



aha experiences / city edition

The Salem Adventure

Homes, Harbor, and the Stories a City Keeps

Follow Salem's homes, harbor and neighborhood streets to discover the people, work and everyday lives behind the city's preserved places.

Salem, Massachusetts

Two days · optional third-day half-day

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The Lives Behind Salem's Front Doors



Along Salem's harbor and residential streets, homes tell stories of family life, work and change. A preserved house shaped partly by a novel, a smaller home adapted over generations, and a neighborhood of carefully composed front doors each reveal a different way of living. Together they invite you to look beyond familiar landmarks and consider the people who made this city home—and the people whose labor sustained those households.

Follow those stories from the waterfront to gardens, gathering places and museum galleries. Along the way, sit down to New England comfort food, linger over a café lunch, and leave an evening for music if the calendar offers something you want to hear. The witch trials are part of the journey, approached through the people involved and the places that remember them. There is also room to enjoy Salem as a living city.

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The Adventure at a Glance

Spend Day One exploring homes beside the harbor and Day Two following residential streets, gardens and museum galleries. Phillips House and lunch form a separate optional third-day half-day. Allow roughly 6–7 hours for Day One and 6½–7½ hours for Day Two, including visits, meals, short walks, breaks and entry time. The short walks between stops total about 20 minutes on Day One and 15 minutes on Day Two, according to map estimates. Time to explore the Gables, wharf and museum is included in the suggested visits. Peak queues can extend the day. Personal arrival and return are separate.

Day One — Homes Beside the Harbor

The House of the Seven Gables → Lunch at Mercy Tavern → Narbonne House → Derby House, From the Public Grounds → A Pause at Derby Wharf → Salem Witch Trials Memorial → Charter Street Cemetery

Day Two — A City Through Its Front Doors

Chestnut Street: Homes and Their Front Doors → Hamilton Hall and the Remond Family → Ropes Mansion and Garden → The Witch House: A Household in 1692 → Lunch at Gulu-Gulu Café → Peabody Essex Museum



before you go

Adventurer Responsibilities

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All locations, routes, recommendations, and visitor information in this guide are based on publicly available information and are subject to change. While AHA has made reasonable efforts to ensure accuracy, AHA does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or current status of any location, business, access condition, operating hour, admission policy, parking situation, or travel detail referenced in this guide.

Before visiting, independently verify current access, hours, parking and local conditions, and assess whether each stop is suitable for your trip. Planning allowances are not a promise of travel time or access.

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before you go

Using This Guide

Build your adventure

Start with **The Adventure at a Glance**, then read **Before You Book** and **Choose Your Open Days**. Follow the two day overviews and detailed stop entries. The Phillips House half-day is an optional third day; evening ideas are choices, not extra obligations.

Book the major admissions first and fit the rest around confirmed entry times. Arrange your own tickets, meals and lodging. Opening days and seasonal access can affect the sequence, so use the linked official websites to check your dates. A suggested start time is not a reservation.

Read each stop before arriving

Each entry gives its story, what to notice and practical visit notes. Read arrival and access details before using an address. A home viewed from public grounds or the street does not include permission to enter. Ask operators about mobility, stairs or other needs before buying tickets; follow signs and photography rules.

Visit and walking allowances are estimates. Check each day's stated start and finish, and leave room for entry queues, meals and pauses. Personal arrival and return travel are separate from the day allowances. If a stop is unavailable, use the listed alternatives rather than rushing the remaining visits.

Take the guide with you

Save this guide, tickets and arrival instructions before leaving. Download navigation maps separately, then open your saved files without a connection to check that they work. Booking, directions and current visitor checks need connectivity unless separately saved.

Use **Your Plans** to record personal bookings. The reference pages show the sources behind the guide; photographs and earlier checks cannot guarantee today's conditions. Recheck the visits that matter most before departure, then leave room to enjoy Salem at your own pace.

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Before You Book

The House of the Seven Gables

Plan well ahead and watch the operator's ticket releases. A morning tour around 10:30am, if offered, fits this sequence; check in 15 minutes early at the Visitor Center.

Charter Street Cemetery

Check the opening and reservation rules for your dates. Obtain any required reservation through the operator and choose a visit well before closing. If no entry fits, finish at the memorial; it is a separate place with separate visitor arrangements.

Peabody Essex Museum

Put Day Two on Thursday–Monday and protect the afternoon museum block. Confirm the houses' seasonal openings and ticket dates before choosing. For December, check trials-gallery availability separately. Reserve Yin Yu Tang separately if wanted; it is not an original Salem home.

Ropes Mansion and Garden

The garden and house exterior are included in this day. Book seasonal interior tours well ahead when released. Enjoy the garden if you do not have an interior ticket.

