City on Massachusetts Bay, NE Massachusetts, USA, 22km (14mi) NE of Boston. First settled in 1626, Salem achieved notoriety for its witchcraft trials (1692), when 19 people were hanged. Industries: electrical products, leather goods, tourism. Pop. (2000) 40,407.

Settled as Naumkeag in 1626, it was renamed Salem in 1629 after the Hebrew word for peace, shalom. It became a leading port and shipbuilding centre in the 18th century, and was one of the richest US towns in 1790. The city was badly damaged by fire in 1914.

Tourist attractions relating to the trials include the Witch Dungeon Museum, the Wax Museum, Salem Witch Museum, and the Witch House, which, as the home of Judge Jonathan Corwin, is the only remaining contemporary structure associated with the trials. There is also 'Dracula's Castle'. There are 44 entries on the national register of historic places, and other points of interest include Pioneer Village – a reconstruction of 1630s Salem, the Peabody and Essex Museum, the New England Pirate Museum, the birthplace of the 19th-century writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, and the House of the Seven Gables (1668), which inspired Hawthorne’s novel of the same name in 1851. Salem Maritime Historic Site was the first National Historic Site in the US National Park system. Salem was the birthplace of US senator George Cabot.

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