

In Israel, the standard work week is from Sunday through Thursday and a short working day on Fridays.

As Israel defines itself as the Jewish state, so its calendar is structured around Jewish holidays and traditions. This means that in order to honour Shabbat—the Jewish holy day of rest that begins every Friday night and ends after sundown on Saturday—Israel’s weekend is Friday and Saturday.

This means also that holidays in Israel start in the evening and end the following evening.

## ISRAELI HOLIDAYS 2023 -2024

15-17.9.23

### **ROSH HASHANAH – THE JEWISH NEW YEAR**

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Rosh Hashanah

Is the Jewish New Year a two-day celebration

Its customs include:

Eating traditional food like apples dipped in honey for a sweet new year and wishing each other beautiful wishes for the coming year



24-25.9.23

### **YOM KIPPUR**

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Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people and is observed by fasting for approximately 25-hour and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in the synagogue for prayers.

The custom in Yom Kippur is asking for forgiveness from the people around us about things we regret saying or doing and praying for God’s forgiveness.



29.9.23-6.10.23

### **SUKKOT**

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The Hebrew word sukkah means a walled structure covered with plant material such as palm leaves. A sukkah is the name of the temporary dwelling in which farmers would live during harvesting and the temporary houses the Jewish people lived in during their escape from slavery in Egypt.

Throughout the holiday, meals are eaten inside the sukkah, and many people also sleep there. Sukkot is a seven days holiday.



7-15.12.23

### **HANUKKAH**

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This eight day holiday is to celebrate the miracle of the Jewish people in their war with the Hellenist Empire, also known as the “Lights Festival.”

The custom is to light candles every evening for eight days in a unique candle holder called Chanukiya, eat traditional oily foods like doughnuts, and sing holiday songs.



25.1.24

## **TU BISHVAT**

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Also called the “New Year of nature.”

It is celebrated as an ecological awareness day. The custom is to plant trees during the celebration, and enjoy eating fruit, especially dry fruit.

Here in the Arava, we celebrate this holiday during the open day to connect the festival of nature and agriculture.



23-25.3.24

## **PURIM**

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Is the festival of the miracle of the Jewish people in ancient Persia- the story of Queen Esther.

The one-day holiday is celebrated in great street festivals where people wear costumes and try to guess who is hiding in the costumes. It is a tradition to give each other sweets and to drink alcoholic drinks...



22.4.24-29.4.24

## **PESACH – PASSOVER**

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Also called the Holiday of Freedom or the Festival of the Spring

The holiday celebrates the famous exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt to Israel and from slavery to freedom.

The custom is to tell the story of the exodus on the first evening of this seven days holiday and, during the seven days, to replace bread and all the foods made from flour in MATZA – the traditional Pessach bread.

This holiday relates to thoughts about all kinds of freedom – the freedom to choose, be, think, and renew everything in the world, like the renewal of spring in nature.



6.5.2024

## **THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY**

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To remember 6 million Jewish people whom the Nazis murdered during World War 2

There are memorial ceremonies in all the moshavim in the evening; it is customary to light memory candles and to spend these 24 hours remembering those people and listening to stories from people who survived.

It is custom to stand during the memorial siren the following day.



13/5/2024

## **MEMORIAL DAY FOR THE FALLEN ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND ALL THE TERROR VICTIMS**

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There are memorial ceremonies in the moshavim in the evening

It is custom to stand during the monument siren in the evening and also the following day



14/5/2024

## **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

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Independence Day is the national day of Israel, commemorating the Israeli Declaration of Independence in 1948.

Official and unofficial ceremonies and observances mark the day, many Israeli people have barbecue and picnics; some visit the Army museums etc



11-12.6.24

## **SHAVUOT**

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Also known as the holiday of harvest in Israel

Shavuot is known as the day the Jewish people received the bible from God.

The custom is to wear white and to decorate trailers and tractors

and drive with it around the moshav, sing traditional songs, and play agricultural competitions and games.

