

Jewish Holiday	2017 / 2018 Date	Definition
Rosh Hashanah	September 20-22	Literally meaning the "beginning (also head) of the year" it is the Jewish New Year. The biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah, literally "day of shouting/blasting." A single day of ram's horn blowing and temple consecrating, to be held on the first day of the autumn month. Leviticus 23:24-25, Numbers 29:1-2
Yom Kippur	September 29-30	The Day of Atonement—is considered the most important holiday in the Jewish faith. Falling in the month of Tishrei (September or October in the Gregorian calendar), it marks the culmination of the 10 Days of Awe, a period of introspection and repentance that follows Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The Day of Atonement, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, is a time set aside to repent for sins and to reflect on the year past and the year to come. Observant Jews generally attend synagogue, with readings from the Torah, and fast for 24 hours. Leviticus 16:29 mandates establishment of this holy day on the 10th day of the seventh month as the day of atonement for sins. It calls it the Sabbath of Sabbaths and a day upon which one must afflict one's soul. Leviticus 23:27 decrees

		that Yom Kippur is a strict day of rest.
Sukkot	October 4-11	Sukkot "Feast of Booths or Festival of Tabernacles) is one of the three biblically based pilgrimage holidays known as the shalosh regalim. It is an agricultural festival that originally was considered a thanksgiving for the fruit harvest. Leviticus 23:34; Deuteronomy 16:13; Leviticus 23:36; Numbers 29:35; Deuteronomy 16:14-15
Shemini Atzeret	October 11-13	Is a Jewish holiday dedicated to the love of God. Simchat Torah marks the end of the Sukkot (or Sukkoth) festival. Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah activities include Torah readings. Numbers 29:35
Simchat Torah	October 12-13	Celebration of the Torah marks the end of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings and the beginning of the new cycle. It is a joyous holiday that celebrates the Jewish love of Torah and study. Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12; Numbers 29:35-30:1; Joshua 1:1-18; Genesis 1:1-2:3
Hanukkah	December 12-20	A lesser Jewish festival, lasting eight days from the 25th day of Kislev (in December) and commemorating the rededication of the Temple in 165 B.C. by the Maccabees after its desecration by the Syrians. It is marked by the successive kindling of eight lights.

Purim	February 28-March 1	The tale is told in the Book of Esther, known as the Megillah, and ends with Haman's hanging and the Jewish people being saved. Purim is celebrated on the 14th and 15th days of Adar, the 12th month of the Jewish calendar, which usually coincides with March. Esther 9:26
Passover	March 30-April 7	Commemorates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The holiday is ultimately a celebration of freedom, and the story of the exodus from Egypt is a powerful metaphor that is appreciated not only by Jews, but by people of other faiths as well. Exodus 12
Yom Ha Shoah	April 11-April 12	Is the day commemorating those who have fallen in Israel's wars and those who were the victims of terrorism.
Yom Ha'Atzmaut	April 18-19	Israel's Independence Day.
Lag Ba Omer	May 2-May 3	Is a Jewish holiday celebrated on the 33rd day of the Counting of the Omer, which occurs on the 18th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar.
Shavuot	May 19-21	Commemorates the revelation of the Torah on Mt. Sinai to the Jewish people, and occurs on the 50th day after the 49 days of counting the Omer. Shavuot is one of the three biblically based pilgrimage holidays known as the shalosh regalim. It is associated with the grain harvest in the

		Torah. Exodus 34:22, Deuteronomy 16:10
Tisha B'Av	July 21-22	Is an annual fast day in Judaism, on which a number of disasters in Jewish history occurred, primarily the destruction of both the First Temple by the Babylonians and the Second Temple by the Romans in Jerusalem.