



## 2017 Festivals and Special Events in Salem, MA

From Moon Landings to Holiday Happenings, Salem's festivals and features will have something for everyone

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Photos Available

**Salem, MA.** . . Salem, Massachusetts may be known for the annual Haunted Happenings festival in October, but did you know the city has a festival for every season? 2017 festivals also include Salem Film Fest, Salem Arts Festival, the Antique and Classic Boat Festival, and more! In addition, the Peabody Essex Museum will continue to bring international art and culture to Salem when they present exhibitions featuring hundreds of pairs of shoes and works by Georgia O'Keefe.

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.

### **Lunar Attraction**

**October 15, 2016 – September 4**

As Earth's closest celestial body and only natural satellite, the moon has engaged our curiosity and imagination over millennia and across cultures. Contemporary artists use the moon as both a source of inspiration and investigation. Lunar Attraction features artworks and interactives that explore our longstanding fascination and connection with the moon, ranging from myths about the connection between werewolves and the full moon to the gravitational pull that controls Earth's tides to the 21st-century international race to build a base on the moon. Lunar Attraction features works by Michael Benson, Adam David Brown, Craig Dorety, Fred Espenak, Foster + Partners, Sharon Harper, Beth Hoeckel, Mike Libby, Scott Listfield, Vera Lutter, Greg Mort, Takashi Murakami, Young Sook Park, Adrien Segal, Reel Water Productions, Sputniko!, Peter C. Stone, Brian Thomas, Philip Weber and Joseph Wheelwright. [pem.org](http://pem.org)

### **Shoes: Pleasure and Pain**

**November 19, 2016 – March 12**

Explore the creativity of footwear from around the globe through more than 300 pairs of shoes, ranging from elaborate vintage designs to those by contemporary makers. This exhibition considers the cultural significance and transformative capacity of shoes and examines the latest developments in footwear technology creating the possibility of ever higher heels and dramatic shapes. Examples from famous shoe collectors are shown alongside a dazzling range of historic shoes, many of which have not been displayed before. The exhibition is organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. [pem.org](http://pem.org)

**Salem Comedy & Spirits Festival****January 12 – 14**

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.

[SalemComedyAndSpiritsFestival.com](http://SalemComedyAndSpiritsFestival.com)

**Salem's So Sweet****February 10 – 12**

Chocolate, ice sculptures, and a wine tasting 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 10 at Colonial Hall. Ice sculptures – at least a dozen of them – will be installed around Salem on February 11. Downtown businesses will offer promotions, events, tastings, and great shopping throughout the festival. [SalemMainStreets.org](http://SalemMainStreets.org) , [Salem-Chamber.org](http://Salem-Chamber.org) , [Facebook.com/SalemSoSweet](https://www.facebook.com/SalemSoSweet)

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**WOW® World of WearableArt™****February 18 – June 11**

For the last 25 years, New Zealand has hosted an annual design competition that challenges sculptors, costume designers, textile artists and makers of all stripes to explore the boundary between fashion and art, and to "get art off the walls and onto the body." The WOW® World of WearableArt™ competition is the country's largest art event and each year it culminates in a live runway show for winners in front of an audience of 50,000. WOW® World of WearableArt™ – the exhibition – presents 32 ensembles the competition's most unique, spectacular and outlandish wearable artworks. Expertly crafted in a range of materials, from wood and aluminum to fiberglass and taxidermy, these creations celebrate lavish creativity and push the limits of wearability. PEM is the exclusive U.S. east coast venue for this interactive and theatrical exhibition. [pem.org](http://pem.org)

**Salem Film Fest****March 2 – 9**

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 Restaurant Week****March 12 – 16, 19 – 23**

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)

**Massachusetts Poetry Festival****May 5 – 7**

During the first weekend of May, Salem becomes the epicenter of contemporary American poetry, offering rare opportunities to hear the nation's best poets read and discuss their work in intimate and engaging forums. The Massachusetts Poetry Festival showcases nearly 100 poetry readings and workshops, a small press and literary fair, panels, poetry slams, visual arts, and open-air performances. Panel topics range broadly from the state of poetry, poetry and

gender, book publishing, and modernism in contemporary art, to the Common Threads Reading, where contemporary poets with Massachusetts ties discuss their literary connections.

