

Shabbat* (The Sabbath): A day of rest. Begins every Friday at sundown and concludes at sundown on Saturday.

Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish New Year): Marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year and includes elements of celebration and atonement.

Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement): The most solemn Holy Day. Devoted to fasting and praying for forgiveness and a good year.

Sukkot (Festival of Booths/Harvest Festival): Commemorates the Biblical period when Jews wandered in the desert, as well as the autumn harvest. Observed by building a temporary outdoor shelter where meals are eaten. *The first two days are observed as Holy Days.

Shemini Atzeret* (The Eighth Day of Assembly): Celebration after the conclusion of Sukkot.

Simchat Torah* (Rejoicing with the Torah): Celebrates the completion of the annual cycle of reading the Torah (Five Books of Moses).

Chanukah (Festival of Lights): Commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after regaining independence from the ancient Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E. Celebrated by lighting candles for eight nights.

Tu B'Shvat (New Year for Trees): In Biblical times, all fruit that ripened on trees between one Tu B'Shvat and the next was tithed together. In modern times, it has evolved into a day to plant trees and to celebrate the environment.

Purim (Holiday of Joy): Festival celebrating the rescue of Jews from annihilation in ancient Persia.

Passover* (Pesach/Festival of Freedom): Recounts the deliverance of Jews from slavery in ancient Egypt. This 8-day observance includes special dietary rules. *The first two and last two days are observed as Holy Days.

Yom Hashoa (Holocaust Remembrance Day): Commemorates the loss of over six million Jews and other peoples during the Holocaust.

Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Memorial Day/Israel Independence Day): Honors Israeli soldiers who were killed establishing and defending the State of Israel, and those killed in terrorist attacks. Followed by a day celebrating the establishment of the Israeli State in 1948.

Lag B'Omer (33rd Day of the Omer/Day of Rejoicing): A break in the period of partial mourning between Passover and Shavuot.

Shavuot* (Festival of Weeks): Marks the Revelation of the Ten Commandments (Decalogue) at Mount Sinai. Confirmation ceremonies may require synagogue attendance for 9th and 10th graders and their families.

Tisha B'Av (The ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av): A day of mourning and fasting to commemorate the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem and the many other tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people on this day throughout Jewish history.



Jewish Year:	5772	5773	5774	5775	5776
Civil Year:	Sept. 2011 - Aug. 2012	Sept. 2012 - Aug. 2013	Sept. 2013 - Aug. 2014	Sept. 2014 - Aug. 2015	Sept. 2015 - Aug. 2016
Each holiday begins and ends at sundown on the days listed.					
Rosh Hashanah*	Sep 28-30 (W-F)	Sep 16-18 (Su-Tu)	Sep 4-6 (W-F)	Sep 24-26 (W-F)	Sep 13-15 (Su-Tu)
Yom Kippur*	Oct 7-8 (F-Sa)	Sep 25-26 (Tu-W)	Sep 13-14 (F-Sa)	Oct 3-4 (F-Sa)	Sep 22-23 (Tu-W)
Sukkot beginning days*	Oct 12-19 (W-W) Oct 12-14 (W-F)	Sep 30-Oct 7 (Su-Su) Sep 30- Oct 2 (Su-Tu)	Sep 18-25 (W-W) Sep 18-20 (W-F)	Oct 8-15 (W-W) Oct 8-10 (W-F)	Sep 27-Oct 4 (Tu-Su) Sep 27-29 (Su-Tu)
Shemini Atzeret*/ Simchat Torah*	Oct 19-21 (W-F)	Oct 7-9 (Su-Tu)	Sep 25-27 (W-F)	Oct 15-17 (W-F)	Oct 4-6 (Su-Tu)
Chanukah	Dec 20-28 (Tu-W)	Dec 8-16 (Sa-Su)	Nov 27-Dec 5 (W-Th)	Dec 16-24 (Tu-W)	Dec 6-14 (Su-M)
Tu B'Shvat	Feb 7-8 (Tu-W)	Jan 25-26 (F-Sa)	Jan 15-16 (W-Th)	Feb 3-4 (Tu-W)	Jan 24-25 (Su-M)
Purim	Mar 7-8 (W-Th)	Feb 23-24 (Sa-Su)	Mar 15-16 (Sa-Su)	Mar 4-5 (W-Th)	Mar 23-24 (W-Th)
Passover (Pesach) beginning days* concluding days*	Apr 6-14 (F-Sa) Apr 6-8 (F-Su) Apr 12-14 (Th-Sa)	Mar 25-Apr 2 (M-Tu) Mar 25-27 (W-W) Mar 30- Apr 2 (Su-Tu)	Apr 14-22 (M-Tu) Apr 14-16 (W-W) Apr 20-22 (Su-Tu)	Apr 3-11 (F-Sa) Apr 3-5 (F-Su) April 9-11 (Th-Sa)	Apr 22-30 (F-Sa) Apr 22-24 (F-Su) Apr 28-30 (Th-Sa)
Yom Hashoa	Apr 18-19 (W-Th)	Apr 6-7 (Sa-Su)	Apr 26-27 (Sa-Su)	Apr 15-16 (W-Th)	May 4-5 (W-Th)
Yom Hazikaron/ Yom Ha'Atzmaut	Apr 24-26 (Tu-Th)	Apr 14-16 (Su-Tu)	May 4-6 (Su-Tu)	Apr 21-23 (Tu-Th)	May 10-12 (Tu-Th)
Lag B'Omer	May 9-10 (W-Th)	Apr 27-28 (Sa-Su)	May 17-18 (Sa-Su)	May 6-7 (W-Th)	May 25-26 (W-Th)
Shavuot*	May 26-28 (Sa-M)	May 14-16 (Tu-Th)	Jun 3-5 (Tu-Th)	May 23-25 (Sa-M)	Jun 11-13 (Sa-M)
Tisha B'Av	Jul 28-29 (Sa-Su)	Jul 15-16 (M-Tu)	Aug 4-5 (M-Tu)	Jul 25-26 (Sa-Su)	Aug 13-14 (Sa-Su)

