

# Calendar of Jewish festivals

(see next page for notes)

		2018/5778	2019/5779	2020/5780	2021/5781	2022/5782	2023/5783
<b>Fast of Tvet</b>		–	–	Tue 7 Jan	–	–	Tue 3 Jan
<b>Tu b'Shvat</b> (New Year for Trees)		Wed 31 Jan	Mon 21 Jan	Mon 10 Feb	Thu 28 Jan	Mon 17 Jan	Mon 6 Feb
<b>Fast of Esther</b>		Wed 28 Feb	Wed 20 Mar	Mon 9 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Wed 16 Mar	Mon 6 Mar
<b>Purim</b>	eve	Wed 28 Feb	Wed 20 Mar	Mon 9 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Wed 16 Mar	Mon 6 Mar
	day	Thu 1 Mar	Thu 21 Mar	Tue 10 Mar	Fri 26 Feb	Thu 17 Mar	Tue 7 Mar
<b>Pesach</b> (Passover)	eve	Fri 30 Mar	Fri 19 Apr	Wed 8 Apr	Sat 27 Mar	Fri 15 Apr	Wed 5 Apr
	1 <sup>st</sup> day	Sat 31 Mar	Sat 20 Apr	Thu 9 Apr	Sun 28 Mar	Sat 16 Apr	Thu 6 Apr
	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	Sun 1 Apr	Sun 21 Apr	Fri 10 Apr	Mon 28 Mar	Sun 17 Apr	Fri 7 Apr
	Middle days	2–5 Apr	22–25 Apr	11–14 Apr	29 Mar – 2 Apr	18–21 Apr	8–11 Apr
	eve	Thu 5 Apr	Thu 25 Apr	Tue 14 Apr	Fri 2 Apr	Thu 21 Apr	Tue 11 Apr
	7 <sup>th</sup> day	Fri 6 Apr	Fri 26 Apr	Wed 15 Apr	Sat 3 Apr	Fri 22 Apr	Wed 12 Apr
	8 <sup>th</sup> day	Sat 7 Apr	Sat 27 Apr	Thu 16 Apr	Sun 4 Apr	Sat 23 Apr	Thu 13 Apr
<b>LaG b'Omer</b>		Thu 3 May	Thu 23 May	Tue 12 May	Fri 30 Apr	Thu 19 May	Tue 9 May
<b>Shavuot</b> (Pentecost)	eve	Sat 19 May	Sat 8 Jun	Thu 28 May	Sun 16 May	Sat 4 Jun	Thu 25 May
	1 <sup>st</sup> day	Sun 20 May	Sun 9 Jun	Fri 29 May	Mon 17 May	Sun 5 Jun	Fri 26 May
	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	Mon 21 May	Mon 10 Jun	Sat 30 May	Tue 18 May	Mon 6 Jun	Sat 27 May
<b>Fast of Tammuz</b>		Sun 1 Jul	Sun 21 Jul	Thu 9 Jul	Sun 27 Jun	Sun 17 Jul	Thu 6 Jul
<b>Tisha b'Av</b> (Fast of Av)	eve	Sat 21 Jul	Sat 10 Aug	Wed 29 Jul	Sat 17 Jul	Sat 6 Jul	Wed 26 Jul
	day	Sun 22 Jul	Sun 11 Aug	Thu 30 Jul	Sun 18 Jul	Sun 7 Jul	Thu 27 Jul
		<b>2018/5779</b>	<b>2019/5780</b>	<b>2020/5781</b>	<b>2021/5782</b>	<b>2022/5783</b>	<b>2023/5784</b>
<b>Rosh HaShanah</b> (New Year)	eve	Sun 9 Sep	Sun 29 Sep	Fri 18 Sep	Mon 6 Sep	Sun 25 Sep	Fri 15 Sep
	1 <sup>st</sup> day	Mon 10 Sep	Mon 30 Sep	Sat 19 Sep	Tue 7 Sep	Mon 26 Sep	Sat 16 Sep
	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	Tue 11 Sep	Tue 1 Oct	Sun 20 Sep	Wed 8 Sep	Tue 27 Sep	Sun 17 Sep
<b>Fast of Gedaliah</b>		Wed 12 Sep	Wed 2 Oct	Mon 21 Sep	Thu 9 Sep	Wed 28 Sep	Mon 18 Sep
<b>Yom Kippur</b> (Day of Atonement)	eve	Tue 18 Sep	Tue 8 Oct	Sun 27 Sep	Wed 15 Sep	Tue 4 Oct	Sun 24 Sep
	day	Wed 19 Sep	Wed 9 Oct	Mon 28 Sep	Thu 16 Sep	Wed 5 Oct	Mon 25 Sep
<b>Succot</b> (Tabernacles)	eve	Sun 23 Sep	Sun 13 Oct	Fri 2 Oct	Mon 20 Sep	Sun 9 Oct	Fri 29 Sep
	1 <sup>st</sup> day	Mon 24 Sep	Mon 14 Oct	Sat 3 Oct	Tue 21 Sep	Mon 10 Oct	Sat 30 Sep
	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	Tue 25 Sep	Tue 15 Oct	Sun 4 Oct	Wed 22 Sep	Tue 11 Oct	Sun 1 Oct
	Middle days	26–30 Sep	16–20 Oct	5–9 Oct	23–27 Sep	12–16 Oct	2–6 Oct
<b>Shemini Atzeret</b>	eve	Sun 30 Sep	Sun 20 Oct	Fri 9 Oct	Mon 27 Sep	Sun 16 Oct	Fri 6 Oct
	day	Mon 1 Oct	Mon 21 Oct	Sat 10 Oct	Tue 28 Sep	Mon 17 Oct	Sat 7 Oct
<b>Simchat Torah</b>	day	Tue 2 Oct	Tue 22 Oct	Sun 11 Oct	Wed 29 Sep	Tue 18 Oct	Sun 8 Oct
<b>Chanukah - eve (1<sup>st</sup> / 8)</b>		Sun 2 Dec	Sun 22 Dec	Thu 10 Dec	Sun 28 Nov	Sun 18 Dec	Thu 7 Dec
<b>Chanukah - last day</b>		Mon 10 Dec	Mon 30 Dec	Fri 18 Dec	Mon 6 Dec	Mon 26 Dec	Fri 15 Dec
<b>Fast of Tvet</b>		Tue 18 Dec	–	Fri 25 Dec	Tue 14 Dec	–	Fri 22 Dec

