

Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut 2023

Hebrew word:

Achi / אחי

Literal translation: my brother

Informally: dude, bro, or hey there person whose name I do not know.



Achi

Hi, I'm Blue!



Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, three new holidays have been added to the Jewish calendar - Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day), and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day). In Israel, these days are observed as national holidays; around the world, Jewish communities commemorate these special days in various ways.

Yom Hazikaron: Memorial Day (like Remembrance Day in Canada!)

This year: April 25
(The fourth of Iyar, the day before Yom Ha'atzmaut)

Yom Hazikaron is the day of national remembrance in Israel to commemorate all the soldiers and people who lost their lives during the struggle to defend the State of Israel. On this day we mourn and remember our fallen soldiers and all lives lost by terror.

Every year, there are two sirens: A siren will sound at 8:00 pm on the night before Yom Hazikaron (this year, Mon April 24th) and again on the morning of, at 11:00 am (this year, Tues April 25th).

As soon as the siren is heard, Israeli citizens stop whatever they are doing, wherever they are, and stand firm to honor those they have lost.

It is powerful to watch: [Play Video Here](#)



Yom Ha'atzmaut: Israel's Independence Day

(like Canada Day in Canada!)

This year: April 26
(it's a special year - Israel 75th Anniversary!)

Yom Huledet Sameach Yisrael!!
(Happy Birthday Israel)



Celebrate Israel with some Fun Facts! Did you know...

- Israeli cherry tomatoes, wine grapes and olives are watered with salty water in the Negev.
- Israel is the only country in the world that uses kosher glue for its postage stamps.
- Israel has the largest amount of start-ups per capita (hence its nickname, The Start Up Nation).
- Israeli bank notes have braille writing on them so the visually impaired can accurately identify them.
- The hoopoe (duchafit) is the national bird of the State of Israel.



The Agmon HaHula

JNF Nature and Ornithology Park is a wildlife park at heart of the Hula Valley. Every year, more than 500 million (!) birds stop in the Hula Valley, as they migrate from Europe and Asia all the way to Africa to stay warm for the winter! Over 390 species will stop in Hula Valley, including pelicans, cranes, herons, storks, birds of prey, and hundreds of thousands of honey buzzards and steppe buzzards. Learn more about these incredible birds at the link above!

It is also the site of a fantastic JNF Project: The Stephen Harper Visitor and Education Centre where visitors learn about the valley, the species of birds that migrate there and enjoy some amazing interactive exhibits.



Blue's Favourite Activities

1. Celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut with these Israel-inspired pinwheels, a fun craft that can be adapted for all ages.

[Link to Activity](#)



2. Watch Shalom Sesame videos to learn about Israel's past and present.

[Link to Activity](#)



3. Simple Tear Paper Flags

[Link to Activity](#)



Blue's Recipes!



If you want to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut like an Israeli, Israelis will be heading to parks (many of them JNF Forests!), and outdoor areas for the thrill of the grill. Grills are known as Mangalim, or al ha-esh (on the fire), the Israeli BBQ.

Here are some Mangal and other recipes:

Culture of Mangal

Israelis will be heading outdoors for the thrill of the grill.



[Click here for recipe](#)

Eggplant Boats With Green Tahini

Mediterranean ingredients that highlight the most common vegetable in Israel.



[Click here for recipe](#)

Laffa Bread

Really easy to make and so delicious. You'll hate buying this bread any more.



[Click here for recipe](#)

Blue's Yom Ha'atzmaut Playlist

- Children's Songs
- Fountainheads
- Miss Lisa Sings Songs



Blue's Favourite Books for Ha'atzmaut

1. **Engineer Arielle and the Israel Independence Day Surprise** by Deborah Bodin Cohen
2. **Fast Asleep - In a Little Village In Israel** by Jennifer Tzvia MacLeod
3. **Flag by Shira: A Yom Ha'atzmaut Story** by Galia Sabag

