After Martha's Vineyard, we headed back to Boston, where we started our tour of the East Coast. It so happened that October was the month of "Haunted Happenings" (Halloween) in nearby Salem, so we took a short trip there. [http://hauntedhappenings.org/](http://hauntedhappenings.org/)

The Witch Hysteria not only enveloped Salem, but all 34 towns and villages of Essex County. Hundreds of accused witches filled the jails awaiting trial. Some died in captivity, 19 were hanged and one old man was crushed to death. A Salem minister, accused by teenage girls of being the devil, was captured in Maine, hanged here, and had his head removed by another minister. Salem's leading merchant and his wife escaped the hangman, but returned a year later to plot to plot revenge on the accusers and the lawman who tormented the witch victims. These and many other stories of Witch Times are revealed at the Witch History museum. [http://www.witchhistorymuseum.com/witchhistory.html](http://www.witchhistorymuseum.com/witchhistory.html)

Revolution. From the years preceding the War for Independence, through the Treaty of Paris in 1783, Salem was a hotbed of revolutionary fervor!
Nathaniel Hawthorne. A legendary figure in American literature, Nathaniel Hawthorne is, without doubt, Salem’s greatest author.

Parker Brothers was founded by George S. Parker. Parker’s philosophy deviated from the prevalent theme of board game design; he believed that games should be played for enjoyment and did not need to emphasize morals and values. Parker founded his game company, initially called the George S. Parker Company, in his hometown of Salem, Massachusetts in 1883. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parker_Brothers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parker_Brothers)
Lady of Salem. One of the exhibits recently in Salem is the Lady Of Salem figureheads located throughout the city. The nautical inspired art is meant to celebrate Salem's rich maritime history. These figureheads are meant to closely resemble the decorated ornaments that used to be attached the front of ships.


Addams Family  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Addams_Family
Many skulls were on display on Essex St. – a pedestrian mall and walkway.
Dedicated to the citizens of Essex County who served in the US Armed Forces.

Various performers in Salem, including “Joe’s Sax Appeal.”
Witches hats.

Roger Conant, first settler of Salem, 1626
Nathaniel Hawthorne

[Links to Wikipedia articles]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathaniel_Hawthorne
I pose with my favorite American author, Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864). Much of Hawthorne’s writing centers on New England, many works featuring moral allegories with a Puritan inspiration. His fiction works are considered part of the Romantic movement and, more specifically, Dark romanticism. His themes often center on the inherent evil and sin of humanity, and his works often have moral messages and deep psychological complexity.
One of the best “witches” I saw in Salem. A real scary lady with a broom.

The Burying Point is the oldest burying ground in the city of Salem. Here is buried Justice John Hathorne, an ancestor of Nathaniel Hawthorne and one of the judges in the Witchcraft Court. … Sign on fence: “This ground the first place set apart in Salem for the burial of the dead. And, since 1837, known as the Burying Point, contains the graves of Governor Bradstreet, Chief Justice Lynde, and others whose virtues, honors, courage and sagacity have nobly illustrated the history of Salem.”
Area designated as the Witch Trials Memorial, a “sacred place” to reflect on the people from Salem’s past. Sign: “In 1692, nearly 200 people in the Salem area were accused of witchcraft, then considered a crime. Twenty of the accused were tried and executed—victims of fear, superstition, and a court system that failed to protect them. This Memorial was created to honor the memory of these twenty victims and to remind us of the enduring lessons of human rights learned from the tragedy of the witch trials. It was designed by architect Jim Cutler and artist Maggie Smith and dedicated in 1992 by Elie Wiesel. Quote by Elie Wiesel: “Only if we remember will we be worthy of redemption.”
Spell Casting Booth, with an "angel of death" (?) in front.

Wicked Special area, with a devilish sculpture.
More scary stuff (displays, figures) to send “chills down your spine.”

Only a block from the Visitor Center, and facing the Salem Common, you'll find an imposing stone Romanesque building housing the famous Salem Witch Museum. The horrifying events of the 1692 witch trials are depicted in the museum’s thoroughly researched and powerful presentation. Visitors are offered a complete look at one of the most important, emotional, and tragic events in American history.

http://www.salemwitchmuseum.com/
A Firefighter’s Prayer (at a fire station, New Derby St.): “When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may rage, give me strength to save some life whatever be its age. Help me embrace a little child before it is too late or save an older person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out. I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me, to guard my every neighbor and protect his property. And if according to my fate I am to lose my life, please bless with your protecting hand my children and my wife.”

