

December - כסלו (Kislev) - חשוון (Cheshvan)

January - שבט (Shevat) - טבת (Tevet)



Hebrew Phrase:

Kol Echad Hu Or Katan, V'kulanu Or Eitan

כל אחד הוא אור קטן - וכולנו אור איתן

Each of us is one small light,
and all together,
we are a strong light.

Hebrew calendar:

Chanukah

Dec. 25 - January 2, 2025
(25th of Kislev - 2nd of Tevet)

The word Chanukah comes from the Hebrew word meaning 'dedication'; we celebrate the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem which happened in the 2nd century BCE. It is a triumph of religious freedom and is celebrated by Jewish people all over the world for eight days and nights. It is also known as the Festival of Lights. Chanukah can start anywhere from late November through the month of December. We light a Chanukiah - a lamp with nine branches. The 9th candle is called the Shamash which is also described as the 'servant' or 'helper' candle. Chanukah includes festive meals, songs, and games. Potato pancakes (latkes), doughnuts (sufganiyot) and other treats fried in oil are eaten, which recall the miracle of the day's worth of oil that lasted 8 days. Families have an opportunity to share with children their own culture's traditions and history.



Did You Know

- Chanukah is the only Jewish holiday that falls between two Hebrew months (Kislev and Tevet).
- The world's largest Chanukiah, measuring 32 feet high and weighing 4000lb, can be found in New York City's Central Park.
- Chanukah is a bit unusual among Israeli holidays in that only schools are closed for 8 days, unlike many other holidays which commercial and government functions also shut down.
- The **Israel Nature and Parks Authority** encourages families to take hikes and lead storytelling activities and environmentally oriented activities for children, such as making ecological Chanukiyot.
- Hike the scenic route of JNF Canada Park and stop at observation points to see where the Hashmoneans and Greeks battled.
- The annual Chanukah **Torch Relay** marks the beginning of the holiday in Israel. People line the roads from the city of Modi'in, passing a burning torch from hand to hand. The torch then lights the giant Chanukiah at the Western Wall.
- December marks the beginning of winter in Israel, this month offers a mix of pleasant days and cooler evenings, with occasional rain showers adding a touch of winter to the landscape. It's a perfect time to explore the country's national parks, such as the Hula Valley in northern Israel, which is known for its nature reserve, wetlands and lake park, famous biblical sites and JNF Canada's Stephen Harper Visitor and Education Centre. It is also a great time to relaxing the beach resort town of Eilat and discover the fascinating underwater world of the nearby **Red Sea**.
- **Hamshushalaim** - is a makeup of Hebrew words for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Jerusalem. Takes place every weekend in December at the city's cultural, tourism and culinary institutes. Street theatre, night tours and musical performances are part of the fun.

Watch these clips to learn more about Chanukah:

The Hanukkah Story for Kids:
Maccabees, Miracles and Dreidels
Hanukkah || Mayim Bialik



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coming winter 2024. Access great activities,
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International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27, 2025

Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum located in Jerusalem hosts special tours, lectures, and other programs throughout this day. This day is honoured in addition to Israel's own Holocaust Remembrance Day called **Yom Hashoah** which typically falls in April or May.

Chanukah Around the World:

Chanukah in Israel, as in the Diaspora, is a major event, families gathering to light the Chanukiah and feast on fried food. However, in Israel there are unique traditions that set it apart from the rest from the Jewish world.

The dreidel (the spinning top) - the Hebrew letters on the 4 sides of dreidel are different; in Israel the final letter is pey (פ) for poh (here) not shin (ש) for sham (there), because it happened in Israel.

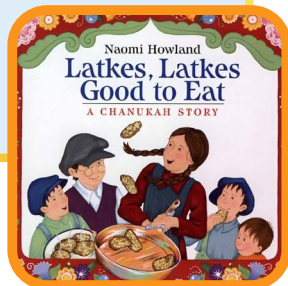
If you walk in the streets of Jerusalem's Old City or the neighbourhood of Nachlaot, you will notice the Chanukiyot which are lit, placed inside glass boxes outside the homes for all to see.



Chanukah is a showtime in Israel, elaborate plays and musicals called festivals are staged across the country, to keep children entertained during the Chanukah break from school.

Blue's Favourite Chanukah Books:

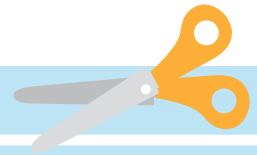
- 1. Dreidel Day**
by Amalia Hoffman
- 2. Latkes, latkes, good to eat: a Chanukah story**
by Naomi Howland
- 3. Why not? A story about discovering our bright possibilities**
by Kobi Yamada
- 4. The Golden Dreidel**
by Ellen Kushner



- Jews in Morocco extended the joy of Chanukah into a ninth day. It became known as "the day of the shamash". On that day, children would go from house to house, collecting left over Chanukah candles. Then they would make a giant bonfire, dancing and singing around it.
- The seventh night of Chanukah falls on Rosh Hodesh Tevet, which many Tunisians recognize as the Festival of the Daughters, Chag Habanot. On this day, girls and women take the day off from work and celebrate the courage and spirit of Judith, who saved the Jewish people.
- In Australia, because the seasons are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere, Chanukah takes place in the summer, the Jewish community celebrates the holiday by being together with family and friends, hosting block parties for the whole neighbourhood.



Blue's Favourite Chanukah Activities



8 Nights of Chanukah Kindness Activities
[Link to Activity](#)



I Spy - Chanukah Activity
[Link to Activity](#)



Treasure Hunt for Gelt
[Link to Activity](#)



Star of David Suncatcher
[Link to Activity](#)

Blue's favorite *recipes* for Chanukah



Potato Galette
[Link to Activity](#)



Cauliflower Dill Kugel
[Link to Activity](#)



Homemade Chanukah Gelt
[Link to Activity](#)



Olive Oil Cake
[Link to Activity](#)

Blue's Favourite Chanukah music

- Best Hanukkah Songs for Kids
- The Maccabees - Candlelight - Hanukkah
- The Eight Days of Hanukkah (Sing-Along Video with Lyrics)
- S'vivon Sov Sov Sov Lyrics in Hebrew + English

