








## Calendar of Jewish festivals and holy days

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fast of 10 Tevet		Sat 8 Jan			Tue 7 Jan		
Tu B'Shvat (New Year for Trees)		Sat 11 Feb	Wed 31 Jan	Mon 21 Jan	Mon 10 Feb	Thu 28 Jan	Mon 17 Jan
Fast of Esther		Thu 9 Mar	Wed 28 Feb	Wed 20 Mar	Mon 9 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Wed 16 Mar
Purim	Eve	Sat 11 Mar	Wed 28 Feb	Wed 20 Mar	Mon 9 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Wed 16 Mar
	Day	Sun 12 Mar	Thu 1 Mar	Thu 21 Mar	Tue 10 Mar	Fri 26 Feb	Thu 17 Mar
Fast of Firstborn		Mon 10 Apr	Fri 30 Mar	Fri 19 Apr	Wed 8 Apr	Thurs 25 Mar	Fri 15 Apr
<b>Pesach</b> (Passover)	Eve	Mon 10 Apr	Fri 30 Mar	Fri 19 Apr	Wed 8 Apr	Sat 27 Mar	Fri 15 Apr
	1st Day	Tue 11 Apr	Sat 31 Mar	Sat 20 Apr	Thu 9 Apr	Sun 28 Mar	Sat 16 Apr
	2nd Day	Wed 12 Apr	Sun 1 Apr	Sun 21 Apr	Fri 10 Apr	Mon 29 Mar	Sun 17 Apr
	Intermediate days	Thu 13 Apr - Sun 16 Apr	Mon 2 Apr - Thu 5 Apr	Mon 22 Apr - Thu 25 Apr	Sat 11 Apr - Tue 14 Apr	Tue 30 Mar - Fri 2 Apr	Mon 18 Apr - Thu 21 Apr
	Eve	Sun 16 Apr	Thu 5 Apr	Thu 25 Apr	Tue 14 Apr	Fri 2 Apr	Thu 21 Apr
	7th Day	Mon 17 Apr	Fri 6 Apr	Fri 26 Apr	Wed 15 Apr	Sat 3 Apr	Fri 22 Apr
	8th Day	Tue 18 Apr	Sat 7 Apr	Sat 27 Apr	Thu 16 Apr	Sun 4 Apr	Sat 23 Apr
<b>Shavuot</b> (Pentecost)	Eve	Tue 30 May	Sat 19 May	Sat 8 Jun	Thu 28 May	Sun 16 May	Sat 4 Jun
	1st Day	Wed 31 May	Sun 20 May	Sun 9 Jun	Fri 29 May	Mon 17 May	Sun 5 Jun
	2nd Day	Thu 1 Jun	Mon 21 May	Mon 10 Jun	Sat 30 May	Tue 18 May	Sun 6 Jun
Fast of 17 Tammuz		Tue 11 Jul	Sun 1 Jul	Sun 21 Jul	Thu 9 July	Sun 27 Jan	Sun 17 Jul
Tish'a B'Av (Fast of 9 Av)		Tue 1 Aug	Sun 22 Jul	Sun 11 Aug	Thu 30 Jul	Sun 18 Jul	Sun 7 Aug
<b>Rosh Hashana</b> (New Year)	Eve	Wed 20 Sep	Sun 9 Sep	Sun 29 Sep	Fri 18 Sep	Mon 6 Sep	Sun 25 Sep
	1st Day	Thu 21 Sep	Mon 10 Sep	Mon 30 Sep	Sat 19 Sep	Tue 7 Sep	Mon 26 Sep
	2nd Day	Fri 22 Sep	Tue 11 Sep	Tue 1 Oct	Sun 20 Sep	Wed 8 Sep	Tue 27 Sep
Fast of Gedaliah		Sun 24 Sep	Wed 12 Sep	Wed 2 Oct	Mon 21 Sep	Thu 9 Sep	Wed 28 Sep
<b>Yom Kippur</b> (Day of Atonement)	Eve	Fri 29 Sep	Tue 18 Sep	Tue 8 Oct	Sun 27 Sep	Wed 15 Sep	Tue 4 Oct
	Day	Sat 30 Sep	Wed 19 Sep	Wed 9 Oct	Mon 28 Sep	Thu 16 Sep	Wed 5 Oct
<b>Sukkot</b> (Tabernacles)	Eve	Wed 4 Oct	Sun 23 Sep	Sun 13 Oct	Fri 2 Oct	Mon 20 Sep	Sun 9 Oct
	1st Day	Thu 5 Oct	Mon 24 Sep	Mon 14 Oct	Sat 3 Oct	Tue 21 Sep	Mon 10 Oct
	2nd Day	Fri 6 Oct	Tue 25 Sep	Tue 15 Oct	Sun 4 Oct	Wed 22 Sep	Tue 11 Oct
	Intermediate days	Sat 7 Oct - Wed 11 Oct	Wed 26 Sep - Sun 30 Sep	Wed 16 Oct - Sun 20 Oct	Mon 5 Oct - Fri 9 Oct	Thu 23 Sep - Mon 27 Sep	Wed 12 Oct - Sun 16 Oct
<b>Shmini Atzeret</b> (8th Day of Assembly)	Eve	Wed 11 Oct	Sun 30 Sep	Sun 20 Oct	Fri 9 Oct	Mon 27 Sep	Sun 16 Oct
	Day	Thu 12 Oct	Mon 1 Oct	Mon 21 Oct	Sat 10 Oct	Tue 28 Sep	Mon 17 Oct
<b>Simchat Torah</b> (Celebration of the Torah)	Day	Fri 13 Oct	Tue 2 Oct	Tue 22 Oct	Sun 11 Oct	Wed 29 Sep	Tues 18 Oct
Chanukah	1st Night	Tue 12 Dec	Sun 2 Dec	Sun 22 Dec	Thu 10 Dec	Sun 28 Nov	Sun 18 Dec
	8th Night	Tue 19 Dec	Sun 9 Dec	Sun 29 Dec	Thu 17 Dec	Sun 5 Dec	Sun 25 Dec
Fast of 10 Tevet		Thu 28 Dec	Tue 18 Dec			Tue 14 Dec	



Day on which work is not permitted



Fast day

## 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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