

FIVE-YEAR CALENDAR OF MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS



The Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON

This calendar can assist organizations as they schedule events. An explanation of each holiday follows on the second page. *Holidays begin the evening before because a Jewish “day” begins and ends at sunset, rather than at midnight.*

Secular/School Year Jewish Year	2019-2020 5780	2020-2021 5781	2021-2022 5782	2022-2023 5783	2023-2024 5784
Erev (eve of) Rosh Hashanah*	Sun / Sep 29	Fri / Sep 18	Mon / Sep 6	Sun / Sep 25	Sun / Sep 15
Rosh Hashanah*	Mon-Tue Sep 30 - Oct 1	Sat-Sun Sep 19 - 20	Tue-Wed Sep 7- 8	Mon-Tue Sep 26 - 27	Sat-Sun Sep 16 -17
Erev (eve of) Yom Kippur*	Tue / Oct 8	Sun / Sep 27	Wed / Sep 15	Tue / Oct 4	Sun / Sep 24
Yom Kippur*	Wed / Oct 9	Mon / Sep 28	Thu / Sep 16	Tue / Oct 5	Sun / Sep 25
Sukkot*	Mon-Sun Oct 14 - 20	Sat-Fri Oct 3 - 9	Tue-Mon Sep 21- 27	Mon-Sun Oct 10 - 16	Sat-Fri Sep 30 - Oct 6
Shemini Atzeret*	Mon / Oct 21	Sat / Oct 10	Tue / Sep 28	Mon / Oct 17	Sat / Oct 7
Simchat Torah*	Tue / Oct 22	Sun / Oct 11	Wed / Sep 29	Tue / Oct 18	Sun / Oct 8
Hannukkah*	Sun-Mon Dec 23 - 30	Fri-Fri Dec 11 - 18	Mon-Mon Nov 29- Dec 6	Mon-Mon Dec 19-Dec 26	Fri-Fri Dec 8 - Dec 15
Tu B'Shevat	Mon / Feb 10	Thu / Jan 28	Mon / Jan 17	Mon / Feb 6	Thu / Jan 25
Purim	Tue / Mar 10	Fri / Feb 26	Thu / Mar 17	Tue / Mar 7	Mon / Mar 25
First night of Passover*	Wed / Apr 8	Sat / Mar 27	Fri / Apr 15	Wed / Apr 5	Mon / Apr 22
Passover*	Thu-Thu Apr 9 - 16	Sun-Sun Mar 28 - Apr 4	Sat-Sat Apr 16- 23	Thu-Thu Apr 6 - 13	Tue-Tue Apr 23 - 30
Yom Ha'Shoah*	Tue / Apr 21	Thu / Apr 8	Thu / Apr 28	Tue / Apr 18	Mon / May 6
Yom Hazikaron*	Tue / Apr 28	Wed / Apr 14	Wed / May 4	Tue / Apr 25	Mon / May 13
Yom HaAtzmaut*	Wed / Apr 29	Thu / Apr 15	Thu / May 5	Wed / Apr 26	Tue / May 14
Shavuot*	Fri-Sat Mat 29 - 30	Mon-Tue May 17 - 18	Sun-Mon Jun 5 -6	Fri-Sat May 26 -27	Wed-Thu Jun 12 - 13
Tisha B'Av	Thu / Jul 30	Sun / Jul 18	Sun / Aug 7	Thu / Jul 27	Tue / Aug 13

*Commonly observed by synagogue attendance or family gatherings. On these days and on the Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening), work is traditionally prohibited; individuals may be absent from school or work.

EXPLANATION OF MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS



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Holidays begin the evening before because a Jewish “day” begins and ends at sunset, rather than at midnight.

Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish New Year)	Traditions include eating apples dipped in honey and blowing the <i>shofar</i> (ram’s horn). Most Jews attend synagogue on these two days and the preceding evening.
Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement)	Considered by Jews to be the holiest and most solemn day of the year. Fasting begins at sundown and ends after nightfall the following day. Most Jews attend synagogue on this day and the preceding evening.
Sukkot* (Feast of Tabernacles or Booths)	A seven-day festival. One of the three pilgrimage festivals mentioned in the Bible. Celebrated by the building of a <i>sukkah</i> , or temporary dwelling, outdoors. Work is traditionally prohibited on the 1st and 2nd days.
Shemini Atzeret* (Eighth day of Sukkot)	Immediately follows the conclusion of Sukkot. Work is traditionally prohibited.
Simchat Torah* (Rejoicing of the Law)	Concludes and begins anew the annual reading cycle of the <i>Torah</i> , the Five Books of Moses that make up the Jewish Bible. Immediately follows Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret. Work is traditionally prohibited.
Hannukkah* (Festival of Lights)	An eight-day festival marked by the lighting of candles—one the 1st night, two the 2nd, etc.—using a special candle holder called a <i>menorah</i> or <i>chanukiah</i> . Traditions include spinning <i>dreidels</i> (tops), eating potato <i>latkes</i> (pancakes), and giving gifts.
Tu B’Shevat (New Year of the Trees)	Originally celebrated as an agricultural festival marking the emergence of spring, today celebrations focus on environmental awareness. Trees are often planted in honor or memory of loved ones.
Purim	Commemorates the events in the Book of Esther. One of the most joyous holidays. Traditions include wearing costumes and giving care packages to those in need.
Passover* (Pesach)	Commemorates the liberation of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt. A feast called a <i>seeder</i> is held on the 1st two nights of the eight-day holiday. Leavened food (e.g., bread, cake) and most grain products are not eaten. <i>Matzah</i> (unleavened bread) is often eaten instead. Work is traditionally prohibited on the 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th days.
Yom Ha’Shoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	Yom Ha’Shoah is a Jewish observance commemorating the lives and heroism of the six million Jewish people and five million others who perished in the Holocaust between 1933 and 1945.
Yom Hazikaron* (Israeli Memorial Day)	Yom Hazikaron is Israel’s Official Memorial Day for her fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. Falling either in late April or early May every year, Yom Hazikaron is an especially solemn time and marked by ceremonies and silences across the country.
Yom HaAtzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day)	Yom HaAtzmaut marks the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948. It is observed on or near the 5th of the Hebrew month of Iyar on the Jewish calendar, which usually falls in April.
Shavuot* (Feast of Weeks, Pentecost)	According to Rabbinic tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to the Jewish people at Mt. Sinai on this day. It is traditional to eat meals containing dairy.
Tisha B’Av	Annual fast day commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem and the subsequent exile of the Jews from the land of Israel. Today in many modern Jewish communities, Tisha B’Av stands as a day to reflect on the suffering that still occurs in our world.

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