

Calendar of Jewish festivals

(see next page for notes)

		2009 / 5769	2010 / 5770	2011 / 5771	2012 / 5772	2013 / 5773	2014 / 5774
Fast of Tvet		Tue 6 Jan	–	–	Thu 5 Jan	–	–
New Year for trees		Mon 9 Feb	Sat 30 Jan	Thu 20 Jan	Wed 8 Feb	Sat 26 Jan	Thu 16 Jan
Fast of Esther		Mon 9 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Thu 17 Mar	Wed 7 Mar	Thu 21 Feb	Thu 13 Mar
Purim	eve	Mon 9 Mar	Sat 27 Feb	Sat 19 Mar	Wed 7 Mar	Sat 23 Feb	Sat 15 Mar
	day	Tue 10 Mar	Sun 28 Feb	Sun 20 Mar	Thu 8 Mar	Sun 24 Feb	Sun 16 Mar
Fast of the Firstborn		Wed 8 Apr	Mon 29 Mar	Mon 18 Apr	Fri 6 Apr	Mon 25 Mar	Mon 14 Apr
Pesach (Passover)	eve	Wed 8 Apr	Mon 29 Mar	Mon 18 Apr	Fri 6 Apr	Mon 25 Mar	Mon 14 Apr
	1 st day	Thu 9 Apr	Tue 30 Mar	Tue 19 Apr	Sat 7 Apr	Tue 26 Mar	Tue 15 Apr
	2 nd day	Fri 10 Apr	Wed 31 Mar	Wed 20 Apr	Sun 8 Apr	Wed 27 Mar	Wed 16 Apr
	eve	Tue 14 Apr	Sun 4 Apr	Sun 24 Apr	Thu 12 Apr	Sun 31 Mar	Sun 20 Apr
	7 th day	Wed 15 Apr	Mon 5 Apr	Mon 25 Apr	Fri 13 Apr	Mon 1 Apr	Mon 21 Apr
	8 th day	Thu 16 Apr	Tue 6 Apr	Tue 26 Apr	Sat 14 Apr	Tue 2 Apr	Tue 22 Apr
Shavuot (Pentecost)	eve	Thu 28 May	Tue 18 May	Tue 7 Jun	Sat 26 May	Tue 14 May	Tue 3 Jun
	1 st day	Fri 29 May	Wed 19 May	Wed 8 Jun	Sun 27 May	Wed 15 May	Wed 4 Jun
	2 nd day	Sat 30 May	Thu 20 May	Thu 9 Jun	Mon 28 May	Thu 16 May	Thu 5 Jun
Fast of Tammuz		Thu 9 Jul	Tue 29 Jun	Tue 19 Jul	Sun 8 Jul	Tue 25 Jun	Tue 15 Jul
Fast of Av	eve	Wed 29 Jul	Mon 19 Jul	Mon 8 Aug	Sat 28 Jul	Mon 15 Jul	Mon 4 Aug
	day	Thu 30 Jul	Tue 20 Jul	Tue 9 Aug	Sun 29 Jul	Tue 16 Jul	Tue 5 Aug
		2009 / 5770	2010 / 5771	2011 / 5772	2012 / 5773	2013 / 5774	2014 / 5775
Rosh Hashanah (New Year)	eve	Fri 18 Sep	Wed 8 Sep	Wed 28 Sep	Sun 16 Sep	Wed 4 Sep	Wed 24 Sep
	1 st day	Sat 19 Sep	Thu 9 Sep	Thu 29 Sep	Mon 17 Sep	Thu 5 Sep	Thu 25 Sep
	2 nd day	Sun 20 Sep	Fri 10 Sep	Fri 30 Sep	Tue 18 Sep	Fri 6 Sep	Fri 26 Sep
Fast of Gedaliah		Mon 21 Sep	Sun 12 Sep	Sun 2 Oct	Wed 19 Sep	Sun 8 Sep	Sun 28 Sep
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	eve	Sun 27 Sep	Fri 17 Sep	Fri 7 Oct	Tue 25 Sep	Fri 13 Sep	Fri 3 Oct
	day	Mon 28 Sep	Sat 18 Sep	Sat 8 Oct	Wed 26 Sep	Sat 14 Sep	Sat 4 Oct
Succot (Feast Of Tabernacles)	eve	Fri 2 Oct	Wed 22 Sep	Wed 12 Oct	Sun 30 Sep	Wed 18 Sep	Wed 8 Oct
	1 st day	Sat 3 Oct	Thu 23 Sep	Thu 13 Oct	Mon 1 Oct	Thu 19 Sep	Thu 9 Oct
	2 nd day	Sun 4 Oct	Fri 24 Sep	Fri 14 Oct	Tue 2 Oct	Fri 20 Sep	Fri 10 Oct
Shemini Atzeret	eve	Fri 9 Oct	Wed 29 Sep	Wed 19 Oct	Sun 7 Oct	Wed 25 Sep	Wed 15 Oct
	day	Sat 10 Oct	Thu 30 Sep	Thu 20 Oct	Mon 8 Oct	Thu 26 Sep	Thu 16 Oct
Simchat Torah	day	Sun 11 Oct	Fri 1 Oct	Fri 21 Oct	Tue 9 Oct	Fri 27 Sep	Fri 17 Oct
Chanukah - eve (1st / 8)		Fri 11 Dec	Wed 1 Dec	Tue 20 Dec	Sat 8 Dec	Wed 27 Nov	Tue 16 Dec
Chanukah - last day		Sat 19 Dec	Thu 9 Dec	Wed 28 Dec	Sun 16 Dec	Thu 5 Dec	Wed 24 Dec
Fast of Tvet		Sun 27 Dec	Fri 17 Dec	–	Sun 23 Dec	Fri 13 Dec	–

