

(Most of) The Jewish Holidays

Shabbat (Every Friday sundown to Saturday twilight)

The day of rest and weekly observance of God's completion of creation and celebration of freedom from slavery in Egypt. Most Jews light two Shabbat candles Friday night and have a special meal with family and friends with blessings over wine and challah, a sweet braided bread. Some Jews observe total prohibition on work, including no transportation, technology, cooking or writing.

Rosh Hashanah (“Head of the Year”)

The Jewish New Year—a holiday observed with festive meals and a day spent in prayer or quiet meditation. Symbolic foods include a round challah for the cycle of the year and apples in honey for a sweet new year. Two days long. Work is prohibited.

Yom Kippur (“Day of Forgiveness”)

The Jewish Day of Atonement—the most solemn day of the Jewish year. A day devoted to self-examination, and the chance to begin the New Year with a clean slate. Those able to fast do so for 25 hours from sundown to twilight.

Sukkot (“Huts” or “Booths”)

A week-long celebration of the fall harvest, this holiday also commemorates the time when the Hebrews dwelt in the Sinai wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. Work prohibited first two days. Traditional to eat all meals in fragile huts.

Shemini Atzeret

Literally the “8th day of assembly,” this holiday marks the end of Sukkot with an annual prayer for rain. Work prohibited.

Simchat Torah (“Joy of the Torah”)

The day marking the end and the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle. Festive dancing with the Torah scrolls. No work.

Hanukkah (“Dedication”)

A festival celebrating liberation from oppression, freedom of worship, and finding light in the darkest of times. Work is permitted; the main rituals are lighting an additional candle in the chanukah menorah every one of the eight nights and reciting special Psalms of praise and Biblical verses at morning prayers.

Tu B'Shevat (“15th of Shevat”)

The Jewish “New Year of the Trees,” celebrated with observances that connect us to our environment and the natural world. Celebrated with a mystical observance called “Seder Tu B'Shevat,” a special meal patterned on the Passover meal with fruits and nuts.

Purim (“Lots” or “Dice”)

A day celebrating the saving of the Jews from a diabolical plot of destruction, as recounted in the Book of Esther. The Jewish equivalent of Halloween: costumes, spoofs and satire, and exchanges of food throughout the community. Work permitted.

Passover (Hebrew “Pesach”)

A festival of freedom that marks the Hebrew exodus from Egypt. Eight days long; work prohibited first two and last two days. Strict prohibition on any leavened food (“chametz”) and instead eating unleavened bread (“matzah”) in memory of the speed with which the Israelites left Egypt, with no time for dough to rise.

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)

The day Jews mourn the loss of six million Jewish lives during the Holocaust in Europe from 1939-1945.

Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day)

A day commemorating the soldiers who have fallen fighting for the State of Israel’s independence and defending its security.

Yom HaAtzma’ut (Israeli Independence Day)

This holiday celebrates the independence of the Modern State of Israel, which was declared on May 14, 1948.

Lag Ba’Omer

The holiday that marks the 33rd day of the 49-day “Omer” period between Passover and Shavuot. A day of good luck and blessing. Work permitted unless on Shabbat.

Shavuot (“weeks”)

The celebration of the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people, also known as the Festival of First Fruits. One day in Israel, two days in the Diaspora, Biblical festival, therefore work is not allowed.

Tisha B'Av (“Ninth Day of Av”)

An important fast day commemorating the destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem; Solomon’s Temple by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 CE (AD).

Tu B'Av (“Fifteenth Day of Av”)

A Jewish celebration of love.

Jewish holidays for the next three years (2021-2024; Jewish years 5782, 5783, and 5784)

Major holidays begin at sundown on the first date specified and end at nightfall on the last date specified.

Dates in **bold** are *yom tov*, so they have similar obligations and restrictions to Shabbat in the sense that normal "work" is forbidden.

Holiday	5782 2021-2022	5783 2022-2023	5784 2023-2024
Rosh Hashana	Sep 6-8 M-W	Sep 25-27 Su-Tu	Sep 15-17 F-Su
Yom Kippur	Sep 15-16 W-Th	Oct 4-5 Tu-W	Sep 24-25 Su-M
Sukkot	Sep 20-22 M-W Sep 23-27 Th-M	Oct 9-11 Su-Tu Oct 12-16 W-Su	Sep 29-Oct 1 F-Su Oct 2-6 M-F
Shmini Atzeret	Sep 27-28 M-Tu	Oct 16-17 Su-M	Oct 6-7 F-Sa
Simchat Torah	Sep 28-29 Tu-W	Oct 17-18 M-Tu	Oct 7-8 Sa-Su
Chanukah	Nov 28-Dec 6 Su-M	Dec 18-26 Su-M	Dec 7-15 Th-F

Holiday	5782 2021-2022	5783 2022-2023	5784 2023-2024
Pesach	Apr 15-17 F-Su Apr 18-20 M-W Apr 21-23 Th-Sa	Apr 5-7 W-F Apr 8-10 Sa-M Apr 11-13 Tu-Th	Apr 22-24 M-W Apr 25-27 Th-Sa Apr 28-30 Su-Tu
Shavuot	Jun 4-6 Sa-M	May 25-27 Th-Sa	Jun 11-13 Tu-Th

Minor holidays

Holiday	5781 2020-2021	5782 2021-2022	5783 2022-2023
Tu B'Shevat	Jan 27-28 W-Th	Jan 16-17 Su-M	Feb 5-6 Su-M
Purim	Feb 25-26 Th-F	Mar 16-17 W-Th	Mar 6-7 M-Tu
Lag BaOmer	Apr 29-30 Th-F	May 18-19 W-Th	May 8-9 M-Tu
Tu B'Av	Jul 23-24 F-Sa	Aug 11-12 Th-F	Aug 1-2 Tu-W

Tisha B'Av begins at sundown on the first date specified and ends at nightfall on the second date specified.

Holiday	5782 2021-2022	5783 2022-2023	5784 2023-2024
Tish'a B'Av	Aug 6-7 Sa-Su	Jul 26-27 W-Th	Aug 12-13 M-Tu

Yom HaShoah	Apr 27-28 W-Th	Apr 17-18 M-Tu	May 5-6 Su-M
Yom HaZikaron	May 3-4 Tu-W	Apr 24-25 M-Tu	May 12-13 Su-M
Yom HaAtzma'ut	May 4-5 W-Th	Apr 25-26 Tu-W	May 13-14 M-Tu