


























The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Calendar of Jewish festivals and holy days

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Fast of 10 Tevet		Tue 06 Jan			Thu 05 Jan			Thu 01 Jan	
Tu B'Shvat (New Year for Trees)		Mon 09 Feb	Sat 30 Jan	Thu 20 Jan	Wed 08 Feb	Sat 26 Jan	Thu 16 Jan	Wed 04 Feb	
Fast of Esther		Mon 09 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Thu 17 Mar	Wed 07 Mar	Thu 21 Feb	Thu 13 Mar	Wed 04 Mar	
Purim	Eve	Mon 09 Mar	Thu 25 Feb	Thu 17 Mar	Wed 07 Mar	Thu 21 Feb	Thu 13 Mar	Wed 04 Mar	
	Day	Tue 10 Mar	Sun 28 Feb	Sun 20 Mar	Thu 08 Mar	Sun 24 Feb	Sun 16 Mar	Thu 05 Mar	
Fast of Firstborn		Wed 08 Apr	Mon 29 Mar	Mon 18 Apr	Thu 05 Apr	Mon 25 Mar	Mon 14 Apr	Thu 02 Apr	
Pesach (Passover)	Eve	Wed 08 Apr	Mon 29 Mar	Mon 18 Apr	Fri 06 Apr	Mon 25 Mar	Mon 14 Apr	Fri 03 Apr	
	1st Day		Thu 09 Apr	Tue 30 Mar	Tue 19 Apr	Sat 07 Apr	Tue 26 Mar	Tue 15 Apr	Sat 04 Apr
	2nd Day		Fri 10 Apr	Wed 31 Mar	Wed 20 Apr	Sun 08 Apr	Wed 27 Mar	Wed 16 Apr	Sun 05 Apr
	Intermediate days		Sat 11 Apr	Thu 01 Apr	Thu 21 Apr	Mon 09 Apr	Thu 28 Mar	Thu 17 Apr	Mon 06 Apr
			Tue 14 Apr	Sun 04 Apr	Sun 24 Apr	Thu 12 Apr	Sun 31 Mar	Sun 20 Apr	Thu 09 Apr
	Eve		Tue 14 Apr	Sun 04 Apr	Sun 24 Apr	Thu 12 Apr	Sun 31 Mar	Sun 20 Apr	Thu 09 Apr
	7th Day		Wed 15 Apr	Mon 05 Apr	Mon 25 Apr	Fri 13 Apr	Mon 01 Apr	Mon 21 Apr	Fri 10 Apr
8th Day		Thu 16 Apr	Tue 06 Apr	Tue 26 Apr	Sat 14 Apr	Tue 02 Apr	Tue 22 Apr	Sat 11 Apr	
Shavuot (Pentecost)	Eve	Thu 28 May	Tue 18 May	Tue 07 Jun	Sat 26 May	Tue 14 May	Tue 03 Jun	Sat 23 May	
	1st Day		Fri 29 May	Wed 19 May	Wed 08 Jun	Sun 27 May	Wed 15 May	Wed 04 Jun	Sun 24 May
	2nd Day		Sat 30 May	Thu 20 May	Thu 09 Jun	Mon 28 May	Thu 16 May	Thu 05 Jun	Mon 25 May
Fast of 17 Tammuz		Thu 09 Jul	Tue 29 Jun	Tue 19 Jul	Sun 08 Jul	Tue 25 Jun	Tue 15 Jul	Sun 05 Jul	
Tish'a B'Av (Fast of 9 Av)		Thu 30 Jul	Tue 20 Jul	Tue 09 Aug	Sun 29 Jul	Tue 16 Jul	Tue 05 Aug	Sun 26 Jul	
Rosh Hashana (New Year)	Eve		Fri 18 Sep	Wed 08 Sep	Wed 28 Sep	Sun 16 Sep	Wed 04 Sep	Wed 24 Sep	Sun 13 Sep
	1st Day		Sat 19 Sep	Thu 09 Sep	Thu 29 Sep	Mon 17 Sep	Thu 05 Sep	Thu 25 Sep	Mon 14 Sep
	2nd Day		Sun 20 Sep	Fri 10 Sep	Fri 30 Sep	Tue 18 Sep	Fri 06 Sep	Fri 26 Sep	Tue 15 Sep
Fast of Gedaliah		Mon 21 Sep	Sun 12 Sep	Sun 02 Oct	Wed 19 Sep	Sun 08 Sep	Sun 28 Sep	Wed 16 Sep	
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Eve		Sun 27 Sep	Fri 17 Sep	Fri 07 Oct	Tue 25 Sep	Fri 13 Sep	Fri 03 Oct	Tue 22 Sep
	Day		Mon 28 Sep	Sat 18 Sep	Sat 08 Oct	Wed 26 Sep	Sat 14 Sep	Sat 04 Oct	Wed 23 Sep
Sukkot (Tabernacles)	Eve		Fri 02 Oct	Wed 22 Sep	Wed 12 Oct	Sun 30 Sep	Wed 18 Sep	Wed 08 Oct	Sun 27 Sep
	1st Day		Sat 03 Oct	Thu 23 Sep	Thu 13 Oct	Mon 01 Oct	Thu 19 Sep	Thu 09 Oct	Mon 28 Sep
	2nd Day		Sun 04 Oct	Fri 24 Sep	Fri 14 Oct	Tue 02 Oct	Fri 20 Sep	Fri 10 Oct	Tue 29 Sep
	Intermediate days		Mon 05 Oct	Sat 25 Sep	Sat 15 Oct	Wed 03 Oct	Sat 21 Sep	Sat 11 Oct	Wed 30 Sep
		Fri 09 Oct	Wed 29 Sep	Wed 19 Oct	Sun 07 Oct	Wed 25 Sep	Wed 15 Oct	Sun 04 Oct	
Shmini Atzeret (8th Day of Assembly)	Eve		Fri 09 Oct	Wed 29 Sep	Wed 19 Oct	Sun 07 Oct	Wed 25 Sep	Wed 15 Oct	Sun 04 Oct
	Day		Sat 10 Oct	Thu 30 Sep	Thu 20 Oct	Mon 08 Oct	Thu 26 Sep	Thu 16 Oct	Mon 05 Oct
Simchat Torah (Celebration of the Torah)	Day		Sun 11 Oct	Fri 01 Oct	Fri 21 Oct	Tue 09 Oct	Fri 27 Sep	Fri 17 Oct	Tue 06 Oct
Chanukah	1st Night		Fri 11 Dec	Wed 01 Dec	Tue 20 Dec	Sat 08 Dec	Wed 27 Nov	Tue 16 Dec	Sun 06 Dec
	8th Night		Fri 18 Dec	Wed 08 Dec	Tue 27 Dec	Sat 15 Dec	Wed 04 Dec	Tue 23 Dec	Sun 13 Dec
Fast of 10 Tevet		Sun 27 Dec	Thu 16 Dec		Sun 23 Dec	Thu 12 Dec		Tue 22 Dec	