The Witch House: A Household in 1692

Check the ticket-release rules for your dates and prepare ahead for any day-of-release. Select a pre-lunch slot where possible. If none fits, view the exterior and leave enough time for the museum.

Phillips House

Phillips House is the optional seasonal third-day visit. Check its actual tour departures before choosing a day, and book ahead.

Using the Visit Times

The suggested visit times help you pace the day. Allow extra time for queues and crowds. You can leave out optional stops if you would rather linger elsewhere.

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Choose Your Open Days

Plan dates before booking

For consecutive days in this order, start Wednesday–Sunday so PEM follows on an open Thursday–Monday. Confirm Gables, Narbonne and Witch House calendars and tickets for your dates; these are starting points, not year-round guarantees. Mercy normally serves lunch Wednesday–Sunday; use Longboards if closed or full. Keep the stated exterior/garden visits when interiors are unavailable.

Seasonal openings

House openings and tickets vary by season. Check NPS and Witch House calendars before buying. For December travel, confirm the trials gallery is open on your dates before buying; its exhibition closure notice is separate from the museum’s calendar. Keep the broader museum visit if the gallery is unavailable.

Day One timing

A Gables tour around 10:30am, if offered, leaves room for noon lunch and waterfront discoveries. Fit any Narbonne interior to NPS’s calendar for your dates. These are suggested targets, not bookings. A later Gables tour means shortening optional wharf/cemetery time or adjusting the day before buying.

Day Two timing

Visit the Witch House before lunch, then aim for PEM by 2pm. For a 5pm closing, arrive by 2:30pm to allow two and a half hours. Check both sites’ hours for your dates. A noon Witch House ticket can fit; if none fits, use the exterior visit and continue toward the museum.

Before You Set Out

Before setting out, check the linked opening hours, ticket requirements and city/NPS notices. Follow current signs and staff directions, stay on public pedestrian space and signed visitor paths, and enter ticketed sites only with the required admission. Historic houses may have stairs or other access limits; check the operator’s arrangements before booking if you need step-free access.

day 1 / your salem adventure

Day One — Homes Beside the Harbor

A preserved house, changing households around the port, a waterfront lunch, and remembrance.

Your Day at a Glance

Roughly 6–7 hours including visits, lunch, movement, breaks and entry time. Personal arrival and return are separate.

1	The House of the Seven Gables	About 105 minutes
2	Lunch at Mercy Tavern	About 60 minutes
3	Narbonne House	About 25 minutes
4	Derby House, From the Public Grounds	About 15 minutes
5	A Pause at Derby Wharf	About 30 minutes · optional
6	Salem Witch Trials Memorial	About 25 minutes
7	Charter Street Cemetery	About 30 minutes · optional

Finish at the memorial if you skip the optional cemetery.

Make the timing work

A Gables tour around 10:30am, if offered, leaves room for noon lunch and waterfront discoveries. Fit any Narbonne interior to NPS’s calendar for your dates. These are suggested targets, not bookings. A later Gables tour means shortening optional wharf/cemetery time or adjusting the day before buying.

If plans change

No Gables interior: use a Grounds Pass only if available, and keep the noon lunch opening in mind. Mercy too busy: Longboards at 76 Wharf is an alternative, with extra walking. No Narbonne opening: view the exterior from public visitor areas. Weather, queues or delay: shorten the optional wharf walk and cemetery before rushing a house visit. No cemetery slot: finish at the memorial.

day 1 / a place and its story

The House of the Seven Gables

1 hr 45 min · 115 Derby Street, Salem, MA 01970

Timed admission and historic stairs; arrive at Visitor Center check-in 15 minutes early.

Start with a home whose story grew beyond its rooms. Built in 1668, the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion inspired Hawthorne's novel and later became part of Caroline Emmerton's museum and settlement project.

**what to notice**

Look at how the house, neighboring buildings, gardens, and harbor relate to one another. These are several layers of preservation, rather than one untouched colonial scene.

Its present appearance includes a restoration influenced by the literary story, while other buildings were moved onto the campus. The museum's research also names enslaved people, including Titus and Rebeckah, whose forced labor supported the Turner household. Their lives belong in the story of the home. Ask the interpreter to distinguish surviving fabric, later changes, and relocated structures. The visit introduces a recurring question for the next two days: how does a city decide what to keep?

visiting notes

Check in at the cranberry-red Visitor Center reached by the brick path through the visitor parking area; do not start at the black mansion's front door. Arrive 15 minutes before the booked tour. Choose the Mansion Tour Package for the guided interior; a separate Grounds Pass is the ticketed fallback if available. Watch advance ticket-release dates. The historic-house stairs limit access; use the operator's alternatives rather than assuming a step-free interior.

