

Hebrew Fall Festivals and Holy Days

Holiday	2014 Dates	Description
<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	September 25-26	The Jewish New Year
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	October 4	Day of Atonement
<i>Sukkot</i>	October 9-15	Feast of Tabernacles
<i>Shmini Atzeret</i>	October 16	Eighth Day of Assembly
<i>Simchat Torah</i>	October 17	Rejoicing with the Torah

Rosh Hashanah (literally "head of the year") is the Jewish New Year. It is the first of the High Holidays or Yamim Noraim ("Days of Awe"), celebrated ten days before Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah is observed on the first two days of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. It is described in the Torah as Yom Teru'ah, a day of sounding the Shofar.

Yom Kippur, also known as Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with a 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services. Yom Kippur completes the annual period known as the High Holy Days.

Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) is a Biblical holiday celebrated on the 15th day of the month of Tishrei. It is one of the three biblically mandated festivals on which Jews were commanded to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Assembly) is celebrated on the 22nd day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. In the Diaspora, an additional day is celebrated, the second day being separately referred to as Simchat Torah. In Israel and Reform Judaism, the holidays of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are combined into a single day and the names are used interchangeably.

Simchat Torah (Rejoicing with the Torah) is a celebration marking the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings, and the beginning of a new cycle. As noted above, Simchat Torah is celebrated together with Shemini Atzeret.