! * These are Holy Days and carry with them significant restrictions on daily activities, including work and school. Your sensitivity in avoiding scheduling conflicts on these days is appreciated.

Explanation of the Jewish Calendar

How is the Jewish calendar different from the civil calendar?

Year: The civil calendar is tied to the birth of Jesus and divided into the periods before and after his birth (B.C./A.D). The Jewish calendar is based on the number of years since creation, calculated by adding up the ages of people in the Bible back to the time of creation.

Month: The civil calendar is based on a solar cycle to ensure that the months are consistent with the seasons (e.g., January falls during the winter each year). In contrast, the Jewish calendar is built primarily on a lunar cycle (the new month starts with the new moon) and adjusted to match the solar cycle so that the months are also consistent with the seasons. While the civil calendar runs 365 days per year, the Jewish calendar runs 354 days in most years. That is why the same Jewish holiday may fall on different days of the 365-day civil calendar from year to year.

Day: Jewish holidays begin on the eve of the holiday, and end just after sundown on the final day, as shown on this calendar.

Why are there so many Jewish holidays?

Each holiday tells its own story — some have their basis in the Bible or Jewish history, while others mark elements of the calendar year (e.g., New Year's).

How are Jewish holidays observed? Do they impact work or school schedules?

Almost all the holidays involve specific customs and rituals and are often tied to family or synagogue events. A limited number of holidays (noted with this symbol ⓘ and an asterisk*) also require abstaining from school, work and other activities. Your sensitivity in avoiding scheduling conflicts on those holidays is truly appreciated.

Jewish Federation of Cleveland Community Relations Committee

The Federation's Community Relations Committee works to build a more just society through advocacy, volunteer and community-building initiatives. It is guided by Jewish values and the responsibility of *tikkun olam*, to make the world a better place. It educates the community on issues of local, national and international significance, collaborates to enhance the quality of life in Greater Cleveland, promotes an environment of mutual respect, bolsters support for Israel, and fosters informed civic participation.

Warren L. Wolfson, Chair, Community Relations Committee

For more information or to request additional copies, please contact the Jewish Federation of Cleveland's Community Relations Department at 216.593.2900 or e-mail cre@jfcleve.org.

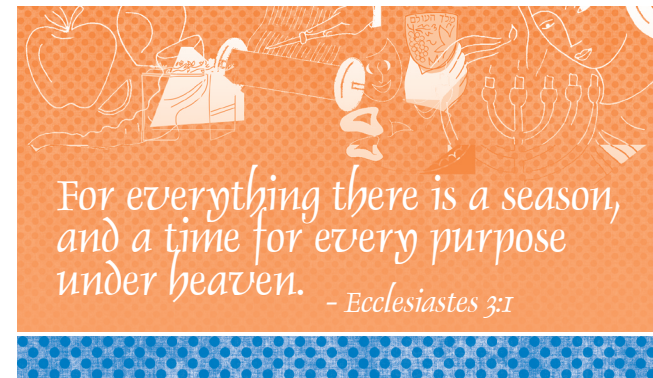


Jewish Federation
OF CLEVELAND

Mandel Building
25701 Science Park Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44122
phone: 216.593.2900 · toll-free: 888.467.1125
fax: 216.593.2901
www.jewishcleveland.org

Michael Siegal, Board Chair
Stephen H. Hoffman, President

Calendar of Jewish Holidays



This calendar has been prepared by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland to help you avoid conflicts with Jewish religious holidays when scheduling your events and activities.



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