

JEWISH HOLY DAYS CHART

Annual Cycle of Observances

HOLIDAY	HEBREW DATE	SIGNIFICANCE & OBSERVANCE
Rosh Hashanah <i>Head of the Year</i> High Holy Day	Tishrei 1-2	The Jewish New Year. Focuses on repentance and prayer. Marked by the sounding of the Shofar (ram's horn) and eating apples dipped in honey.
Yom Kippur <i>Day of Atonement</i> High Holy Day	Tishrei 10	The holiest day of the year. A day of fasting and intensive prayer to seek forgiveness for sins of the past year.
Sukkot <i>Feast of Tabernacles</i> Pilgrimage Festival	Tishrei 15-21	Commemorates the 40-year journey in the desert. Observances include dwelling in a Sukkah (booth) and waving the Four Species.
Hanukkah <i>Festival of Lights</i> Rabbinic Holiday	Kislev 25 - Tevet 2	Commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple. Marked by lighting the Menorah for eight nights.
Purim <i>Lots</i> Rabbinic Holiday	Adar 14	Celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people in ancient Persia. Includes reading the Megillah, costumes, and charity.

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Pesach <i>Passover</i> Pilgrimage Festival	Nisan 15-22	Commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and liberation from slavery. Marked by the Seder meal and abstaining from leavened bread (Chametz).
Shavuot <i>Feast of Weeks</i> Pilgrimage Festival	Sivan 6-7	Celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Traditionally observed by staying up all night to study and eating dairy foods.

Note: Jewish holidays begin at sunset of the evening preceding the first full day.