Day on which work is not permitted



Fast day

Why is the Jewish calendar different?

Jewish calendar years are counted from the Biblical date of creation, which corresponds to 3760 BCE (before the common era). Consequently, the year **2009/2010** corresponds to the Jewish year **5770**.

The Jewish calendar takes account of both the lunar and solar cycles, rather than simply the solar. Therefore, although the Jewish date of a festival is constant, the date according to the civil calendar changes each year.

Timings:

Days are taken to begin and end at **sunset**, and Jewish festivals and holy days always commence a short time *before* sunset and terminate at nightfall the following day – approximately a 25 hour period (to make sure one ceases any prohibited activity in good time, before the Sabbath or festival has commenced).

Times of the commencement of the Sabbath and festivals will **vary** according to the season and local sunset times. These times are published in the Jewish press, and are also available on the internet.

Please note that if leave of absence for religious observance is requested, the person making the request will want to reach home in good time on the **eve** of the festival in order to complete any tasks that will not be permitted once the festival starts.

Requests for leave and deferral of examinations:

Naturally levels of observance vary within the Jewish community, and whilst some people will only observe Yom Kippur, many others will wish to observe the other festivals detailed in the calendar accompanying this note. If a request for **time off** is made, it should be regarded as a genuine and conscientious wish to observe a festival or holy day - which also applies to the weekly Sabbath.

Jewish Law prohibits '**work**' on the Sabbath and certain festivals. The traditional Jewish interpretation of 'work' includes any kind of creative activity, including writing, spending or handling money, operating equipment (including lights, computers and telephones), travelling (other than on foot), engaging in commercial transactions, and many other activities which may not be considered as 'work' in ordinary parlance. Judaism is almost unique in this having this complete prohibition about work on holy days.

Attending classes or taking examinations are also classified as work. Students may therefore ask for help in changing dates if exams or classes fall on these dates.

There is no provision in Jewish Law for a **dispensation** to be given by a rabbi from these restrictions and obligations but, as noted above, levels of observance vary between individuals and some may be less concerned than others.

Shabbat:

'Shabbat' (the Sabbath) is the **weekly** day of rest, commencing just before sundown on Friday and terminating Saturday at nightfall.

Observant Jews will wish to reach home in good time to prepare for the Sabbath. In winter months, this will mean leaving work, school or college quite early on **Friday afternoons**.

Please note:

- For '**Yom Kippur**' (the 'Day of Atonement'), a 25 hour **fast observed by most Jews**, it is imperative that time be allowed for a full meal to be taken at home immediately before the holy day commences.
- The two days of the Jewish New Year and the Day of Atonement, which are known as the '**High Holy Days**', generally have a **special significance** for all Jews, regardless of their level of observance at other times.
- Observant Jews - whether as employees, students, pupils or teachers - do not expect '**special treatment**' and should make every effort to make up time and reduce any burden on their non-Jewish colleagues.
- Most Jews will take leave for their religious festivals as part of their **annual entitlement**, whilst others may wish to enter into reciprocal **arrangements** and agreements to make up the time elsewhere.

This calendar and information are also available on our website.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, 6 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1A 2LP

T: 020 7543 5400 / F: 020 7543 0010

E: info@bod.org.uk

<http://www.bod.org.uk>