

JEWISH HOLIDAY CALENDAR

2026-2029



**JEWISH
FEDERATION
CINCINNATI**

JCRC
Jewish Community
Relations Council

An explanation of each holiday follows on the second page.

Secular/School Year Jewish Year	2026-2027 5787	2027-2028 5788	2028-2029 5789
MOST OBSERVED HOLIDAYS <i>These holidays are commonly observed by synagogue attendance or family gatherings.</i>			
Erev (eve of) Rosh Hashanah*	Fri / Sep 11	Fri / Oct 1	Wed / Sept 20
Rosh Hashanah*	Sat-Sun Sep 12 - Sep 13	Sat-Sun Oct 2 - Oct 3	Thu-Fri Sept 21 - Sept 22
Erev (eve of) Yom Kippur*	Sun / Sep 20	Sun / Oct 10	Fri / Sept 29
Yom Kippur*	Mon / Sep 21	Mon / Oct 11	Sat / Sept 30
First night of Passover*	Wed / Apr 21	Mon / Apr 10	Fri / Mar 30
OTHER HOLIDAYS			
Sukkot*	Sat-Fri Sep 26 - Oct 2	Sat-Fri Oct 16 - Oct 22	Thu-Wed Oct 5 - Oct 11
Shemini Atzeret*	Sat / Oct 3	Sat / Oct 23	Thu / Oct 12
Simchat Torah*	Sun / Oct 4	Sun / Oct 24	Fri / Oct 13
Hanukkah	Sat-Sat Dec 5 - Dec 12	Sat-Sat Dec 25 - Jan 1	Wed-Wed Dec 13 - Dec 20
Purim	Tue / Mar 23	Sun / Mar 12	Thu / Mar 1
Passover*	Thu-Thu Apr 22 - Apr 29	Tue-Tue Apr 11 - Apr 18	Sat-Sat Mar 31 - Apr 7
Shavuot*	Fri-Sat Jun 11 - Jun 12	Wed-Thu May 31 - Jun 1	Sun-Mon May 20 - May 21
Tisha B'Av	Thu / Aug 12	Tue / Aug 1	Sun / July 22
ISRAELI HOLIDAYS			
Yom HaShoah	Tue / May 4	Mon / Apr 24	Thu / Apr 12
Yom HaZikaron	Tue / May 11	Mon / May 1	Wed / Apr 18
Yom HaAtzmaut	Wed / May 12	Tue / May 2	Thu / Apr 19

All holidays start at sundown the day before, aside from Erev Rosh Hashanah, Erev Yom Kippur, and Passover.

*Work is traditionally prohibited on these days; individuals may be absent from school or work. Everyone observes holidays differently, so we encourage you to talk with your students and employees about their individual needs or reach out to the JCRC with any questions.

EXPLANATION OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)	A two-day celebration of the Jewish New Year. Traditions include eating sweet foods and blowing the shofar (ram's horn). Many Jews attend synagogue on these two days and the preceding evening.
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	The holiest and most solemn day of the year. Fasting begins at sundown the evening before and ends after nightfall. Most Jews attend synagogue on this day and the preceding evening, and all work is prohibited to mark a day of reflection and atonement for the new year.
Sukkot Shemini Atzeret (Eighth day of Sukkot)	An eight-day festival celebrated by the building of a sukkah, a temporary dwelling outdoors where Jews are commanded to eat and welcome guests. Work is prohibited on the first, second, and eighth day (Shemini Atzeret), although many less traditionally observant Jews do not keep this stricture.
Simchat Torah	Concludes and begins anew the annual reading cycle of the Torah, the five Books of Moses that make up the Jewish Bible. Immediately follows Simchat Torah and Shemini Atzeret. Work is prohibited, although many less traditionally observant Jews do not keep this stricture.
Hanukkah	An eight-day festival marked by the lighting of candles, using a special candle holder called a menorah or hanukkah. Although there are no religious restrictions around this holiday, it is commonly celebrated with family and friends each night so please be considerate of nighttime activities.
Purim	Commemorates the saving of the Jews of Persia as depicted in the Book of Esther. One of the most joyous Jewish holidays. Traditions include masquerading in costumes and giving care packages to those in need.
Pesach (Passover)	The most widely-observed Jewish holiday in the world. Commemorates the liberation of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt. A feast called a "seder" is held on the first two nights of the eight-day holiday. No food that is leavened (e.g., bread, cake) or contains wheat is eaten. Matzah (unleavened bread) is often consumed instead. Work is traditionally prohibited on the first, second, seventh, and eighth days. While less traditionally observant Jews do not follow this commandment, many will still observe a special, Kosher-for-Passover diet for all eight days, requiring special attention to ingredients.
Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	Yom HaShoah is a modern Jewish observance commemorating the lives of the six million Jewish people and five million others who perished in the Holocaust between 1933 and 1945. While there are no religious customs associated with this holiday, we encourage educators to talk with JCRC staff and the Holocaust and Humanities Center about ways to incorporate Holocaust lessons into their classrooms at this time of year.
Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day)	Yom HaZikaron is Israel's Official Memorial Day for her fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. Occurring either in late April or early May every year, Yom HaZikaron is an especially solemn time and marked by ceremonies and moments of silence 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	According to rabbinic tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to the Jews at Mt. Sinai on this day. It is traditional to eat meals containing dairy. Work is prohibited as study of the Bible is encouraged instead, although many less traditionally observant Jews do not keep this stricture.
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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