

- I - **Yom Kippur - the Day of Atonement** - its central theme is the confession of sins to God. During this day everyone in synagogues wear white clothes, as this colour is the symbol of purity and humbleness. (September)

- II - **Rosh Hashanah** - also known as the Feast of Trumpets - it is the Jewish New Year and the anniversary of the creation of the world and Adam and Eve. The dishes served during this holiday include products which are meant to bring a sweet, prosperous and good year. These include apples, honey, nuts, fish, pomegranates, carrots and pumpkins. Trumpets are used to inspire the spiritual change. (August - September)

- III - **Shavout - the Feast of Weeks** - commemorates the day on which Moses was given the Torah. In the past this holiday marked the beginning of wheat harvest. Hence the tradition to decorate synagogues and houses with branches and flowers. (May - June)

- IV - **Pesach** - commemorates the Exodus. It is the oldest Jewish holiday and takes from 7 to 8 days - depending on where the celebrations take place. One of the customs related to the holiday is eating matzo, a special type of bread. (April)

- V - **Sukkot - the Feast of Booths** - commemorates the time after the Exodus when the Jews travelled through the desert and lived in tents and booths. (September - October)

- VI - **Simchat Torah** - a celebratory ending of the annual cycle of reading the Torah. It marks the beginning of the new annual cycle. (October)

- VII - **Hanukkah** - the Festival of Lights - it commemorates the miracle that happened during the rededication of the desecrated temple in Jerusalem. This joyful holiday is observed for 8 days. (November - December)

- VIII - **Purim** - commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, an Achaemenid Persian Empire official. It is also called the fast of Esther because the central point of celebrations is recitation of the Book of Esther in synagogues. Every time the word "Haman" is read out, the congregation makes noise using rattles. (March)