

Yom Yerushalayim **(Jerusalem Day)**

Yom Yerushalayim--Jerusalem Day--is the most recent addition to the Hebrew calendar. It is celebrated on the 28th day of Iyar, one week before the eve of *Shavuot*. This falls sometime from late May to mid June. Although Jerusalem has been considered the capital city of the Jewish people since the time of King David there has never been a special day in honor of the city until the Israeli army took over the ancient part of the city during the Six-Day War in June 1967.



Due to the young age of this holiday, there is still not much which makes it unique in terms of customs and traditions. It is gradually becoming a "pilgrimage" day, when Israelis travel to Jerusalem. This show of solidarity is of special importance to the state of Israel, since the international community has never approved the "reunification" of the city under Israeli sovereignty, and many countries have not recognized Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish State.

The Israeli education system devotes time to enhancing the knowledge of the history and geography of the city, with a special emphasis on the unique role that it played in Jewish messianic aspirations since Biblical times. While the city of Jerusalem has significant meaning for all Jews, *Yom Yerushalayim* has yet to obtain the popularity of *Yom Ha'atzmaut* and is not observed extensively outside of Israel.