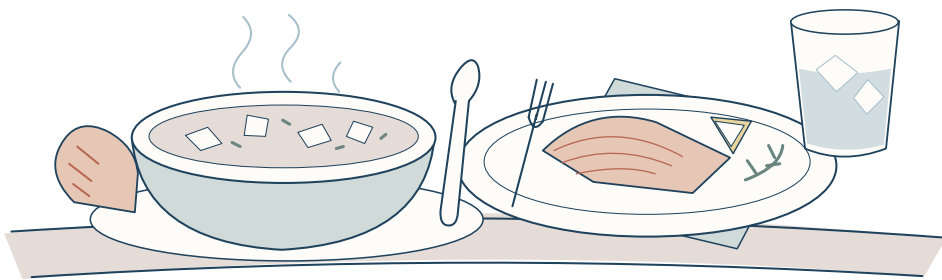
Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

day 1 / a place and its story

Lunch at Mercy Tavern

1 hr · 148 Derby Street, Salem, MA 01970

Mercy gives the waterfront day a meal with some New England character. The current menu pairs clam chowder and coconut-fried haddock with choices such as falafel on pita and a plant-based burger. Choose what appeals and settle into a proper lunch before the afternoon's house visits. Its Derby Street location also keeps you close to the afternoon house visits. Dishes change, so treat these as examples rather than a fixed order.



visiting notes

Use the guest entrance at 148 Derby Street, Salem, MA 01970. The operator starts food service at noon Wednesday–Sunday; Monday and Tuesday are dinner-only starts. Allow an hour plus the day's waiting cushion. Check dietary needs with staff. If the wait is too long, use the Longboards fallback below; do not spend the whole afternoon queueing.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#) · [View the food menu](#)

day 1 / along the way

Narbonne House

25 min · 71 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970

Narbonne House began as a butcher's home and accumulated additions over generations. NPS preserves those changes rather than returning the house to one chosen year. After the Gables, the smaller household provides a useful change of scale: a home shaped by continued occupation and practical needs.

what to notice

Look for the relationship between the original section and later additions.
Ask how a household made an old building work for another generation.

visiting notes

Site address: 71 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970; the house is behind the Custom House. Use the signed NPS visitor paths from the Derby Street district and the public visitor door indicated on site. Check NPS's current building schedule for an interior opening that fits your afternoon. If closed, view the exterior from public visitor areas and do not enter an unstaffed building. For special mobility access use NPS's advance-contact instructions.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

Derby House, From the Public Grounds

15 min · 168 Derby Street, Salem, MA 01970

Derby House holds several domestic histories. The wealthy Derby household included enslaved people; later, the building housed multiple families, including Polish immigrants. Read those changes alongside Narbonne rather than treating the waterfront as a story of merchant wealth alone.

what to notice

Compare the scale and materials of the two homes without assuming their present appearance represents every household that lived there.

visiting notes

Use the public NPS approach at 168 Derby Street, Salem, MA 01970 and view the house from the grounds. Interior admission is not included in this stop. Some map listings show a different street number, so follow the official NPS address and site signs.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

day 1 / a place and its story

A Pause at Derby Wharf

30 min · Optional · 193 Derby Street, Salem, MA 01970

Let the waterfront give the houses their setting. Derby Wharf grew with the city's maritime trade; the homes you have just visited belonged to that working world. Spend a little time looking back toward the buildings and out across the harbor before continuing west toward the memorial.

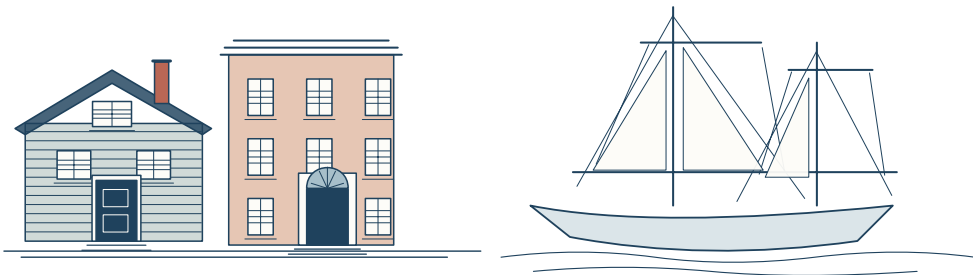
what to notice

Notice how close the household and working waterfront are. The harbor is part of the domestic story, not a separate scenic add-on.

visiting notes

Approach the waterfront by the NPS park-store/wharf entrance near 193 Derby Street, Salem, MA 01970 and use the signed public paths. This is a 30-minute exploration allowance, including any walking out and back on the wharf; reaching the far end is optional, not a requirement. Turn back early for wind, weather, fatigue or barriers. Ship and lighthouse interiors are not included.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

