

What is Sukkot?

September 26 - October 2, 2026
15 - 21 Tishrei, 5787

*Holidays start the night
before at sundown

Building a Sukkah

There are some requirements for building a proper sukkah. It must have at least two and a half walls that are able to withstand an ordinary wind. The roof must be made out of natural materials that grew from the earth, such as tree branches, bamboo reeds, or corn stalks. The covering, called schach, must provide more shade than sunlight in the sukkah, but at night a person in the sukkah must be able to look up and see the stars.

Blessing for Sitting in a Sukkah

ברוך אתה ה' אלוהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו לישב בסוכה

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu leishev ba sukah.

Blessed are You, Lord, our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments and commanded us to dwell in the sukkah.

The Four Species

In addition to sitting in a sukkah, the second mitzvah of the holiday of Sukkot is waving the Four Species. The Lulav is a bundle of one palm, two myrtle, and three willow branches. The Etrog is a citrus fruit indigenous to Mediterranean countries. Held together, they symbolize a human being:

PALM represents the spine, where our actions emanate
WILLOW represents the mouth, our speech
MYRTLE represents the eye, how we see life
ETROG represents the heart, the center of our emotions

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Hold the lulav and etrog together
while facing east:

Shake forward 3 times

Shake right 3 times

Shake behind 3 times

Shake left 3 times

Shake up 3 times

Shake down 3 times



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Blessing for waving the Lulav & Etroq

ברוך אתה ה' אלוהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו על נטילת לולב

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al netilat lulav.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments and commanded us concerning the waving of the lulav.



What are Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah?

**Shemini Atzeret
& Simchat Torah
October 3-4, 2026
22 - 23 Tishri, 5787**

*Holidays start
the night before
at sundown

Shemini Atzeret literally means "the assembly of the eighth (day)." It is seen as an extension of the holiday of Sukkot, but according to the Torah, it is a holiday in its own right. On Shemini Atzeret the Jewish people begin to pray for rain.

Simchat Torah means "Rejoicing in the Torah" and celebrates the completion of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings. On Simchat Torah, immediately after the final Torah portion is read, the first Torah portion is read to symbolize that the reading of the Torah is a continual cycle and we are never truly done. This holiday is celebrated by dancing and singing with the Torah in the synagogue. In Israel, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are celebrated on the same day, while in the Diaspora, each has its own day.



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