



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 5, 2023**



## **Special Events and Tips to Make the Most of Salem's Haunted Happenings**

***The Witch City's World-Renowned Halloween Season Begins this Week***



event has become a staple in the Halloween season calendar, drawing visitors from far and wide to experience the spine-chilling enchantment of the Witch City.

SALEM, Mass.— The ghosts and witches that haunt the historic streets of Salem, Massachusetts, are stirring once again as we launch the 41st Annual Salem Haunted Happenings. With a history steeped in the supernatural and a reputation as the Halloween capital of the world, this year's Salem Haunted Happenings promises a spellbinding experience like no other. From ghouls to witches, vampires to zombies, Salem's enchanting streets will come alive with a bewitching atmosphere that is sure to leave a lasting impression. This beloved month-long

As we approach the witching hour, we have assembled a guide to [Haunted Happenings](#) on our website, filled with invaluable tips and insights, and the Destination Salem app will assist visitors to Salem in navigating the bewitching month-long celebration with ease.

**Here are some spooky events from this year's Salem's Haunted Happenings that you won't want to miss:**

### **Mayor's Night Out**

**Friday, October 6, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

As part of Mayor's Night Out on **Friday, October 6**, there will be a Trick-or-Treat activity for Salem children who are dressed up in costumes, which has been hugely successful over the past few years. Participating businesses will be passing out candy throughout Downtown Salem, as well as across Pickering Wharf. Trick-or-treaters will be able to walk up to the front of businesses and grab candy as they enjoy the two-hour-long festivity. This year Pickering Wharf will also be joining in on the festivities, handing out candy and boasting new decorations to light up the wharf for the season. After Mayor's Night out concludes, there will be a free screening of *Hocus Pocus* on the Salem Common.

### **Haunted Histories After Dark**

**Thursday, October 19 & Friday, October 20, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

Looking for something a bit more haunting? Join the Peabody Essex Museum for the return of their haunted Histories After Dark programming on October 19th and 20th! This October, step into Salem's dark past on a candlelit visit to PEM's historic houses. Hear haunting tales of murder and mystery based on real events, told by storytellers dressed in period garb. To calm your beating heart, we'll have warm drinks and bites available for purchase, like hotdogs, popcorn, and baked goods from local favorite Ziggy's. Plus, join us around the fire to warm up with fiddle music and hair-raising tricks from our roving magician. For tickets, visit [www.pem.org/eerie-events](http://www.pem.org/eerie-events)

### **No Ghosts at the Old Town Hall**

**October 21 through 31**

Brand new from the creators of *Cry Innocent: the People vs. Bishop!* **No Ghosts at the Old Town Hall** is a combination haunted scavenger hunt/spooky storytelling/immersive theatre experience based on all the rumors of hauntings in this cherished 1816 building. Salem's luminaries and not-so-illustrious residents of the past come to life around you--but what they really want is to slip into this earthly realm, and escape the most sinister of collectors. Will you help them out of their earthly imprisonment? For tickets, visit [www.ghostcitytours.com/salem/haunted-places/old-town-hall/](http://www.ghostcitytours.com/salem/haunted-places/old-town-hall/)

### **Autograph Meet and Greet with the Cast of *Hocus Pocus***

**Saturday, October 21, Noon-7 p.m. Salem Common**

All ages!!! – Your favorite actors from your favorite Halloween movie are in town! Would you like to meet them? Maybe get an autograph? A selfie!? Well, you can do just that, Sat. Oct 21 from noon to 7 p.m. at Salem Common. Feel free to bring an item to be signed, or our pals at Fright-Rags.com have provided a unique, collectible, "It's Just a Buncha Halloween" 8x10 just for you! This commemorative item is a must-have for collectors! Check the [FAQ page](#) on the main website for any questions!

### **Bit Bar Halloween Costume Bash with the cast of Hocus Pocus**

**Friday, October 20 at 8 p.m.**

This 21+ event takes place inside the popular and local, bar-cade: Bit Bar – ticketed guests will get to eat, drink, dance, and play games with Omri Katz, Vinessa Shaw, Thora Birch, and Jason Marsden. World-famous Femme-cee, Mz Diamond Wigfall, will host a spectacular evening of burlesque, drag, contests, and more! PLUS, every guest will get a professional photo op with the actors via Salem’s own Witch Pix! Come in costume and prepare to dance ‘til you drop! <https://ticketscandy.com/e/its-just-a-buncha-halloween-2785> FMI <https://ticketscandy.com/e/autograph-meet-n-greet-2789>

To make the most out of the Salem Haunted Happenings experience, visitors should plan ahead by making reservations and purchasing tickets where available. A complete schedule of Haunted Happenings events can be found at [hauntedhappenings.org](http://hauntedhappenings.org). Download the Destination Salem app for push notifications and navigating your visit.

Not everyone has brooms, so there are some things to consider about transportation and parking to navigate the city during Salem Haunted Happenings:

- Due to the record-breaking crowds due to Salem this season, visitors will save time, money, and the inevitable frustration experienced when people get stuck in the downtown traffic jams by planning to use public transportation or the satellite parking options.
- Additional commuter rail trains are running to Salem in October. For a schedule, visit [www.mbta.com/cr](http://www.mbta.com/cr)
- Parking rates have increased and are subject to change. Up to 2 hours parked in a City Garage costs \$20, and stays over two hours cost \$50 during October weekends.
- Parking in resident-only areas will result in fines of \$75 and cars will be towed.
- The free parking shuttles include an accessible bus that will stop at Salem High School and Jefferson Avenue lots, as well as Riley Plaza.
- The nearest MBTA Garages are located at 252 Bridge Street in Salem, 325 Broad Street in Lynn, and 100 Rantoul Street in Beverly. The train ride from Lynn or Beverly to Salem is less than five minutes.
- The MBTA Garage and adjacent surface lot in Salem will be closed to entering and exiting vehicles between 6 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Halloween night.
- Complete event information is available at HauntedHappenings.org link to: <https://www.hauntedhappenings.org/plan-ahead-take-public-transportation-to-salem-for-the-final-two-weekends-of-october/>.

### **Mobile App Available to Guide Visitors**

Destination Salem’s mobile app is designed to assist visitors to Salem in accessing the latest information. This 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 Salem Haunted Happenings**

Created in 1982 as a way to extend the tourism season past Labor Day, Salem Haunted Happenings is believed to be one of the largest celebrations of Halloween in the world. More than a half-million people from around the world travel to Salem each October to celebrate

Halloween, commemorate the events of the Salem Witch Trials, and immerse themselves in Salem's unique atmosphere. For complete information, visit [HauntedHappenings.org](http://HauntedHappenings.org).

### **About Salem, Massachusetts**

Salem is a destination recognized worldwide for its rich history, including 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. Approximately 1.8 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, and 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 are available upon request.*

### **Image captions:**

- 1) Salem Haunted Happenings Merchant Marketplace, Photo by John Andrews.
- 2) Vampires descend upon Salem. Photo: Destination Salem.

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