



**30TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN SALEM HOUSE TOUR ANNOUNCED
NEW ENGLAND’S HOLIDAY CLASSIC RETURNS DECEMBER 4 – 6, 2009**

SALEM, MA – If it’s the first weekend in December, it’s time for *Christmas in Salem*, when the historic seaside city of Salem, Massachusetts, welcomes thousands of visitors to help kick off the holiday season. One of the oldest holiday house tours in the country, the 30th anniversary tour is bigger and better than ever, showcasing 12 beautiful homes in the Salem Common neighborhood and a host of related activities.

This year’s Legacy Tour emphasizes Salem’s unique past by featuring a number of non-residential sites of historic significance near the tour route. Some are simply “walk-bys;” others, such as the Old Salem Jail, invite you in to see one of the original cells. The legacy sites comprise a wonderful opening act for the homes themselves, all fabulously decorated for the holidays by some of the region’s finest floral and interior designers. It’s a wonderful opportunity to get an inside peek at historic homes, enjoy shopping and dining with friends, and get into the spirit of the holidays.

The house tour is just the beginning — *Christmas in Salem* has the whole town brimming with activity. Enjoy a festive Christmas tea at the Hawthorne Hotel. Listen to engaging lectures and musical performances. Come to a wine tasting or shop at the decorating boutique and Salem’s delightful retail stores. Many of the city’s restaurateurs and shop owners will be offering special discounts and promotions to tour goers. See www.ChristmasinSalem.org for details.

Friday, December 4th	5:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Candlelight Preview
(For advance ticket holders only)		
Saturday, December 5th	10:00 AM to 4:30 PM	
Sunday, December 6th	11:30 AM to 4:30 PM	

Advance tickets are available for \$25 at www.christmasinsalem.org or by calling 978-745-0799. Tickets can be purchased for \$30 on the day of the tour.

Christmas in Salem is presented by Historic Salem, Inc., one of the nation’s oldest civic preservation groups. HSI is celebrating its 65th anniversary and is dedicated to preserving Salem’s historic resources. A significant portion of this year’s proceeds will be used to restore the interior of Salem’s Nathaniel Bowditch house.

Images, interviews and additional information about are available upon request.

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