

JEWISH DATE CALENDAR

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This page is designed to be an aid for the public at large for planning and scheduling events. We hope that employers, public schools, government agencies, professional associations, medical facilities, and athletic organizations will use this calendar to enable observant Jews to stay true to Jewish religious practices without sacrificing full participation in other activities. To be culturally and religiously sensitive this calendar should be consulted before scheduling tests, examinations, assemblies, conferences, athletic events, tournaments, open houses, registrations, meetings, deadlines, social events, etc.

September 2023						
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November 2023						
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January 2024						
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February 2024						
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March 2024						
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April 2024						
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May 2024						
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June 2024						
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July 2024						
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August 2024						
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While the Gregorian calendar transitions dates at midnight, the Jewish calendar does this in the evening. Therefore, all Jewish religious observances begin on the evening before the civil date indicated on the calendar and conclude at nightfall on the last evening.

The exact dates of the Jewish holidays and observances differ each year on the Civil or Gregorian calendar because Judaism uses a unique Jewish calendar.

Color Key

Holidays marked in red are major holidays. On major holidays fully observant Jews will be absent and will not be using electronics, traveling, or doing any work at all. And many Jewish people will be absent or will need accommodations on these dates.

Holidays marked in blue are minor holidays. On minor holidays observant Jews may use electronics and work. However, sometimes they are busy with various observances that take up time during the day.



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Not all Jews observe fully yet; therefore, some may be absent for religious purposes less often than others. This calendar indicates what is needed for full observance. Many Jewish people will be absent or need accommodations on these dates. *Holidays that are italicized are the most widely observed.*

This is not a halachic guide to observance, and not every date is included. It is addressed to a non-observant audience to help them better accommodate Jews. Those who wish to learn to observe Judaism more fully should contact a competent rabbi.

More information about all of these dates is available at www.SkokieChabad.org/Holidays.

Shabbat is every Friday night and Saturday. Shabbat is the weekly day of rest and spiritual rejuvenation observed in Judaism, beginning at sundown on Friday and ending at nightfall on Saturday. It is a sacred time for Jews to set aside their regular work and daily concerns, focusing instead on spiritual growth, family, community gatherings, and rest. The lighting of candles, the recitation of blessings, and festive meals with challah bread are traditional customs that mark the onset of Shabbat. Shabbat is in the category of major holidays, and fully observant Jews will not travel, use electronics, or do any work at all.

Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset on Friday, September 15, 2023, and lasts for two days, until Sunday, September 17, 2023, at nightfall. This is the Jewish New Year, and it is observed by praying in a synagogue, personal reflection, and hearing the shofar (an instrument made from a ram's horn). Most Jews will be spending a significant portion of each day in prayer at synagogue. Many Jews will be absent on the first day, and many for the second day as well.

Yom Kippur begins on Sunday, September 24, 2023, at sunset and ends on Monday, September 25, 2023, at nightfall. Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with a day-long fast and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services. Dinner must be eaten before sunset on Sunday, and that is followed by synagogue services in the evening. Many Jews will be absent on Yom Kippur.

Sukkot begins at sunset on Friday, September 29, 2023. The holiday ends at nightfall on Sunday, October 8, 2023. (These dates also include holiday days known as Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.) Sukkot is celebrated by dwelling in a special hut called a sukkah, and by holding the four species, which are symbolic plants: the etrog (citron fruit), the lulav (palm frond), the hadass (myrtle branches), and the aravah (willow branches). Simchat Torah is a joyous holiday celebrating the conclusion of the annual Torah reading cycle and marking the beginning

of a new cycle. It is characterized by exuberant dancing, singing, and expressing joy for the teachings of the Torah. Jews observing these holidays will be absent and will not be doing any work on September 30, October 1, 7, and 8, 2023. The intermediate days on October 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are called Chol Hamoed and have a semi-festive nature, electronics are permitted, but work is discouraged, even though some forms of work may be allowed in certain situations.

Chanukah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is observed by lighting the candles of a candelabrum with nine branches, commonly called a menorah or hanukiah. Chanukah commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after a group of Jewish warriors defeated the occupying mighty Greek armies. **Chanukah starts in the evening of Thursday, December 7, 2023 and continues through the afternoon of Friday, December 15, 2023.** There are various ways to spell it in English, including Hanukkah or Chanukah. This holiday does not require missing work or school for religious observance. Celebrations and observances often take place in the evenings.

Purim begins at sunset on Saturday, March 23, 2024, and ends on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at nightfall. This holiday commemorates the salvation of the Jewish People from a plot to annihilate them in the ancient Persian Empire. It is observed with the reading of the Megillah (the story of the holiday), giving gifts of food, giving charitable gifts to the poor, feasting and joyful celebration, as well as dressing in costumes. It is customary to fast for a day preceding the holiday, this year the fast is on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Passover begins at sunset on Monday, April 22, 2024, and ends on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at nightfall. This is an important holiday. It celebrates the redemption of the Jewish People from slavery in ancient Egypt (the "Exodus"). It is commemorated by eating matzo (unleavened bread), avoiding chametz (leavened products), and by participating in Seders (festive ritual dinner gatherings) on the first two nights of the holiday. During the Seders, the Haggadah, which guides the meal and relates the story of the Exodus, is read. Seders can last until the early hours of the morning.

Jews observing Passover may be absent and not using electronics or doing any work on April 23, 24, 29 and 30, 2024. The intermediate days on April 25, 26, 27 and 28 are called Chol Hamoed and have a semi-festive nature, electronics are permitted, but work is discouraged, even though some forms of work are allowed. (Saturday, April 27 is observed with all of the restrictions of Shabbat.)

Lag B'Omer begins at sunset on the evening of Saturday, May 25, 2024, and ends on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at sunset. This holiday commemorates two historical events: the anniversary of the passing of the great sage Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, and the ending of a plague among the disciples of the great sage Rabbi Akiva. It is a joyful holiday with music, dancing, bonfires, and outdoor fun. This holiday does not require missing work or school for religious observance. Celebrations and observances often take place in the afternoon or evenings.

Shavuot begins on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at sunset and ends on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at nightfall. This holiday commemorates the date when G-d gave the Jewish People the Torah at Mt. Sinai more than 3300 years ago. Among the customs of this holiday is staying awake all night studying Torah, going to the synagogue to hear the reading of the 10 Commandments, and feasting on dairy foods. Jews observing this holiday will be absent and will not be using electronics or doing any work.

Tisha B'Av begins on Monday, August 12, 2024, at sundown and ends on Tuesday, Aug 13, 2024, at nightfall. It is the saddest day in the Jewish calendar, marking the destruction of both the first and second Holy Temples in Jerusalem, as well as many other tragic events in Jewish History. It is a day of fasting and refraining from pleasurable activities such as bathing, washing, and wearing leather shoes. While work is permitted, it is discouraged until after midday. This holiday does not require being absent for a full day for religious observance, but it is normal to be absent due to the long fast.