

Understanding the Jewish Calendar

The secular (Gregorian) calendar which is based on the sun is on average 11 days longer than the Jewish lunar calendar which is why Jewish holidays fall on a different (secular) day every year.

Days

Unlike the secular which starts at 12:00am, a new day on the Jewish calendar begins at the moment the sun sinks below the horizon and are counted from sundown.

Weeks

A week in Jewish time is centered around Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest, which begins at sundown on Friday. In Israel, Sunday is the first day of the week (instead of Monday) and the weekend days are Friday and Saturday.

Months

The Jewish month begins with the first sighting of the new moon, known as the Rosh Chodesh. Months are either 29 or 30 days long. There are either 12 or 13 months in the Jewish calendar (depending on if it's a leap year). The months are:

- Tishrei (September-October)
- Cheshvan (October-November)
- Kislev (November-December)
- Tevet (December-January)
- Shevat (January-February)
- Adar/Adar II in a leap year (February-March)
- Nissan (March-April)
- Iyar (April-May)
- Sivan (May-June)
- Tammuz (June-July)
- Av (July-August)
- Elul (August-September)

[Click here to read more about the Jewish calendar](#)