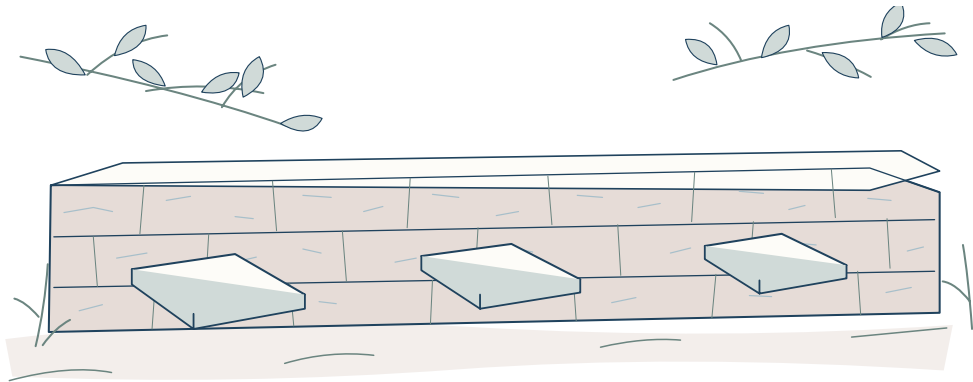


day 1 / a place and its story

Salem Witch Trials Memorial

25 min · 24 Liberty Street, Salem, MA 01970

At the memorial, slow down and read the names. The inscribed benches and interrupted statements of innocence turn a famous episode into individual lives. Keep this visit separate in spirit from the entertainment elsewhere in town. It is an act of remembrance, and the surrounding city deserves the same attention to real people that the houses have asked of you.

**what to notice**

Read a name and a statement before taking photographs. Give other visitors room for a quiet moment.

visiting notes

Enter the public memorial from Liberty Street between Charter and Derby streets. Visit during daylight and respect current signs. This is a distinct stop from the cemetery; a missing cemetery reservation need not prevent remembrance here.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

day 1 / a place and its story

Charter Street Cemetery

30 min · Optional · 51 Charter Street, Salem, MA 01970

If the cemetery is open and you have any required reservation, continue the afternoon with a quiet cemetery visit. Read it as a record of the wider community rather than a collection of spooky props. This is a separate stop from the memorial, with separate visitor arrangements.

**what to notice**

Keep to permitted paths and leave the gravestones undisturbed.

visiting notes

Approach the Charter Street welcome center and signed cemetery visitor entry at 51 Charter Street, Salem, MA 01970; it is separate from the memorial on Liberty Street. Check the current opening and reservation rules for your dates, and obtain any required reservation through the operator. Allow a useful cushion before closing. If no entry fits, finish at the memorial. Do not use a tour group or the neighboring memorial as a substitute for the cemetery's entry arrangements.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

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The Lunch Fallback

Mercy Tavern is the main Day One lunch, with food service starting at noon Wednesday–Sunday. Check that its lunch opening fits your day. Longboards at 76 Wharf is an alternative, with 11:30am food service daily and extra walking back to the NPS district. If that substitution adds queues, shorten the optional wharf and cemetery stops first.

Lunch Fallback: Longboards

1 hr · Optional · 76 Wharf Street, Salem, MA 01970

If Mercy does not work, Longboards gives you a meal at Pickering Wharf before returning to the NPS district. Keep this as a practical alternative rather than a second lunch destination: sit down, eat something you enjoy and protect the afternoon's visits.

visiting notes

Current location: 76 Wharf Street, Salem, MA 01970, not the older 72 Wharf listing. Its operator-linked food hours show 11:30am–9pm daily. Seating and immediate takeout are not guaranteed, and reservation arrangements can vary. Allow extra walking for this substitution. If both places are busy, shorten the optional wharf and cemetery visits and keep the substantial house/museum visits. Carry a snack rather than relying on a queue to move quickly.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

day 2 / your salem adventure

Day Two — A City Through Its Front Doors

Residential streets, the Remond family, a garden, a judge’s household and the museum objects that connect the stories.

Your Day at a Glance

Roughly 6½–7½ hours including visits, lunch, movement, breaks and entry time. Personal arrival and return are separate.

1	Chestnut Street: Homes and Their Front Doors	About 25 minutes
2	Hamilton Hall and the Remond Family	About 20 minutes
3	Ropes Mansion and Garden	About 25 minutes
4	The Witch House: A Household in 1692	About 45 minutes
5	Lunch at Gulu-Gulu Café	About 60 minutes
6	Peabody Essex Museum	About 150 minutes

Finish at PEM; no return to Chestnut Street is needed.

Make the timing work

Visit the Witch House before lunch, then aim for PEM by 2pm. For a 5pm closing, arrive by 2:30pm to allow two and a half hours. Check both sites’ hours for your dates. A noon Witch House ticket can fit; if none fits, use the exterior visit and continue toward the museum.

