

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2023-2028

The Stony Brook University schedule has federal holidays and vacations, many of which center on a Christian or US secular calendar. Because the Jewish calendar is influenced by both the sun and the moon, Jewish holidays appear to “move around” from the perspective of the secular, solar calendar. We’ve created this one-pager to let you know when the Jewish holy days fall in the coming years. For those days marked with a * below, some students abstain from certain activities, including going to work or school, writing, and using technology. Please note that these Jewish holidays begin at sunset, so events on this calendar start the night before they’re listed. We hope you will consider this calendar when scheduling major university events, such as Commencement.

	2023-2024 (5784)	2024-2025 (5785)	2025-2026 (5786)	2026-2027 (5787)	2027-2028 (5788)
Rosh Hashanah	Sep 16-17*	Oct 3-4	Sep 23-24	Sep 12-13*	Oct 2-3*
Fast of Gedaliah (יג)	Sep 18	Oct 6	Sep 25	Sep 14	Oct 4
Yom Kippur (יז)	Sep 25*	Oct 12*	Oct 2*	Sep 21*	Oct 11*
Sukkot	Sep 30-Oct 1* Oct 2-6	Oct 17-18* Oct 19-23	Oct 7-8* Oct 9-13	Sep 26-27* Sep 28-Oct 2	Oct 16-17* Oct 18-22
Shemini Atzeret	Oct 7*	Oct 24*	Oct 14*	Oct 3	Oct 23
Simchat Torah	Oct 8*	Oct 25*	Oct 15*	Oct 4	Oct 24
Sigd	Nov 13	Nov 30	Nov 20	Nov 9	Nov 29
Hanukkah	Dec 8-15	Dec 25-Jan 2	Dec 15-22	Dec 5-12	Dec 25-Jan 1
Tenth of Tevet (יג)	Dec 22	Jan 10	Dec 30	Dec 20	Jan 9
Tu Bishvat	Jan 25	Feb 13	Feb 2	Jan 23	Feb 12
Fast of Esther (יז)	Mar 21	Mar 13	Mar 2	Mar 22	Mar 9
Purim	Mar 24	Mar 14	Mar 3	Mar 23	Mar 12
Pesach	Apr 23-24* Apr 25-28 Apr 29-30*	Apr 13-14* Apr 15-18 Apr 19-20*	Apr 2-3* Apr 4-7 Apr 8-9*	Apr 22-23* Apr 24-27 Apr 28-29*	Apr 11-12* Apr 13-16 Apr 17-18*
Yom HaShoah	May 6	Apr 24	Apr 14	Apr 4	Apr 24
Yom HaZikaron	May 13	Apr 30	Apr 21	Apr 11	May 1
Yom HaAtzma'ut	May 14	May 1	Apr 22	Apr 12	May 2
Lag Ba'Omer	May 26	May 16	May 4	May 25	May 14
Shavuot	Jun 12-13*	Jun 2-3*	May 22-23*	Jun 11-12*	May 31-Jun 1*
Seventeenth of Tammuz (יז)	Jul 23	Jul 13	Jul 2	Jul 22	Jul 11
Ninth of Av (ט)	Aug 13	Aug 3	Jul 23	Aug 12	Aug 1

If you have any questions, please email jessica.lemons@stonybrook.edu

HOLIDAY DESCRIPTIONS

Shabbat - The Jewish Sabbath is traditionally a day of rest. It begins every Friday just before sunset and ends at nightfall on Saturday.

Rosh HaShanah (“Head of the Year” or New Year’s Day) - Rosh HaShanah is one of the most widely observed holidays on the Jewish calendar. The start of the Jewish year, it marks the beginning of a ten-day period of reflection and atonement

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) - Yom Kippur is one of the most widely observed days, and the holiest day, of the Jewish year. It is traditionally marked by a 25-hour fast that runs from just before sunset of one day to nightfall on the next.

Sukkot (The Festival of Booths, or Tabernacles) - The Jewish harvest holiday and festival of Sukkot (sue-KOTE), is a celebratory holiday that extends for about a week. The first day or two days, depending on personal practice, are particularly sacred and have an elevated degree of holiness and celebration associated with them.

Shemini Atzeret (The Eighth Day of Assembly) & Simchat Torah (The Rejoicing of the Torah/the Law) - Shemini Atzeret announces that the festival of Sukkot has concluded and marks the start of the rainy season in the Land of Israel, while Simchat Torah is a particularly joyous holiday, celebrating the completion of the annual public reading of the Pentateuch and the starting at the beginning again.

Sigd - Sigd is an Ethiopian Jewish holiday that marks the renewal of the covenant between God and the Jewish people, provides a time for communal introspection, and connects with a hope to return to the Land of Israel.

Hanukkah (Festival of Lights) - The eight-day Jewish festival of Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian Greeks in the Land of Israel in the second century B.C.E. Traditional observance includes lighting candles at nightfall, with many Jews preferring to do so with their families or communities.

Tu Bishvat (The fifteenth of the month of Sh’vat, The New Year for Trees) - Tu Bishvat celebrates the “new year for trees.”

Purim (Festival of Lots) - Purim is traditionally marked by the reading of the Book of Esther at nightfall at the holiday’s start and again the following morning. In many communities, Purim includes an obligatory festive meal during the daytime.

Pesach (Passover) - The Jewish festival of Passover, marks the Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt and is a celebration of liberation and freedom. Most Jews mark the first two nights with a festive meal called a seder and will abstain from leavened food in some way and eat unleavened bread (matzah). The first two and last two days, depending on people’s level of observance, are particularly sacred and have an elevated degree of holiness and celebration associated with them.


Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) - Yom HaSho’ah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, is a day that commemorates Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust during World War II.

Yom HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day) - Yom HaZikaron, or Israel Memorial Day, honours soldiers, victims of terror, and others who were killed in defending the State of Israel.

Yom HaAtzma’ut (Israel Independence Day) - Yom HaAtzma’ut, or Israel Independence Day, celebrates the independence day of the modern State of Israel.

Lag Ba’Omer - Lag Ba’Omer is a celebratory holiday with a number of explanations behind it; some say that it is the day a plague broke, while others ascribe more mystical explanations.

Shavuot (Pentecost) - Shavuot marks the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai and the cementing of the covenant between the Jewish people and G-d. Many participants stay up all (or a significant portion of the) first night to study and learn together.

Additional Fast Days - There are a number of traditional fast days scattered throughout the year, allowing practitioners to engage in communal and personal self-reflection as they abstain from eating and drinking. These include the Fast of Gedaliah, the Tenth of Tevet, the Fast of Esther, the Seventeenth of Tammuz, and the Ninth of Av. All of these run from dawn until after sundown, except for the Ninth of Av, which runs from just before sundown until just after sundown. Fast days are marked on the calendar below with a .