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

### ***Ocean Liners: Glamour, Speed, and Style***

**May 20 – October 9**

From the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century, ocean liners were floating showcases of technology, opulence and social sophistication. As icons of modernity and aspirational living, artists, engineers, architects and passengers all vied for influence and access in the creation and enjoyment of these man-made islands at sea. Ocean liners were intricately constructed pieces of culture – in the appearance of their design, the elegance of their engineering and the division of their social space – and each with its own distinct personality. Drawing from international institutions and private collections, the exhibition brings together nearly 200 works including paintings, sculpture, models, furniture, lighting, wall panels, textiles, fashion, photographs, posters and film. The exhibition is co-organized with the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. [pem.org](http://pem.org)

### **Salem Arts Festival**

**June 2 – 4**

For three days each summer, this free festival transforms downtown Salem into an opportunity for the local arts community to showcase their talents. People of all ages and backgrounds enjoy viewing art, participating in art making, and purchasing art. [SalemArtsFestival.com](http://SalemArtsFestival.com)

### **Salem Farmers' Market**

**June 8 – October 12**

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**

**June 24**

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 4 – 13**

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 4 – 6**

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](https://www.nps.gov/sama)

**Blood Curdling, Hair Raising, Spine Chilling: The Horror and Sci-Fi Film Art Collection of Kirk Hammet****August 12 – November 26**

Kirk Hammett, best known as the famed guitarist of the rock band Metallica, is also an avid collector of classic horror and sci-fi movie posters. Visually arresting, these posters are potent historical objects of burgeoning Golden-Era Hollywood and recall a time when poster design was an art unto itself. The exhibition features 90 works that trace Hammett's collecting journey and examine how he draws inspiration from this material for his own gothic creativity. Posters and other memorabilia – such as collectible electric guitars, monster masks and sculptures – are featured with clips from movies that provide insight into the evolution of horror and sci-fi film.

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

**Salem Jazz & Soul Festival****August 19 – 20**

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 26 – 27**

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 Brewer Hawthorne Cove Marina. [BoatFestival.org](http://BoatFestival.org)

**Third Annual Salem Spice Festival****September 9 – 10**

Celebrate Salem's long and fascinating history with exotic exports from around the world at Salem's third annual Spice Festival. Spices, herbs and teas in food, drink, medicines, and arts and crafts will be explored. Crafts, food samples and demonstrations, live music and fascinating lectures, workshops and storytelling will all be featured. At Salem 1630: Pioneer Village.

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

**35<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)

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**Salem Holiday Happenings****November 25 – January 1, 2018**

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 third annual Launch! celebration on New Year's Eve, now featuring an early family-friendly event and a late night party for the adults. [Salem.org](http://Salem.org)

**Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern****December 16 – April 1, 2018**

One of America's most iconic artists of the 20th-century, O'Keeffe is best known for her desert landscapes, animal skulls and flower paintings. Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern presents a completely new, highly focused and meticulously researched perspective on the unified modernist aesthetic of O'Keeffe's art -- and dress. O'Keeffe considered her clothed body as another canvas on which to proclaim her modernism. Selected paintings by O'Keeffe and photographs of her and her homes by Alfred Stieglitz, Ansel Adams, Todd Webb and others, will be seen with never-before-exhibited items from her personal wardrobe that highlight her preference for compact masses, organic silhouettes and minimal ornamentation. Freshly conserved and shown in this exhibition for the first time, her understated and carefully designed garments dating from the 1920s to the 1980s, presented alongside key paintings and photographs of her throughout her entire career, place O'Keeffe's self-fashioning within the history of artistic identity and demonstrate her influence on leading designers and tastemakers of our day, from Calvin Klein to Valentino. [pem.org](http://pem.org)

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.

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**Contact**

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**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 \$100 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).