If plans change

No suitable Witch House ticket: view the exterior and leave enough time for the museum. Ropes interior unavailable: enjoy the garden. Gulu closed/full: continue to PEM’s Atrium Café on your admission day. If you are running late, shorten earlier optional extras so you still have enough time at the museum before closing.

day 2 / a place and its story

Chestnut Street: Homes and Their Front Doors

25 min · 34 Chestnut Street, Salem, MA 01970



Begin with a short residential walk toward Hamilton Hall. Instead of trying to memorize architectural labels, choose a few details to notice: the relationship between front door and pavement, the rhythm of windows, and the space a house leaves for its neighbors. Keep the attention on what you can actually see. A district's association with McIntire does not mean every home was his design.

what to notice

Compare two entrances without leaving the public street. What changes about the transition from the street to someone's home?

visiting notes

Begin on the public Chestnut Street sidewalk near number 34, the Phillips House address. Observe the residential frontage while continuing east toward Hamilton Hall at number 9; the published route reaches the hall from Cambridge Street. Do not use private steps, driveways or gardens as shortcuts. Allow roughly half an hour for this neighborhood segment, including the short walk and pauses.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

day 2 / a place and its story

Hamilton Hall and the Remond Family

20 min · 9 Chestnut Street, Salem, MA 01970



Continue to a place for gathering. Hamilton Hall was designed by Samuel McIntire, but architecture is only one reason to stop. John and Nancy Remond lived and ran their catering business here; their family's work connects hospitality with abolition and the struggle for equal rights. Reading that history beside the residential streets gives the neighborhood a human scale beyond its grand façades.

what to notice

Consider a gathering place as a workplace and a family setting, as well as a venue for its guests.

visiting notes

Read the hall from the public Chestnut/Cambridge Street frontage at 9 Chestnut Street, Salem, MA 01970. This stop explores the exterior and the Remond family story. Weekday public interior access may be interrupted by events or preservation; a confirmed tour is an extra, available only when the operator confirms it. Continue toward Ropes by the public street route, keeping to pedestrian space.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

day 2 / a place and its story

Ropes Mansion and Garden

25 min · 318 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970

Ropes Mansion adds another kind of change: a Georgian house reworked in the Colonial Revival period, with a garden created later still. Let the garden slow the day down. If you recognize the exterior from Hocus Pocus, enjoy that connection, then look again at the building as a home with its own history.

what to notice

Notice how the garden changes the experience of a house encountered from a busy street.

visiting notes

At 318 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970, follow the posted public garden entrance. This day includes the garden, which is listed open dawn–dusk. House interiors are a seasonal extra with separate tour arrangements; check the calendar and book well ahead when tickets are released. An interior ticket can be added only if it fits before lunch and preserves the museum block; otherwise consider it on a separate open day.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)



day 2 / a place and its story

The Witch House: A Household in 1692

45 min · 310 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970

Interior only with the required ticket; view the exterior if it does not fit.

The former home of Jonathan Corwin, a judge involved in the trials, brings the difficult history back into a domestic setting.



Look at the material world the museum interprets—rooms, furnishings and household routines—without treating a house museum as proof of every popular story told about the trials. The visit prepares you to encounter personal objects and documents at PEM later in the day.

what to notice

Ask what the room arrangement helps you understand about daily life, and which parts of the presentation reflect restoration.

visiting notes

Use the signed museum visitor entrance on Essex Street at 310½ Essex Street. Check the current seasonal hours and ticket-release rules; aim for a slot before lunch. If opening starts at noon, a noon slot can precede lunch and a 2pm museum arrival. If a suitable ticket is unavailable, view the exterior and continue to PEM. No public restroom or interior photography; follow the operator's entry and access rules.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

day 2 / a place and its story

Lunch at Gulu-Gulu Café

1 hr · 247 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970

Trade house interiors for a café that brings food, art and performance into the same place. The current food overview offers pressed sandwiches, salads and baked goods, with coffee for a slower pause before PEM. Choose a sandwich or salad and leave time to sit, rather than turning lunch into another stop to hurry through. The café's art and events programs give it a different character from the morning's historic houses; the work on display and performances depend on the date.

visiting notes

Use the café entrance facing Lappin Park, behind the Bewitched/Samantha statue, at 247 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970. Walk-in only; no reservations and no seating together for parties over six. It closes the first Monday each month. If closed or the wait threatens the museum block, continue to PEM, show your admission and use its Atrium Café before the galleries. This fallback stays on the museum day; it does not require a second return journey. The kitchen currently serves until 8pm Monday–Wednesday, 9pm Thursday–Saturday and 7pm Sunday; later bar hours do not promise a late meal. Check the current menu before relying on a particular dish.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#) · [View the food menu](#)

day 2 / a place and its story

Peabody Essex Museum

2 hr 30 min · 161 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970

Finish the core adventure with enough time to connect what you have seen. The Salem Witch Trials 1692 uses objects and documents to bring the people involved into focus.



