**Chanukah / חנוכה** (Hebrew)

Hanukkah (also romanized as Chanukah or Chanuka), also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar.

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| **Hanukkah** |
| Hanukia.jpgA Hanukkah menorah, or Hanukkiah |
| **Observed by** | [Jews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jews) |
| **Significance** | The [Maccabees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabees) successfully [rebelled](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabean_Revolt) against [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiochus_IV_Epiphanes). According to the [Talmud](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talmud), a late text, the Temple was purified and the wicks of the menorah miraculously burned for eight days, even though there was only enough sacred oil for one day's lighting. |
| **Celebrations** | Lighting [candles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candle) each night. Singing special songs. Reciting [Hallel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallel) prayer. Eating foods fried in oil, such as [latkes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latke) and dairy foods. Playing the [*dreidel*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanukkah#Dreidel) game, and giving [Hanukkah *gelt*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanukkah#Gelt) |
| **2015 date** | Sunset, 6 December to nightfall, 14 December |