

Weddings & Special Events in Salem, MA

GETTING MARRIED IN SALEM

Salem is a unique city for your very special event. Venues and settings range from historic to traditional to contemporary. Local hotels and inns are within walking distance of downtown venues, or trolleys can be rented to easily move your wedding party or guests from place to place.

Beautiful Settings

Have your wedding portraits taken with a lighthouse, tall ship, or historic architecture in the background. Plan an outdoor ceremony on Salem Common, where the first muster of the National Guard happened, or in front of the mansion that inspired Nathaniel Hawthorne. Dance the night away in the sweeping atrium of the Peabody Essex Museum.

Location

Just 15 miles north of Boston, Salem is located on the Massachusetts coast 45 minutes from Logan Airport by car and 30 minutes from Boston's North Station by MBTA Commuter Rail train.

Accommodations

Block rooms for your guests at the historic Hawthorne Hotel or The Salem Inn, or at the contemporary Salem Waterfront Hotel & Suites, or rent one of the smaller inns like the Henry Derby House or The Merchant. Additional accommodations can be found within a 15-20 minute drive from Salem.

Complete listings of accommodations can be found at Salem.org.



Photo: Salem Waterfront Hotel & Suites



The House of the Seven Gables



Photo: Finz Seafood & Grill

PLANNING AN OCTOBER WEDDING

October is the peak of tourist season in Salem. Halloween festivities welcome thousands of visitors to the city. Here are some considerations to keep in mind while planning your ceremony in October. Contact Destination Salem or any of the vendors listed here for information on navigating this fun time of year.

Travel & Parking

Allow extra time to travel to and from Salem and park, and be aware that parking lots and garages fill up early in the day, especially during October weekends.

Weekend street activities affect pedestrian and automobile flow throughout downtown, especially on Essex, Washington, and Derby Streets and Hawthorne Boulevard.

The first Thursday evening of October, downtown streets are closed for the Haunted Happenings parade.

On Columbus Day Weekend, a street fair on Essex Street happens. The street from the pedestrian mall to the Salem Common area is closed for the weekend.

Amplified Noise

Street performers may be performing with music or amplified sound in specified downtown districts. Check with Destination Salem or your venue to determine if your event will be affected.

Photography in Public Spaces

Salem will be busy with costumed visitors which can enhance or interfere with outdoor photography, depending on your perspective.

Accommodations

Salem is home to several hotels and inns and it is advisable to book months in advance for reservations in October, as well as during the summer months.

Vendors

Ensure your vendors are aware that travel, loading and unloading may take longer than usual.

INFORMATION

Whenever you choose to get married in Salem, Destination Salem is happy to help!

In addition to the information on Salem.org, Visitor Guides are available in any quantity for your guests. Contact us at (978) 741-3252 or info@salem.org.





Jessica Ruff Photography



Sally Marlow Photography



Coffee Time Bake Shop



The House of the Seven Gables



Lightshed Photography

Planning your wedding in Salem

You can do it all in Salem! Venues to make up, rings to flowers, cakes to photographers, inns and hotels for your attendants, and a great destination for your guests— Salem has it all!

VENUES / CEREMONY ONLY

Salem Parks & Recreation
- The Gazebo on Salem Common
- Salem Willows
- Winter Island Maritime Park
978.744.0180, x.20

VENUES / LARGE

Colonial Hall at Rockafellas
978.745.5415
ColonialHallAtRockafellas.com

Hawthorne Hotel
978.744.4080 • HawthorneHotel.com

The House of the Seven Gables
978.744.0991 • 7Gables.org

Peabody Essex Museum
978.542.1615 • PEM.org

Salem Waterfront Hotel & Suites
978.740.8788
SalemWaterfrontHotel.com

VENUES / SMALL

Adriatic Restaurant & Bar
978.594.1832
AdriaticRestaurantandBar.com

Finz Seafood & Grill
978.744.0000 • FinzSeafood.com

Mahi Mahi Cruises
888.959.2324 • MahiCruises.com

Opus
978.744.9600 • SalemOpus.com

Schooner Fame of Salem
978.729.7600 • SchoonerFame.com

Turner's Seafood at Lyceum Hall
978.745.7665 • Turners-Seafood.com

The Village Tavern
978.744.2858 • VillageTavernSalem.com

Victoria Station
978.745.3400 • VictoriaStationSalem.com

CAKES

Coffee Time Bake Shop
978.744.0995 • CoffeeTimeBakeShop.net

CATERERS

Hawthorne Hotel
978.744.4080 • HawthorneHotel.com

Ken Rothwell Custom Catering
978.825.0200 • RothwellCatering.com

FAVORS

Caramel Patisserie
978.594.0244 • CaramelPatisserie.com

Harbor Sweets
978.745.7648 • HarborSweets.com

Maria's Sweet Somethings
978.825.9111 • Visit us on Facebook!

Ye Olde Pepper Companie
978.745.2744
YeOldePepperCandy.com

FLORISTS

Flowers by Darlene • 978.745.6967
David Eng's Flowers • 978.745.0035

INVITATIONS

Kishgraphics • 978.741.4222

The Scarlet Letter Press & Gallery
TSLPress.com

JEWELERS & GIFTS

R.J. Coins and Jewelry
978.745.8563 • RJCoinsandJewelry.com

OFFICIANTS

Please visit Salem.org for a list of churches and places to worship.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jared Charney
JaredCharneyEvents.com

John Andrews Photography
SocialPalatesPhotography.com

Lightshed Photography Studio
LightshedPhoto.com

Louise Michaud Photographer
LouiseMichaud.com

SALONS, MAKE-UP & HAIR

Andrew Michaels
AndrewMichaelsSpa.com

Laura Lanes Skin Care
978.741.8777 • LauraLanes.com

Rouge Cosmetics
978.740.1044 • Rouge.com

TRANSPORTATION

Salem Trolley
978.744.5469 • SalemTrolley.com

WEDDING PARTY ACTIVITIES

Salem Food Tours & AM Coffee Walks
978.594.8811 • SalemFoodTours.com

Witch Pix Costume Studio
978.745.2021 • WitchPixofSalem.com

LEARN MORE

Contact Destination Salem for more information or to request visitor guides for your guests.
978.741.3252 • Salem.org

GETTING YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE

To apply for a marriage license the couple must come together to the City Clerk's Office. Both must be at least eighteen years of age or they must obtain a court waiver from the district or probate court. Once the couple fills out the application there is a mandatory three (3) day waiting period to pick up the license. This three (3) day waiting period can only be waived with a court order. The Marriage License is valid for sixty (60) days and can be used to marry in any City or Town in Massachusetts.

Application Fee: \$20.00.

Once you are married if you need a marriage certificate the fee is \$10.00.

City Clerk's Office, Salem City Hall
93 Washington Street • 978.619.5611 • Salem.com