Give that gallery unhurried attention, then choose one other collection or exhibition that draws you in. You do not need to cover the whole museum to have a satisfying visit. If you reserve Yin Yu Tang, understand it as a Chinese home brought to Salem—not an example of an original Salem house.

what to notice

Choose one domestic object and ask what it tells you about a person's life that a large historical label cannot.

visiting notes

Use the main museum entrance on Essex Street at 161 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970, not the separate walking-tour meeting room at 135. Protect about two and a half hours inside: arrive by 2:30pm under the checked 5pm closing, with 2pm a more comfortable target. PEM's regular week is Thursday–Monday. Yin Yu Tang needs a separate timed reservation even though included in admission. For December travel, confirm the trials gallery is open on your dates before buying. Its closure notice is separate from museum opening days; the broader museum can remain worthwhile.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

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An Optional Evening in Salem



An optional evening: choose whichever night has a Gulu-Gulu performance you want to hear, rather than attaching music to a fixed day. Finish the daytime visits, take a proper break, then have dinner and return for the event. If you visited the café at lunch, the return is intentional: this time the performance is the reason to go. Dinner at Ledger is one option on its open nights; eating at Gulu-Gulu before its kitchen closes is the simpler alternative.

Keep the evening separate from the core-day budgets. Allow about 90 minutes for dinner and 90 minutes for listening, plus your break, movement, entry and return. Use the café's existing visitor-arrival directions and current pedestrian routing from your chosen dinner or base; allow extra time for these journeys and for the conditions that evening. Choose dinner around the actual performance start time, leaving a comfortable gap. A late reservation or long queue is a reason to choose dinner or music rather than rushing both. If no event appeals, enjoy the meal and finish there.

optional / an evening out

An Optional Evening at Gulu-Gulu

1 hr 30 min · Optional · 247 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970

Choose an evening from Gulu-Gulu's actual performance calendar and let the day end with music. Its program includes live bands, songwriters and musical open-mic nights; use the calendar to find an evening that appeals. Listening in the same café you may have visited at lunch offers another side of the place. This is a deliberate return for a performance after a break, rather than another stop squeezed into the daytime route. Allow about an hour and a half of listening; a full show may last longer.

visiting notes

Use the same public café entrance facing Lappin Park at 247 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970. Check your actual night's event, start time, cover or ticket, age rules and seating before committing. Open-mic signup and performance times belong to the specific listing; check both before planning dinner. Some events charge admission or have age restrictions. The café does not take table reservations and closes the first Monday of each month. If you eat here, arrive before the kitchen closes; music may run later. If no suitable event fits, keep dinner as the evening and leave the music optional. This 90-minute visit excludes dinner, the break, travel and your return to lodging.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#) · [Choose an evening from the current calendar](#)

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An Optional Third-Day Half-Day

The optional third day: arrive at Phillips House's rear visitor entrance about 15 minutes before an 11am tour if that departure is offered. Allow 90 minutes for arrival, the house and a pause, then walk to Turner's Seafood, 43 Church Street, Salem, MA 01970, for an unhurried lunch after its noon opening. Finish at Essex/Washington near Lappin Park. Allow about 3½–4 hours, including 16 minutes of provider-estimated walking, two short entry/transfer cushions and rest. It is outside the core-day totals. If Phillips is closed, omit the optional chapter.

At busy times, Turner's may have limited reservations and a physical line for much of its seating. A long wait can extend the optional half-day. Check the current reservation and takeaway arrangements before relying on either. For another meal, Flying Saucer's public entrance is in Lappin Park at 118 Washington Street, Salem, MA 01970, not behind the building. It opens at noon; check the current menu and service arrangements, which can change during busy periods.

optional / a household chapter

Optional Third Day: Phillips House

1 hr 30 min · Optional · 34 Chestnut Street, Salem, MA 01970

Seasonal, ticketed house visit with stairs; use the rear guest entrance.

Use the extra morning to go behind the residential façade. Phillips House interprets family life alongside the domestic staff whose work made it possible, with the kitchen, pantry and staff spaces giving the visit a different emphasis from the two-day core. This is the deeper household chapter, rather than a reason to postpone an essential part of the main adventure.

what to notice

Follow the work as well as the furnishings: how did people cook, maintain the house, and move between family rooms and staff spaces?

visiting notes

At 34 Chestnut Street, Salem, MA 01970, use the operator's rear visitor entrance for your reserved house visit. Choose a departure from the operator's calendar and arrive about 15 minutes before it. Allow 90 minutes for arrival, the approximately 45-minute tour and a pause. Check the actual seasonal calendar and ticket product; no year-round opening is promised. The house has stairs and no ramps, lifts or elevators; ask about first-floor options before buying.

