

# Calendar of Jewish festivals and holy days

			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fast of 10 Tevet				Tues 7 Jan			Tues 3 Jan	
Tu B'Shvat (New Year for Trees)			Mon 21 Jan	Mon 10 Feb	Thu 28 Jan	Mon 17 Jan	Mon 6 Feb	Thu 25 Jan
Fast of Esther			Wed 20 Mar	Mon 9 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Wed 16 Mar	Mon 6 Mar	Thu 21 Mar
Purim	Eve Day		Wed 20 Mar Thu 21 Mar	Mon 9 Mar Tue 10 Mar	Thu 25 Feb Fri 26 Feb	Wed 16 Mar Thu 17 Mar	Mon 6 Mar Tue 7 Mar	Sat 23 Mar Sun 24 Mar
Fast of Firstborn		<b>(%)</b>	Fri 19 Apr	Wed 8 Apr	Thu 25 Mar	Fri 15 Apr	Wed 5 Apr	Mon 22 Apr
Pesach (Passover)  Shavuot (Pentecost)	Eve 1st Day	Δ	Fri 19 Apr	Wed 8 Apr	Sat 27 Mar	Fri 15 Apr	Wed 5 Apr	Mon 22 Apr
	2nd Day		Sat 20 Apr Sun 21 Apr	Thu 9 Apr Fri 10 Apr	Sun 28 Mar Mon 29 Mar	Sat 16 Apr Sun 17 Apr	Thu 6 Apr Fri 7 Apr	Tues 23 Apr Wed 24 Apr
	Intermediate days		Mon 22 Apr – Thu 25 Apr	Sat 11 Apr – Tues 14 Apr	Tue 30 Mar – Fri 2 Apr	Mon 18 Apr – Thu 21 Apr	Sat 8 Apr – Tues 11	Thu 25 Apr – Sun 28 Apr
	Eve 7th Day		Thu 25 Apr Fri 26 Apr	Tues 14 Apr Wed 15 Apr	Fri 2 Apr Sat 3 Apr	Thu 21 Apr Fri 22 Apr	Tues 11 Apr Wed 12 Apr	Sun 28 Apr Mon 29 Apr
	8th Day Eve		Sat 27 Apr Sat 8 Jun	Thu 16 Apr Thu 28 May	Sun 4 Apr Sun 16 May	Sat 23 Apr Sat 4 Jun	Thu 13 Apr Thu 25 May	Tues 30 Apr Tues 11 Jun
	1st Day 2nd Day		Sun 9 Jun Mon 10 Jun	Fri 29 May	Mon 17 May	Sun 5 Jun Sun 6 Jun	Fri 26 May Sat 27 May	Wed 12 Jun Thu 13 Jun
Fast of 17 Tammuz	Ziiu Day	<b>(%)</b>	Sun 21 Jul	Sat 30 May Thu 9 Jul	Tues 18 May Sun 27 Jun	Sun 17 Jul	Thu 6 Jul	Tues 23 Jul
Tish'a B'Av (Fast of 9 Av)		<b>8</b>	Sun 11 Aug	Thu 30 Jul	Sun 18 Jul	Sun 7 Aug	Thu 27 Jul	Tues 13 Aug
Rosh Hashana (New Year)	Eve	A	Sun 29 Sep	Fri 18 Sep	Mon 6 Sep	Sun 25 Sep	Fri 15 Sep	Wed 2 Oct
	1st Day 2nd Day		Mon 30 Sep Tues 1 Oct	Sat 19 Sep Sun 20 Sep	Tue 7 Sep Wed 8 Sep	Mon 26 Sep Tues 27 Sep	Sat 16 Sep Sun 17 Sep	Thu 3 Oct Fri 4 Oct
Fast of Gedaliah		<b>(%)</b>	Wed 2 Oct	Mon 21 Sep	Thu 9 Sep	Wed 28 Sep	Mon 18 Sep	Sun 6 Oct
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Eve Day	<u> </u>	Tues 8 Oct Wed 9 Oct	Sun 27 Sep Mon 28 Sep	Wed 15 Sep Thu 16 Sep	Tues 4 Oct Wed 5 Oct	Sun 24 Sep Mon 25 Sep	Fri 11 Oct Sat 12 Oct
Sukkot (Tabernacles)	Eve 1st Day		Sun 13 Oct Mon 14 Oct	Fri 2 Oct Sat 3 Oct	Mon 20 Sep Tues 21 Sep	Sun 9 Oct Mon 10 Oct	Fri 29 Sep Sat 30 Sep	Wed 16 Oct Thu 17 Oct
	2nd Day Intermedi		Tues 15 Oct Wed 16 Oct	Sun 4 Oct Mon 5 Oct	Wed 22 Sep Thu 23 Sep	Tues 11 Oct Wed 12 Oct	Sun 1 Oct Mon 2 Oct	Fri 18 Oct Sat 19 Oct
Shmini Atzeret	Eve		Sun 20 Oct	- Fri 9 Oct Fri 9 Oct	– Mon 27 Sep Mon 27 Sep	- Sun 16 Oct Sun 16 Oct	- Fri 6 Oct Fri 6 Oct	- Wed 23 Oct Thu 23 Oct
(8th Day of Assembly)  Simchat Torah (Celebration of the Torah)	Day Day		Mon 21 Oct Tues 22 Oct	Sat 10 Oct Sun 11 Oct	Tues 28 Sep Wed 29 Sep	Mon 17 Oct Tues 18 Oct	Sat 7 Oct Sun 8 Oct	Fri 24 Oct Sat 25 Oct
Chanukah	1st Night		Sun 22 Dec	Thu 10 Dec	Sun 28 Nov	Sun 18 Dec	Fri 8 Dec	Thu 26 Dec
Fast of 10 Tevet	8th Night		Sun 29 Dec	Thu 17 Dec Fri 25 Dec	Sun 5 Dec Tue 14 Dec	Sun 25 Dec	Fri 15 Dec Fri 23 Dec	Thu 2 Jan