After our “haunted happenings” tour of Salem, we headed back to Boston and visited Bunker Hill Monument, a National Historical Park. Popularly known as "The Battle of Bunker Hill" (June 17, 1775), bloody fighting took place across a hilly landscape of fenced pastures over the Charles River from Boston. Today the Bunker Hill Monument stands atop a prominence of the battlefield now known as Breed’s Hill. This 221-foot granite obelisk marks the site where colonial forces constructed an earthen fort, or "Redoubt," prior to the battle. This Redoubt became the focal point of the British assaults during the battle, and remains the focal point of the battle's memory.
Massachusetts Gate. June 17, 1775. Quote: “This hand opposed to tyrants searches with a sword, for peaceful conditions under liberty.”

Colonel William Prescott of Massachusetts led the Colonial forces here on Breed’s Hill. His commanding figure and strong will inspired the farmer soldiers to the greatness of the day. Dr. Joseph Warren commissioned a major general elected to serve Prescott as a private in the battle. Dr. Warren, an early leader in the Revolution, was killed on this battlefield in the waning moments of the conflict.
https://www.thefreedomtrail.org/freedom-trail/  
https://www.thefreedomtrail.org/freedom-trail/bunker-hill-monument.shtml

The 221-foot (67 m) granite obelisk was erected between 1827 and 1843 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, with granite from nearby Quincy conveyed to the site via the purpose-built Granite Railway, followed by a trip by barge. There are 294 steps to the top.  
The Decisive Day has come on which the fate of America depends …- Abigail Adams. This high ground of Breed’s Hill bound the American colonies to the cause of independence. An open field once located here commanded this entire area. On the night of June 16, 1775, two months after the fighting at Lexington and Concord, 1,200 colonial militiamen quickly built a small earthen fort. As dawn broke on June 17, the fort stood in clear view of the British army in Boston. British cannon from ship and land opened fire. Some 2,200 British soldiers crossed the Charles River and assaulted the hill. After several bloody attacks, the British troops overran the colonists. The British forces won this ground, but it cost nearly half their men.

Breed’s Hill – Site of the Battle of Bunker Hill, fought June 17, 1775. Although orders were issued by the committee of safety to seize and fortify Bunker Hill, the Colonial officers after consultation fortified this hill on June 18, 1775.
You are now my enemy and I am yours… - Benjamin Franklin. The British Army was one of the most powerful military forces of the day. Their leaders were career officers. The troops were regularly trained and well equipped. Yet, the enlisted ranks were often filled with soldiers recruited against their will – poor and unemployed men, sometimes taken right from jail. Most colonists who fought in this battle were not trained soldiers. They freely fought in militia units from their hometowns. The British commanders did not expect such an improvised army to perform as well as it did. Though the Americans lost this hill, they grew more unified and determined to fight for their freedom.

The “Adams Cannon”
This Column Stands on Union! – Daniel Webster. In the years following the battle, this hill became sacred ground. A new patriotic spirit swept the nation in the 1820s. Americans looked to honor the sacrifice and service of their ancestors. For two decades, many men and women, led by the Bunker Hill Monument Association, worked to raise funds for a suitable memorial. On June 17, 1843, over 100,000 people gathered here for the dedication of the Bunker Hill Monument. Statesman and orator Daniel Webster spoke to the crowd. The monument was not only a symbol of national pride, but a great feat of engineering. The first commercial railway in America was built to transport granite from the quarries in Quincy, Massachusetts. A Boston ship rigger built a special hoisting apparatus to lift the five-ton blocks into place.

“Don’t fire ‘til you see the whites of their eyes.” Even though the British won the battle – at a terrible cost – it was a great moral victory for the Patriots, who proved that they would and could stand up against the British regulars. General Washington declared: “The liberties of our country are safe.”