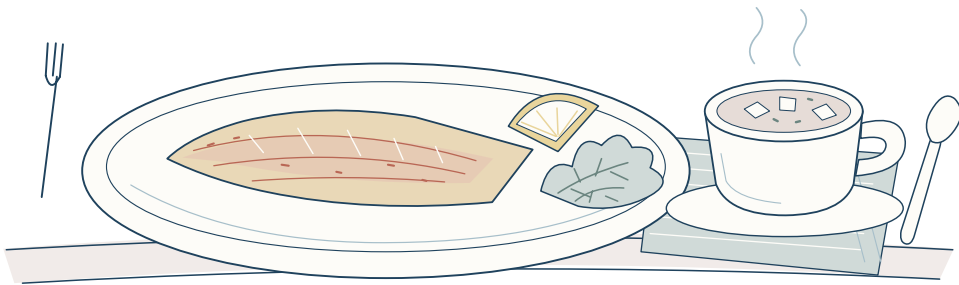
Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

optional / a seafood lunch

Optional Third-Day Lunch: Turner's Seafood

1 hr 30 min · Optional · 43 Church Street, Salem, MA 01970

Make the extra morning's meal a seafood lunch in the Salem branch of Turner's at Lyceum Hall. The current menu offers clam and fish chowders, baked or fried haddock, and a changing daily catch. Choose a chowder and sandwich for a lighter meal or make lunch the substantial finish to the optional chapter. Ask what is available that day. Allow time to enjoy the meal and talk about the household spaces you have just explored.



visiting notes

Use the front guest entrance and host stand at 43 Church Street, Salem, MA 01970. This Salem branch opens at noon daily. Check current reservation arrangements and reserve well ahead where offered; a physical wait-in-line system may handle much of the seating in busy periods. Check takeaway availability directly rather than relying on a temporary service notice. Flying Saucer in Lappin Park is an alternative; check its current service arrangements before counting on takeaway.

Link: [Walking directions to this visitor arrival](#) · [Visitor information](#)

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Plan for Your Own Visit

Seasonal visits

House openings and tickets vary by season. Check NPS and Witch House calendars before buying. For December travel, confirm the trials gallery is open on your dates before buying; its exhibition closure notice is separate from the museum's calendar. Keep the broader museum visit if the gallery is unavailable.

Where to stay

The Hawthorne Hotel and The Merchant are central options to compare for your stay. Confirm availability, room access, parking and cancellation terms directly with the operator. Plan your return from the day's final stop to the lodging you choose.

An optional dinner

For an optional dinner, Ledger at 125 Washington Street, Salem, MA 01970 offers contemporary New England cooking in the former Salem Savings Bank building. The setting and regional approach make it a different experience from the two café/tavern lunches. Choose from the current menu and reserve well ahead for a busy night; check whether your reservation is for indoors or the uncovered patio. Dinner runs Wednesday–Sunday; Monday and Tuesday are closed. Allow about 90 minutes for a meal, outside the daytime totals, and leave a separate cushion before any performance.

Budget and access

Budget for paid house and museum admissions, food, lodging and transport. The memorial, public residential walk, Ropes garden and checked NPS visits provide free components. Check current prices before booking, and discuss ingredients, allergies and access needs with each operator.

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During Your Visit

Crowds and getting around

Check current City of Salem notices before arrival. If you visit in October, allow extra time for crowds and possible downtown traffic restrictions. Use the day's posted pedestrian crossings, barriers and marshal instructions; a car closure is not permission to ignore a pedestrian restriction. Check NPS updates and on-site signs before walking the waterfront.

Restrooms and physical access

Restrooms: use the Gables Visitor Center before its tour. NPS lists facilities behind Waite and Peirce on the waterfront, subject to opening hours. The Witch House has no public restroom; plan around the café/museum visit instead. Historic houses can involve stairs and prolonged standing. Check the operator's access options rather than assuming an accessible building means every connecting street is step-free.

Walking estimates

The small walking figures are provider estimates, not promises. The day budgets also include entry/wait cushions and a rest allowance. Use marked crossings and current pedestrian directions; public street closures may come with different pedestrian instructions.

keep personal details in your own copy

Your Plans

Reservation tracker

Keep personal confirmations in your own copy.