## Key:

Day on which work is forbidden.

Day on which work is forbidden after sunset.

Observed as a Festival by Orthodox outside Israel and a "Middle Day" (when work is permitted) by others.

Day on which work is permitted, although some people do not work on the Middle Days of Pesach and Succot.

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 2015–16 corresponds to the Jewish year 5776.

The Jewish calendar is based on lunar months, so the dates of festivals in the civil calendar change each year, but is adjusted to the solar calendar so they stay in the same season.

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, sitting examinations, and many other activities that may not be considered as "work" in ordinary parlance. There is no provision in Jewish Law for a dispensation from these restrictions and obligations, other than that all prohibitions *must* (not may) be set aside in order to save life.

The principal festivals are:

### **Rosh HaShanah**

Two-day New Year celebration in autumn that begins the "Ten Days of repentance" culminating in ...

### **Yom Kippur**

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

### **Succot**

"Festival of Tabernacles", an autumn festival, five days after Yom Kippur. Observant 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. Succot lasts seven days and is immediately followed by ...

### **Simchat Torah**

"Celebration of the Torah", when the annual cycle of readings from the Torah is concluded and immediately recommenced. (1 day in Israel and for non-orthodox groups; 2 days otherwise.)

### **Pesach**

"Passover", the spring festival, commemorating the Exodus from Egypt, and lasting 8 days (7 in Israel and for non-Orthodox groups). The *Seder*, the ceremonial meal eaten in the home on the first night (two nights for Orthodox outside Israel) has many elements of symbolism of the escape from slavery and the foundation of the Jewish Nation. *Matzah* (unleavened bread made with only flour and water) replaces bread for the entire week, and Orthodox Jews are meticulous about avoiding any food that might contain leavened grain.

### **Shavuot**

"Pentecost" or "Festival of Weeks", the fiftieth day after Pesach, commemorating the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. (1 day in Israel and for non-Orthodox groups; 2 days otherwise.)

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 the deliverance of the Jews from attempted genocide in ancient Persia; celebrations include fancy dress, charitable giving, and exchange of gifts.

### **Tisha b'Av**

A fast day mourning the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem, the first by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and the second by the Romans in 70 CE.