1815 Masonic display in the base of the monument. The 221-foot granite obelisk has 294 steps to the top – and we climbed all the way up to get a fantastic 360 degree view of the City of Boston and its surroundings.
At the viewing place of the obelisk (monument)

King Solomon's Lodge, the builders of the original Bunker Hill Monument.  
http://www.kingsolomonslodge.com/ 
http://www.kingsolomonslodge.com/2012/04/what-is-freemasonry/ (Freemasonry)
Located across from the Monument is the Battle of Bunker Hill Museum, which has dioramas and murals, and artifacts from the battle itself. The Decisive Day – “Why do we commemorate this particular battle in our collective memory? The patriots fighting at Bunker Hill retreated in defeat at the end of the battle. Yet, the Battle of Bunker Hill provided a significant strategic gain for the patriots. In battering the British Army, they thwarted British plans to fortify Dorchester Heights and attach patriot troops at Roxbury. This enabled the patriots to force the eventual evacuation of British troops from Boston. The battle also demonstrated that the patriots could successfully engage the British army, one of the most professional and well-trained forces in the 18th century. The Battle of Bunker Hill was quickly memorialized, first in stories and ceremonies, then ultimately in the building of the Bunker Hill Monument. Memorializing the battle helped a young nation define its patriotism and the meaning of being an American.
Charlestown is the oldest neighborhood in Boston. Originally called Mishawum by the Massachusett (native tribe), it is located on a peninsula north of the Charles River, across from downtown Boston, and also adjoins the Mystic River and Boston Harbor. Charlestown was laid out in 1629 by engineer Thomas Graves, one of its early settlers, in the reign of Charles I of England. It was originally a separate town and the first capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Charlestown became a city in 1848 and was annexed by Boston on January 5, 1874. (Wikipedia)
Timeline of Charlestown in the 1700s and 1800s.
Bunker Hill board with memorabilia.

The Armies face off: the Patriot Militia.

The British Army. The British leaders.
The British prepare to attack. The Patriots ready for battle. Battle.

The British Evacuation. General George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the newly formed Continental Army, arrived in Boston on July 3, 1775, and took command from Ward. . . .The British ended their occupation of Boston on Marcy 17, 1776. . . .The long Revolutionary War, which began with the Massachusetts battles of 1775, would end in 1783 with the signing of a peace treaty between Great Britain and the United States.
Painting of Patriots preparing for the third and final British assault on Breed's Hill.

Diorama of battle scene, with miniature soldiers.
Accounts of the Battle. Participants in and witnesses to the battle recorded what they experienced or saw from a distance. British regulars, American patriots, and noncombatants of differing loyalties describe a day of smoke and fire, bloodshed and thunderous noise.
The Old State House is the oldest and most important public building in American history prior to the Revolution, where John Adams insisted, “Independence was born.” Step back in time at this must-see destination on the Freedom Trail! In 1882, replicas of the lion and unicorn statues (symbols of United Kingdom) were placed atop the East side of the building, after the originals that had been burned in 1776.  

http://www.bostonhistory.org/
Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Warren, Paul Revere, John Hancock, etc. Know what they all have in common? Yes, they were Freemasons. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Lodge_of_Massachusetts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Lodge_of_Massachusetts) [https://youtu.be/w2jnvpdmVAA](https://youtu.be/w2jnvpdmVAA) (YouTube - the building on Tremont and Boylston streets)

The last place we visited in Boston was the Common, America’s oldest public park.
Established in 1634, Boston Common is America’s oldest public park. Puritan colonists purchased the land rights to the Common’s 44 acres from the first settler of the area, Anglican minister William Blackstone.

https://www.thefreedomtrail.org/freedom-trail/boston-common.shtml

The Ether Monument in the park.   Inscription: “Neither shall there be any more pain.”
(Rev.21:4)  
http://www.celebrateboston.com/statue/ether-monument.htm
Inscription: “In gratitude for the relief of human suffering by the inhaling of ether a citizen of Boston has erected this monument. A. MDCCCLXVII” The capital is decorated with oak leaves, and bears on its abacus a group setting forth the story of "the good Samaritan.” The four sides of the die contain bas-reliefs: (1) A patient under the influence of ether undergoing a surgical operation, (2) The angel of mercy descending to relieve suffering humanity, (3) A wounded soldier under the hands of surgeons in a field hospital, and (4) An allegory of the triumph of science.

Crossing a bridge.
The statue in Boston Common represents George Washington at the time of middle life, and the countenance and attitude are full of force and vigor. It faces to the south. The lines, both of horse and rider, are graceful and natural.

The height of the statue is 22 feet, and the fine granite pedestal 16 feet; so that, with its pedestal, it reaches 38 feet in total. The foundation is of solid masonry, resting on piles 11 feet deep.

