

Purim 2017

Everything you need to know about Purim 2017.

By [MJL Staff](#)

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When does Purim 2017 start?

Purim 2017 begins at sunset on Saturday, March 11, and ends on Sunday evening, March 12.

The Background of Purim

The [story](#) of the joyous holiday of Purim might appear somber at first glance: It tells of the near-destruction of the Jewish people as decreed by [Haman](#), an adviser to the Persian King Ahashuerus.

However, Ahashuerus' newly crowned queen, Esther — who replaced Vashti when she was thrown out of the kingdom — is secretly a Jew.

Due to her courage and her eventual role in saving the Jews, the story of Purim is known as “Megillat Esther,” or the [Scroll of Esther](#).

What to Do on Purim



There are several common practices on Purim:

* We give [gifts](#) to poor people.

* We read the [megillah](#), the Purim story.

* We eat a festive meal, or [seudah](#).

* We give food gifts, called [mishloah manot](#), to our friends.

*We eat [hamantaschen](#), triangle-shaped cookies named for the villainous Haman. Learn how to make them in [this video](#) or find more than 20 [hamantaschen recipes](#) on our food blog, [The Nosh](#).

Other Purim Activities

Many people dress up in [costume](#), following the theme of Purim as a holiday of disguise where nothing is quite as it seems. Synagogues and communities hold [plays and festivals](#) specifically for the day. Traditionally, a noisemaker or gragger is sounded when Haman's name is said aloud during the megillah reading; today some people have instituted a new practice of [waving a celebratory flag](#) when Esther's name is recited.

How Much Do You Know?

Think you know everything about Purim? Check out these [9 Things You Didn't Know About Purim](#). Take a [Purim quiz](#), or take [this quiz](#) to find out which kind hamantaschen are you!