

Calendar of Jewish festivals

(see next page for notes)

		2020/5780	2021/5781	2022/5782	2023/5783	2024/5784	2025/5785
Fast of Tvet		Tue 7 Jan	–	–	Tue 3 Jan	–	Fri 10 Jan
Tu b'Shvat (New Year for Trees)		Mon 10 Feb	Thu 28 Jan	Mon 17 Jan	Mon 6 Feb	Thu 25 Jan	Thu 13 Feb
Fast of Esther		Mon 9 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Wed 16 Mar	Mon 6 Mar	Thu 21 Mar	Thu 13 Mar
Purim	eve	Mon 9 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Wed 16 Mar	Mon 6 Mar	Sat 23 Mar	Thu 13 Mar
	day	Tue 10 Mar	Fri 26 Feb	Thu 17 Mar	Tue 7 Mar	Sun 24 Mar	Fri 14 Mar
Pesach (Passover)	eve	Wed 8 Apr	Sat 27 Mar	Fri 15 Apr	Wed 5 Apr	Mon 22 Apr	Sat 12 Apr
	1 st day	Thu 9 Apr	Sun 28 Mar	Sat 16 Apr	Thu 6 Apr	Tue 23 Apr	Sun 13 Apr
	2 nd day	Fri 10 Apr	Mon 28 Mar	Sun 17 Apr	Fri 7 Apr	Wed 24 Apr	Mon 14 Apr
	Middle days	11–14 Apr	29 Mar – 2 Apr	18–21 Apr	8–11 Apr	25–28 Apr	14–18 Apr
	eve	Tue 14 Apr	Fri 2 Apr	Thu 21 Apr	Tue 11 Apr	Sun 28 Apr	Fri 18 Apr
	7 th day	Wed 15 Apr	Sat 3 Apr	Fri 22 Apr	Wed 12 Apr	Mon 29 Apr	Sat 19 Apr
	8 th day	Thu 16 Apr	Sun 4 Apr	Sat 23 Apr	Thu 13 Apr	Tue 30 Apr	Sun 20 Apr
LaG b'Omer		Tue 12 May	Fri 30 Apr	Thu 19 May	Tue 9 May	Sun 26 May	Fri 16 May
Shavuot (Pentecost)	eve	Thu 28 May	Sun 16 May	Sat 4 Jun	Thu 25 May	Tue 11 Jun	Sun 1 Jun
	1 st day	Fri 29 May	Mon 17 May	Sun 5 Jun	Fri 26 May	Wed 12 Jun	Mon 2 Jun
	2 nd day	Sat 30 May	Tue 18 May	Mon 6 Jun	Sat 27 May	Thu 13 Jun	Tue 3 Jun
Fast of Tammuz		Thu 9 Jul	Sun 27 Jun	Sun 17 Jul	Thu 6 Jul	Tue 23 Jul	Sun 13 Jul
Tisha b'Av (Fast of Av)	eve	Wed 29 Jul	Sat 17 Jul	Sat 6 Jul	Wed 26 Jul	Mon 12 Jul	Sat 2 Aug
	day	Thu 30 Jul	Sun 18 Jul	Sun 7 Jul	Thu 27 Jul	Tue 13 Jul	Sun 3 Aug
		2020/5781	2021/5782	2022/5783	2023/5784	2024/5785	2025/5786
Rosh HaShanah (New Year)	eve	Fri 18 Sep	Mon 6 Sep	Sun 25 Sep	Fri 15 Sep	Wed 2 Oct	Mon 22 Sep
	1 st day	Sat 19 Sep	Tue 7 Sep	Mon 26 Sep	Sat 16 Sep	Thu 3 Oct	Tue 23 Sep
	2 nd day	Sun 20 Sep	Wed 8 Sep	Tue 27 Sep	Sun 17 Sep	Fri 4 Oct	Wed 24 Sep
Fast of Gedaliah		Mon 21 Sep	Thu 9 Sep	Wed 28 Sep	Mon 18 Sep	Sun 6 Oct	Thu 25 Sep
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	eve	Sun 27 Sep	Wed 15 Sep	Tue 4 Oct	Sun 24 Sep	Fri 11 Oct	Wed 1 Oct
	day	Mon 28 Sep	Thu 16 Sep	Wed 5 Oct	Mon 25 Sep	Sat 12 Oct	Thu 2 Oct
Succot (Tabernacles)	eve	Fri 2 Oct	Mon 20 Sep	Sun 9 Oct	Fri 29 Sep	Wed 16 Oct	Mon 6 Oct
	1 st day	Sat 3 Oct	Tue 21 Sep	Mon 10 Oct	Sat 30 Sep	Thu 17 Oct	Tue 7 Oct
	2 nd day	Sun 4 Oct	Wed 22 Sep	Tue 11 Oct	Sun 1 Oct	Fri 18 Oct	Wed 8 Oct
	Middle days	5–9 Oct	23–27 Sep	12–16 Oct	2–6 Oct	19–23 Oct	9–13 Oct
Shemini Atzeret	eve	Fri 9 Oct	Mon 27 Sep	Sun 16 Oct	Fri 6 Oct	Wed 23 Oct	Mon 13 Oct
	day	Sat 10 Oct	Tue 28 Sep	Mon 17 Oct	Sat 7 Oct	Thu 24 Oct	Tue 14 Oct
Simchat Torah	day	Sun 11 Oct	Wed 29 Sep	Tue 18 Oct	Sun 8 Oct	Fri 25 Oct	Wed 15 Oct
Chanukah – first night		Thu 10 Dec	Sun 28 Nov	Sun 18 Dec	Thu 7 Dec	Wed 25 Dec	Sun 14 Dec
Chanukah - last day		Fri 18 Dec	Mon 6 Dec	Mon 26 Dec	Fri 15 Dec	Thu 2 Jan	Mon 22 Dec
Fast of Tvet		Fri 25 Dec	Tue 14 Dec	–	Fri 22 Dec	–	Tue 30 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.