The noted sculptor T. H. Bartlett of that time pronounced the work to be "the most important and best specimen of monumental decoration in New England." "The horse," he said, "has a personality; its ears being thrown forward, the eyes and action of the head indicating that he is attracted by some object. Such a personality is an essential quality in a composition like this."
The Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Boston Common was erected in memory of Massachusetts soldiers and sailors who died in the American Civil War. Designed by Martin Milmore, construction began in 1874 and the monument was dedicated on September 17, 1877. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument is located on a rise called Flag Staff Hill. The monument is neoclassical in design, taking the form of a victory column carved of Hallowell white granite. The monument rises to a height of 126 feet. The platform is 38 feet square and features four bas-relief bronze tablets. Above the bas-relief tablets at the base of the column are four 8 foot high carved granite figures representing the northern, southern, eastern and western sections of the reunited nation. Surmounting the doric column is a bronze allegorical female figure titled AMERICA. She is crowned by thirteen stars, and in her left hand holds the United States flag, in her right hand she holds a laurel wreath and sword.


His best known work was "The Man Without a Country", published in the Atlantic in 1863 and intended to strengthen support for the Union cause in the North.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Everett_Hale

Boston Common Carousel: https://www.bostoncentral.com/activities/parks/p2055.php
Downtown skyline view from the park.

Walking up the steps to the Massachusetts State House, I noticed an inscription next to the top step: “Dedicated October 27, 1917 to our soldiers and sailors in the Great War.”
The Robert Gould Shaw and Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial, located across Beacon Street from the State House, serves as a reminder of the heavy cost paid by individuals and families during the Civil War. In particular, it serves as a memorial to the group of men who were among the first African Americans to fight in that war. https://www.nps.gov/boaf/learn/historyculture/shaw.htm

The 1930 Founders’ Memorial on Boston Common, near the corner of Beacon and Spruce streets, features a bronze bas-relief on its south face depicting the arrival of the city’s Puritan settlers.
In the scene William Blackstone, the first settler of Boston, is greeting John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Native Americans watch the scene, which includes Ann Pollard, the first white woman to land in Boston. An allegorical figure representing Boston watches from the far right. http://ctmonuments.net/page/21/
King's Chapel is an independent Christian unitarian congregation affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association that is "unitarian Christian in theology, Anglican in worship, and congregational in governance." The chapel building, completed in 1754, is one of the finest designs of the noted colonial architect Peter Harrison, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 for its architectural significance. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_Chapel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_Chapel)

King's Chapel Burying Ground is a historic cemetery at King's Chapel on Tremont. It is the oldest cemetery (founded in 1630) in the city and is a site on the Freedom Trail. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_Chapel_Burying_Ground](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_Chapel_Burying_Ground)
Welcome to King’s Chapel Burying Ground. Buried here are many notable people in Boston’s early history, from its first governor, John Winthrop, to Frederic Tudor, the “ice king.” Notable burials: Charles Apthorp, merchant; Mary Chilton, Plymouth Pilgrim; Captain Roger Clapp; John Cotton (minister); John Davenport (minister); William Emerson, father of Ralph Waldo Emerson; Robert Keayne, captain; John Lambert, pirate; Elizabeth Pain, inspiration for Hester Prynne’s headstone in The Scarlet Letter; and many others.
Brewer Fountain. The great figures at the base represent Neptune [Roman God of water and sea] and Amphitrite [Greek sea Goddess], Acis [spirit of Acis River by Roman Poet Ovid] and Galatea [Roman sea nymph]. The fountain was cast in Paris, brought to this country, and set up at the sole expense of the public-spirited donor.

http://www.celebrateboston.com/sites/boston-common-brewer-fountain.htm

The Boston Common consists of 50 acres (20 ha) of land bounded by Tremont Street, Park Street, Beacon Street, Charles Street, and Boylston Street. Today, the Common serves as a public park for all to use for formal or informal gatherings. Events such as concerts, protests, softball games, and ice skating (on Frog Pond) often take place in the park.

Famous individuals such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Pope John Paul II have made speeches there.

It was declared a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1987.

Just before we left for Logan International Airport, I saw a “bird-like” cloud in the sky.

Jet Blue flew us back home to Oregon. And so concluded a great adventure to the East Coast.