. W. Ropes, 1859, 1246, Courtesy of Peabody Essex Museum. Photo by Mark Sexton and Jeffrey R. Dykes.
2. The Ward House and Quaker Meeting House
3. The Gedney House
4. The Narbonne House
5. The Samuel Pickman House
6. The Witch House
7. The House of Seven Gables
8. Pioneer Village
9. Broad Street Cemetery

### **Media Contacts:**

Kate Fox, [kfox@salem.org](mailto:kfox@salem.org)

Kristen Levesque, [kristen@kristenlevesquepr.com](mailto:kristen@kristenlevesquepr.com)

Mary Keith, [mmkeithma@gmail.com](mailto:mmkeithma@gmail.com)

###