Major holidays 2020-21/ 5781

Holidays begin at sundown on the evening of the date specified.

Dates in **bold** are school & work holidays with similar obligations and restrictions to Shabbat.

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| **Holiday** | **Dates** | **Description; Main Customs** |
| [Tish'a B'Av](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/tisha-bav) | July 30, 2020 | The Ninth of Av, fast commemorating the destruction of the two Temples |
| [Rosh Hashana](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/rosh-hashana) | **September 18- 20, 2020** | The Jewish New Year; Family feast, give gifts |
| [Yom Kippur](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/yom-kippur) | **September 27- 28, 2020** | Day of Atonement; Fast, wear white, go to synagogue, no cars (only bikes, skates etc.) |
| [Sukkot](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/sukkot) | **October 2-9, 2020** | Feast of Tabernacles; Build & decorate huts, eat/sleep in huts |
| [Shmini Atzeret](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/shmini-atzeret) and | **October 10, 2020** | Eighth Day of Assembly/Last day of Sukkot |
| [Simchat Torah](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/simchat-torah) | **October 10, 2020** | Day of Celebrating the Torah; Dancing with Torah in synagogue/streets |
| [Chanukah](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/chanukah) | December 11-18, 2020 | The Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the Festival of Lights; Light menorah every night, eat sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and latkes (potato pancakes) |
| [Purim](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/purim) | February 26, 2021 | Celebrate the Jews narrow escape in ancient times; Costume parties, drinking, parades, carnivals, eat “Oznei Haman” triangle cookies |
| [Pesach](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/pesach) and Mimouna | **March 27-April 3, 2021**  Apr 4, 2021 | Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread commemorates the Exodus from Egypt; Family “Seder”s, eat matzah (no wheat products)  Mimouna is a traditional North African Jewish celebration dinner held the day after Passover to mark the return to eating wheat products, which is forbidden during the week of Passover | |
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| [Shavuot](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/shavuot) | **May 17, 2021** | Festival of Weeks, commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai; All-night study events, eat milk products |
| [Tish'a B'Av](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/tisha-bav) | July 18, 2021 | The Ninth of Av, fast commemorating the destruction of the two Temples |

Minor holidays

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| **Holiday** | **Dates** | **Description** |
| [Tu B'Av](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/tu-bav) | Aug 5, 2020 | Jewish holiday of love, similar to Valentine's Day |
| [Tu BiShvat](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/tu-bishvat) | January 28, 2021 | New Year for Trees, Israeli Arbor Day; Plant trees, eat dried fruit |
| [Shushan Purim](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/shushan-purim) | Feb 27, 2021 | Purim celebrated in Jerusalem and walled cities |
| [Lag BaOmer](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/lag-baomer) | April 30, 2021 | 33rd day of counting the Omer; Light bonfires |
| [Tu B'Av](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/tu-bav) | July 24, 2021 | Jewish holiday of love, similar to Valentine's Day |

Modern/National holidays

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| **Holiday** | **Dates** | **Description** |
| [Sigd](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/sigd) | Nov 16, 2020 | Ethiopian Jewish holiday occurring 50 days after Yom Kippur |
| [Yom HaShoah](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/yom-hashoah) | April 9, 2021 | Holocaust Memorial Day |
| [Yom HaZikaron](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/yom-hazikaron) | April 16, 2021 | Israeli Memorial Day |
| [Yom HaAtzma'ut](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/yom-haatzmaut) | April 15, 2021 | Israeli Independence Day |
| [Yom Yerushalayim](https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/yom-yerushalayim) | May 10, 2021 | Jerusalem Day |
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**Leviticus Chapter 23 וַיִּקְרָא**

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to the Israelite people and say to them: These are My fixed times, the fixed times of the LORD, which you shall proclaim as sacred occasions.

**SHABBAT:**

On six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there shall be a sabbath of complete rest, a sacred occasion. You shall do no work; it shall be a sabbath of the LORD throughout your settlements.

These are the set times of the LORD, the sacred occasions, which you shall celebrate each at its appointed time:

**PASSOVER:**

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, there shall be a passover offering to the LORD, and on the fifteenth day of that month the LORD’s Feast of Unleavened Bread. You shall eat unleavened bread for seven days. On the first day you shall celebrate a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. Seven days you shall make offerings by fire to the LORD. The seventh day shall be a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations.

….

**SHAVUOT:**

Until that very day, until you have brought the offering of your God, you shall eat no bread or parched grain or fresh ears; it is a law for all time throughout the ages in all your settlements. And from the day on which you bring the sheaf of elevation offering—the day after the sabbath—you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete: you must count until the day after the seventh week—fifty days; then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the LORD.

…

On that same day you shall hold a celebration; it shall be a sacred occasion for you; you shall not work at your occupations. This is a law for all time in all your settlements, throughout the ages.

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I the LORD am your God.

**ROSH HASHANA (JEWISH NEW YEAR):**

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the Israelite people thus: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe complete rest, a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts. You shall not work at your occupations; and you shall bring an offering by fire to the LORD.

**YOM KIPPUR (DAY OF ATONEMENT):**

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Mark, the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you: you shall practice self-denial, and you shall bring an offering by fire to the LORD; you shall do no work throughout that day. For it is a Day of Atonement, on which expiation is made on your behalf before the LORD your God. Indeed, any person who does not practice self-denial throughout that day shall be cut off from his kin; and whoever does any work throughout that day, I will cause that person to perish from among his people.

Do no work whatever; it is a law for all time, throughout the ages in all your settlements. It shall be a sabbath of complete rest for you, and you shall practice self-denial; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall observe this your sabbath.

**SUKKOT:**

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Say to the Israelite people: On the fifteenth day of this seventh month there shall be the Feast of Booths to the LORD, [to last] seven days. The first day shall be a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations; seven days you shall bring offerings by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall observe a sacred occasion and bring an offering by fire to the LORD; it is a solemn gathering: you shall not work at your occupations.

…

Mark, on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the yield of your land, you shall observe the festival of the LORD [to last] seven days: a complete rest on the first day, and a complete rest on the eighth day.

On the first day you shall take the product of hadar trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

You shall observe it as a festival of the LORD for seven days in the year; you shall observe it in the seventh month as a law for all time, throughout the ages.

You shall live in booths seven days; all citizens in Israel shall live in booths,

in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I the LORD your God.

So Moses declared to the Israelites the set times of the LORD.