# Why is the Jewish calendar different?

Jewish calendar years are counted from the Biblical date of creation, which corresponds to 3760 BCE (before the common era). Consequently, the year **2017/2018** corresponds to the Jewish year **5778**. The Jewish calendar takes account of both the lunar and solar cycles, rather than simply the solar. Therefore, although the Jewish date of a festival is constant, the date according to the civil calendar changes each year.

# Timings

Days begin and end at **sunset**, and Jewish festivals and holy days always commence a short time *before* sunset and terminate at nightfall the following day – approximately a 25 hour period.

Times of the commencement of the Sabbath and festivals will **vary** according to the season and local sunset times. These times are available online.

Please note that if leave of absence for religious observance is requested, the person making the request will want to reach home in good time on the **eve** of the festival in order to complete any tasks that will not be permitted once the festival starts.

# Requests for leave and deferral of examinations

Naturally levels of observance vary within the Jewish community, and whilst some people will only observe Yom Kippur, many others will wish to observe the other festivals detailed in the calendar accompanying this note. If a request for **time off** is made, it should be regarded as a genuine and conscientious wish to observe a festival or holy day - which also applies to the weekly Sabbath.

Jewish Law prohibits 'work' on the Sabbath and certain festivals. The traditional Jewish interpretation of 'work' includes any kind of creative activity, including writing, spending or handling money, operating equipment (including lights, computers and telephones), travelling (other than on foot), engaging in commercial transactions, and many other activities which may not be considered as 'work' in ordinary parlance. Judaism is almost unique in this having this complete prohibition about work on holy days.

Attending classes or taking examinations are also classified as work. Students may therefore ask for help in changing dates if exams or classes fall on these dates.

There is no provision in Jewish Law for a **dispensation** to be given by a rabbi from these restrictions and obligations but, as noted above, levels of observance vary between individuals and some may be less concerned than others.

### Shabbat

'Shabbat' (the Sabbath) is the **weekly** day of rest, commencing just before sundown on Friday and terminating Saturday at nightfall.

Observant Jews will wish to reach home in good time to prepare for the Sabbath. In winter months, this will mean leaving work, school or college quite early on **Friday afternoons**.

### Please note

For 'Yom Kippur' (the 'Day of Atonement'), a 25 hour fast observed by most Jews, it is imperative that time be allowed for a full meal to be taken at home immediately before the holy day commences.

The two days of the Jewish New Year and the Day of Atonement, which are known as the 'High Holy Days', generally have a special significance for all Jews, regardless of their level of observance at other times.

Observant Jews - whether as employees, students, pupils or teachers - do not expect 'special treatment' and should make every effort to make up time and reduce any burden on their non-Jewish colleagues.

Most Jews will take leave for their religious festivals as part of their annual entitlement, whilst others may wish to enter into reciprocal arrangements and agreements to make up the time elsewhere.

This calendar and information are also available on our website.

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