Trip dates

Visits / tickets

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

Meals

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

Lodging

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

Rental car

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

Other transport

Date / time

Confirmation number

Notes

salem / reflection

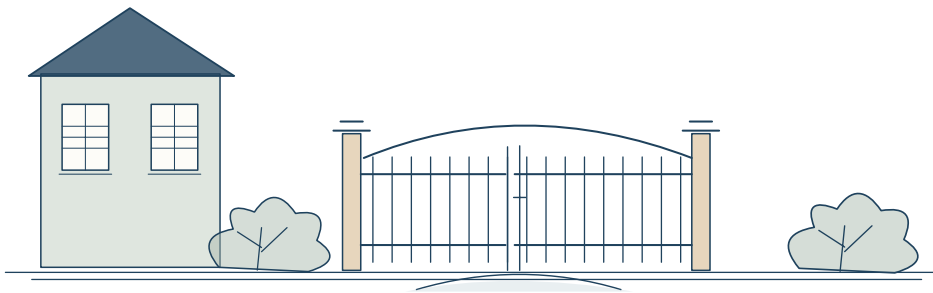
What You Bring Home

By the end, choose a home, a name and an object you will remember. They need not be the most famous things you saw. Together they can give Salem a shape that lasts longer than a checklist of attractions.

A Few Useful Habits

Plan well ahead for limited admissions: note advance ticket-release dates and prepare for any day-of booking tasks. Keep the stated exterior or garden alternative if an interior sells out.

Carry a snack and water, charge your phone, and save the guide PDF, admission confirmations and actual visitor-arrival instructions before leaving. Download needed walking maps or route instructions too. Saved guide text remains useful without reception; live directions, updated notices, ticket services and new bookings need a connection. A backup meal helps, but no popular restaurant guarantees an immediate table.



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Admissions and Opening Checks

01 The Gables: tickets

Admission releases and check-in requirement. · 7gables.org

02 The Gables: visitor-center approach

Actual Visitor Center approach. · 7gables.org

03 NPS: operating hours and seasons

Current posted seasonal building schedule. · www.nps.gov

04 NPS: physical access

NPS visitor paths and physical limits. · www.nps.gov

05 NPS: conditions page

Check current notices before visiting the waterfront. · www.nps.gov

06 City of Salem: current notices

Current city notices for your dates, including traffic and crowd arrangements. · www.salemma.gov

07 PEM: Ropes Mansion and Garden

Garden and seasonal house tickets. · www.pem.org

08 Witch House: plan your visit

Witch House seasons and last entry. · www.thewitchhouse.org

09 Witch House: October visit rules

For an October visit only: check the current seasonal ticket instructions. · www.thewitchhouse.org

10 Charter Street Cemetery: visitor information

Current visitor entry and reservation arrangements; check your dates. · www.charterstreetcemetery.com

11 PEM: plan your visit

Museum opening days and café. · www.pem.org

12 PEM: entrances and access

Museum entrances and assistance. · www.pem.org

13 PEM: The Salem Witch Trials 1692

Check the specific gallery dates. · www.pem.org

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Food and the Extra Day

14 [Mercy Tavern: address and food-service opening](#)

Main Day One lunch opening. · www.mercysalem.com

15 [Mercy Tavern: menu](#)

Food choices; discuss dietary needs. · www.mercysalem.com

16 [Longboards: current location](#)

Correct current fallback location. · www.longboardsbar.com

17 [Longboards: operator-linked ordering and food hours](#)

Food-service hours, not bar hours. · order.toasttab.com

18 [Historic New England: Phillips House](#)

Seasonal rear-entry house visit. · www.historicnewengland.org

19 [Turner's Seafood: Salem dining and menu](#)

Optional lunch, line and takeout restrictions. · www.turners-seafood.com

20 [Flying Saucer: actual guest entrance](#)

Actual Lappin Park entrance. · www.flyingsaucerpizzacompany.com

21 [Flying Saucer: October alternatives](#)

Service and takeaway arrangements, including October-specific changes. · www.flyingsaucerpizzacompany.com

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Evenings and Possible Bases

22 Ledger: hours and address

Optional dinner days. · www.ledgersalem.com

23 The Merchant: operator

Possible personal base. · www.larkhotels.com

24 Hawthorne Hotel: operator

Possible personal base. · www.hawthornehotel.com

25 Gulu-Gulu: food menu overview

Choose lunch from current café offerings. · www.gulugulucafe.com

26 Gulu-Gulu: current performances calendar

Choose an actual evening; check tickets and age rules. · gulugulucafe.com

27 Ledger: dining in a former bank

Optional dinner setting and reservations. · www.ledgersalem.com

28 Ledger: current menus and dinner hours

Current menu and dinner days. · www.ledgersalem.com

photograph sources

Photo Credits

These photographs show the places in the years listed. Use the linked visitor information to check current entrances and access.

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The Witch House

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Peabody Essex Museum

Cathypem · 2014 · CC BY-SA 3.0

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Hamilton Hall

Fletcher6 · 2010 · CC BY-SA 3.0

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Charter Street Cemetery

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