Key:

Day on which work is forbidden.
Day on which work is forbidden after sunset.
Festival not observed in Israel and by non-Orthodox communities outside Israel. If festival is observed work is forbidden.
Day on which work is permitted.
25 hour fast.
Dawn to nightfall fast (work permitted).

NOTES

The Jewish calendar counts years from the Creation which, according to the Biblical account, would correspond to 3760 BCE of the western calendar. Consequently, the year 2006/2007 corresponds to the Jewish year 5767.

The Jewish calendar is based on lunar months, adjusted to fit the solar year. Thus the dates of festivals in the civil calendar change each year.

The Jewish day begins and ends at sundown, so the Jewish Sabbath and Festivals always commence a short time *before* sundown and terminate at nightfall the following day, a period of around 25 hours. These times vary according to the season and local sunset times.

Jewish Law prohibits 'work' on the Sabbath and Festivals. This is interpreted as any kind of creative activity, writing, spending or handling money, operating equipment (even a telephone), travelling (other than on foot), engaging in commercial transactions, and many other activities which may not be considered as "work" in ordinary parlance. Taking examinations is also classified as work. There is no provision in Jewish Law for a dispensation from these restrictions and obligations.

The principal festivals are:

Rosh Hashanah

New Year celebration in September beginning the "Ten Days of repentance" culminating in ...

Yom Kippur

"Day of Atonement" marked by spending the entire day in worship and fasting.

Succot

"Tabernacles", an autumn festival five days after Yom Kippur which lasts 9 days (8 in Israel and for non-orthodox groups). Orthodox Jews construct a temporary hut (*succah*) in which to eat during the festival, to commemorate the temporary structures in which the Israelites lived after leaving Egypt. The final day of Succot is ...

Simchat Torah

"Celebration of the Torah", when the annual cycle of readings from the Torah is concluded and recommenced.

Pesach

"Passover", the festival of spring, commemorates the Exodus from Egypt, and lasts 8 days (7 in Israel and for non-orthodox groups). The ceremonial meal eaten in the home on the first night (the *Seder*) has many elements of symbolism of the escape from slavery and the foundation of the Jewish Nation. *Matzah* (bread made without yeast) replaces bread for the entire week, and orthodox Jews are meticulous about avoiding any food that might contain leavened grain.

Other minor festivals include:

Chanukah

A winter festival to commemorate the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by the Greeks; marked by some by exchange of gifts.

Purim

In early spring, this marks Esther's intervention which brought about the deliverance of the Jews from genocide in ancient Persia; celebrations include fancy dress, charitable giving and exchange of gifts.

Tisha B'Av

A fast day to mourn the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, first by the Babylonians in 586BCE and again by the Romans in 70CE.