

Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut in Jerusalem

Things to Know: Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers/Victims of Terror) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) represent a roller coaster of emotion for most Israelis. The country goes from being extremely solemn on Memorial Day, when we commemorate the loss of soldiers and citizens to terror and wars, to transitioning directly to the highest of highs, when night falls and Independence Day begins. This is truly an amazing time to be in Israel, and you should make sure to experience the bonding of society over these days.

Planning on staying in Jerusalem? Here are just a few of the countless events that will be happening throughout the city...

YOM HAZIKARON

FYI: Like Yom Hashoah, this is a solemn day. Regular TV programming will pause, and many dining establishments and places of entertainment will be closed.

The Siren: On Yom Hazikaron, two sirens are heard. The first will be at 20:00 on May 4th, when the day of commemoration officially begins. Israelis will stop whatever they are doing and remember the fallen for a minute at this time. On May 5th, at 11:00, a second siren will sound, for two minutes, and once again everybody will stop in remembrance.

Neighborhood Ceremonies: Since Israel is such a small country, whose wars have taken place at home; nearly everyone has lost someone, or knows someone who has experienced a loss. Because of this, every neighborhood holds its own ceremony on the evening of Yom Hazikaron to remember their own fallen. Ceremonies all begin just before 20:00, so that the siren can be heard together by the attendees. For those living in the Kfar Hastudentim, The French Hill Ceremony will be held at the Yanoush Korchak School, 99 Bar Kochba. The ceremony (held in Hebrew) is extremely emotional. The location of other local ceremonies can be found on neighborhood council websites.

The Kotel: The Official State Memorial Ceremony is held at the Western Wall, beginning at 8pm. If you would like to be a part of it, be prepared to arrive long in advance and clear very intense security checks.

Masa Ceremony in Latrun: The Masa Ceremony for Israel's Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror will be held at the Armored Corps Memorial Site in Latrun. The event will include tours of the center, audio-visual presentations, and a ceremony conducted in English with simultaneous translation to other languages. The event is free, and interested students should sign up in Room 401/402.

Begin Heritage Center: The Hebrew University Student Union will hold a Memorial Ceremony at the Begin Center the evening of Yom Hazikaron. Knesset Member Shuli Moalem-Refaeli will speak (in Hebrew) and will be followed by an evening of song.

Safra Square: In Jerusalem's Safra Square beginning at 20:30 on May 4, there will be a concert with some of Israel's most iconic musicians singing songs dedicated to the remembrance of fallen soldiers. See more at: <http://www.touristisrael.com/yom-hazikaron-in-israel/6019/#sthash.6ZFPyLLD.dpuf>

Har Hertzl: Another official state ceremony takes place at Har Hertzl beginning at 7pm on May 5th. This is attended by many representative of Tsahal (The Israeli Defense Forces) and Heads of State, and when it ends at 8pm, it marks the country's transition to a celebration of Independence Day. (In Hebrew, and Televised)

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

FYI: Israel is turning 66 this Independence Day, and Israelis like to celebrate in style. The evening of the 5th is for going out, and the 6th, during the day, it is traditional for many to hold a Mangal (A BBQ) with as many friends and family as they can round up. Cheap bbq set-ups can be purchased at any market in town, and if you're heading to a park in the city, be ready to fight for a spot!

The Student Union Party : Held in the Streets by Mamilla on May 5th, the biggest party in the city is thrown by the Hebrew University Student Union. Tickets are 50nis. Purchase tickets at the special rate of 40nis in room 404 BEFORE this Wednesday, at 15:00. <https://www.facebook.com/events/497054937087250/>

Boogie Independence Day – Beginning at 20:30 on the 5th and continuing until Dawn, Boogie will go down at the Gerard Bechar center in Nahlaot. Tickets are 30nis for students. <http://www.gojerusalem.com/events/6206/Boogie-Independence-Day-at-the-Gerard-Bechar-Center/>

Live Music in the Streets: Sound stages will be set up and live music and Dancing will occur on King George, Ben Yehuda, and several other key spots in the city. These festivities will be free.

Safra Square: Beginning not long after sunset, there will be a concert at Safra square, featuring popular musicians, and sing-a-longs. From 22:30 onwards, there will be communal Israeli Folk Dancing in the square. (Also free)

Fireworks: Beginning at 11:30 in Independence Park, the city of Jerusalem will present its annual fireworks display in celebration of Independence Day. Don't blink though....the show is great...but short!

As always, feel free to contact the Madrichim with any questions you might have!

Yom Hashoah in Jerusalem

Things to Know: Yom Hashoah is a very solemn day in Israel. Many stores and restaurants are closed, and television stations either go off the air, or air programming considered in keeping with the mood of the day.

Planning on staying in Jerusalem for Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day? Here are just a few of the many events that will be happening throughout the city...

The National Memorial Ceremony (4/27)

The heads of state all participate in a nationally televised ceremony at Yad Vashem, which will happen the evening of the 27th beginning just after sunset.

Mt. Scopus Hillel Memorial Ceremony (4/27)

At 20:00, in the Kfar HaStudentim, the University Hillel will present a Holocaust and Heroism Memorial Day ceremony with the participation of Meir Banai, an Israeli singer. Entrance is free.

KinderTransport at AACI (4/27)

At 19:00, a commemorative performance of Kindertransport will be presented (performances will continue April 28th – May 15th) Tickets are 50NIS for students, and can be purchased through the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/727379437283041/>) this event is in English

Shiur N'Shmooze (4/27)

Hanna Yaffe will talk about "Lullabies of Loss; Birth in a Time of Bloodshed." The event will be held at 45/3 Rachel Eimanu, beginning at 8pm, and donations are appreciated, and will go to charity. This event is in English.

Khan Theatre (4/27)

The theatre will present two performances of "If this is a Man" by Primo Levi. One will begin at 19:00 and one at 21:00, with a panel to follow. Registration is free but must be done in advance. This event is in Hebrew.

http://www.mouse.co.il/CM.show_item_place.410.201.1382.aspx

Gerard Behar Center – Remember, Sing, Take Part (4/27)

Popular artists, musicians and public figures will share poetry based on personal experiences, and accompanied by music, videos etc. Entrance is free, but requires registration in advance; either by email (modus.tickets@gmail.com) or phone (058-7060600) (event is in Hebrew)

The Siren (4/28)

At 10am, sirens will sound, and all of Israel will come to stop. Be aware that this does not mean you should run to your nearest shelter! Instead, stop wherever you are, and participate in 2 minutes of silence. The experience might be particularly unique in a public place, such as the shuk.

The Ceremonies on Campus (4/28)

On Har Hatzofim, the Rothberg School Yom Hashoah Ceremony will begin at 9:45 in the Truman Auditorium, behind the Beit Hillel. All Students are invited and encouraged to attend.

For those on the Givat Ram campus, a ceremony will begin on the central grassy area – Also at 10am.