A Brief Guide Through the Jewish Year

**TU B’SHVAT** (Jewish Arbor Day / Shevat 15) Celebrated by the eating of the season’s new fruits and planting trees in Israel. **No restrictions on work.**

**TA’ANIT ESTHER** (Fast of Esther / Adar 13) Usually the day before Purim (see next entry). Commemorates the fast of Queen Esther as recorded in the biblical Book of Esther. Fast begins at first morning light. **No restrictions on work.**

**PURIM** (Adar 14) Commemorates the rescue of the Jewish people in ancient Persia, as recorded in the biblical Book of Esther which is read during synagogue services. Celebrated with feasts, the sending of gifts, and extra charity. **Limited restrictions on work.**

**PESACH** (Passover / Nissan 15-22) Commemorates the Exodus of the Jewish people from ancient Egypt. Special dietary restrictions beginning the morning of the previous day. **No restrictions on work.**

**PURIM** (Adar 14) Major fast day beginning prior to sunset of the previous day. Anniversary of the destruction of both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem and other Jewish tragedies. Limited restrictions on work through mid-day and special mourning customs including ban on wearing of leather shoes. **No restrictions on work.**

**YOM HASHOAH** (Holocaust Remembrance Day / Nissan 27) Designated by the Israeli government to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust. Many synagogues hold special services. **No work restrictions.**

**YOM HA’ATZMAUT** (Israel Independence Day / Iyar 5) Anniversary of the founding of Israel in 1948. Many synagogues hold special services. **No work restrictions.**

**LAG BA’OMER** (Iyar 18) Joyful break in the semi-mourning period marking tragedies that occurred at this time of year. **No work restrictions.**

**YOM YERUSHALAYIM** (Jerusalem Day / Iyar 28) Commemorates the reunification of Jerusalem as a result of the Six Day War in June 1967. Many synagogues say special prayers of thanksgiving. **No work restrictions.**

**SHAVUOT** (Feast of Weeks / Sivan 6-7) Celebrating the giving of the Ten Commandments and the first Torah in the Jose on Mount Sina. Yizkor (memorial) services on second day. Sabbath-like work restrictions both days.

**CHANUKAH** (Dedication of Temple / Kislev 25-Tevet 2) Commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees after their successful struggle for independence and religious freedom against the Greek-Syrians (2nd century BCE), Commemorated by lighting candles each evening. **No restrictions on work.**

**SHISHAH ASAR B’TZATZU** (Fast of the 11th of Tammuz) Commemorates the breach of the walls of Jerusalem by the besieging ancient Romans. Start of three week period of mourning during which weddings and celebrations are forbidden. Fast begins at first morning light. **No restrictions on work.**

**TISHA B’AV** (Fast of the 9th of Av) Major fast day beginning prior to sunset of the previous day. Day-long synagogue services with blowing of the shofar (ram’s horn). Sabbath-like restrictions on work both days.

**YOM KIPPUR** Day of Atonement / Tishrei 10) Major fast day beginning prior to sunset on the previous day. Day-long synagogue services with many special prayers, including Kol Nidrei, Ne’ilah, and Yizkor (memorial) services. Sabbath-like restrictions, and special proscriptions against washing and wearing leather shoes. **No restrictions on work.**

**SUkkOT** (Tabernacles /Tishrei 15-20) Commemorates the Jewish people’s wanderings in the desert. All meals must be eaten in a sukkah, a temporary structure with open roof of natural greenery. Sabbath-like restrictions: first two days; non-essential work activities restricted on other days. Leads directly into: **SHMINI ATZERET/SIMCHAT TORAH** Two day celebration marking the end of the holiday season and completion of the annual cycle of Torah readings in the synagogue. Yizkor (memorial) services on first day. Sabbath-like restrictions both days. **No restrictions on work.**

**ASARAH B’TREVET** (Fast of the 10th of Tzeit) Commemorates the beginning of the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem (6th century BCE). Fast begins at first morning light. **No restrictions on work.**

**COUNTLESS JEWISH INDIVIDUALS AROUND THE WORLD ARE POSITIVELY IMPACTED BY THE WORK OF THE ORTHODOX UNION EVERY DAY THROUGH ITS ARRAY OF RELIGIOUS, YOUTH, SOCIAL ACTION, EDUCATIONAL, PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES.**

**OUR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES INCLUDE:**

- **OU KOSHER**
- **NCSY**
- **YACHAD**
- **OU ADVOCACY CENTER**
- **JEWISH LEARNING INITIATIVE ON CAMPUS**
- **OU ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**
- **JEWISH ACTION**
- **OU PRESS**
- **OU NEXTGEN**
- **IFS BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL**

**WWW.OU.ORG/CALENDAR**

**18 Year Jewish Holiday Calendar**

2017-2034

5777-5795

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**WWW.OU.ORG/ELEVEN BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004**

**info@ou.org • www.ou.org/social_media • 212-563-6000**

**COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL THESE HOLIDAYS AND CANDLELIGHTING TIMES CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.OU.ORG/CALENDAR.**
### 18 Year Jewish Holiday Calendar

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**NO WORK RESTRICTIONS**

**SABBATH-LIKE WORK RESTRICTIONS**

**SABBATH-LIKE WORK RESTRICTIONS, FIRST TWO & LAST TWO DAYS**

When Ta'anit Esther, Shavuot B’Tammuz, Tisha B’Av or Tzom Gedaliah occur on Saturday, the actual observance date is changed to avoid the Sabbath. In some years, the actual observance of Yom HaAtzmaut, Yom Yerushalayim may be moved to avoid conflicting with the Sabbath.

**THE JEWISH DAY** begins in the evening, which is why the Sabbath starts before sunset on Fridays and concludes about one hour after sunset on Saturdays. Observant Jews spend the Sabbath attending synagogue services, enjoying meals with family or friends, studying Jewish texts and relaxing. Holidays follow the same pattern and begin on the evening previous to the first day. Some fast days, however, commence only at first light in the morning.

**Observing the Sabbath & Jewish Holidays**

**AS IN THE CASE** of the Sabbath, all holidays with Sabbath-like restrictions also require that normal business, school, or secular activities cease a few hours before sundown on the eve of the holiday to allow adequate time for travel and preparations. Activities prohibited on the Sabbath and holidays include all forms of vehicular travel, cooking, writing, direct use of electricity and electronic devices – including telephones, cell phones, computers and e-mail – and any preparations for regular weekday work or school. Sabbath and holiday restrictions may never be relaxed except in circumstances when there is mortal danger to a human life.

Federal and state laws encourage employers to accommodate employees’ religious observances.