

Guidelines for someone who crossed the International Date Line (IDL) during the Omer - 5784

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NOTE: While it is clear that one should act in the manner prescribed, nonetheless it is quite strange to celebrate a different Yom Tov than the community. Therefore, the Rebbe has strongly discouraged crossing the International Date Line¹ during the Omer.

A. Crossed the IDL while travelling westwards (e.g., from the US to Australia)² during the Omer:

1. Shavuos is observed on Thursday, the 7th of Sivan regarding **all** matters. If living in the Diaspora, such a person should also observe Friday, the 8th of Sivan, as the second day of the holiday.

This means, for a resident of the Diaspora:

- Lighting the 1st day Yom Tov candles on Wednesday before sunset, and the 2nd day Yom Tov candles on Thursday after nightfall (using a pre-existing flame). Lighting Shabbos candles on Friday before sunset (using a pre-existing flame).
- Shavuos Davening and Kiddush on Thursday and Friday.
- No Melacha of Yom Tov on Thursday and Friday.
- Additional details:
 - a) One prepares an Eiruv Tavshilin **on Wednesday**.
 - b) One may not arrange for another Jew (or - *lehavdil* - a non-Jew) to do Melacha for them on Friday.
 - c) On both Thursday and Friday, one should omit all references (in Kiddush and Amida) to the holiday as "*zeman matan toraseinu*".
 - d) All other customs associated with Matan Torah (i.e., eating dairy, remaining awake on the night of Shavuos, no Taanis Chalom etc.) are to be celebrated on Thursday, the 7th of Sivan, despite it being the day after Matan Torah.
 - e) On Friday: one says Shnaim Mikra for Parshas Naso regularly; before Mincha one omits Hodu but does recite Pasach Eliyahu; one begins Kabbolas Shabbos with Mizmor Ledovid.

2. Wednesday, the 6th of Sivan, is observed as a regular weekday (i.e., weekday Davening and wearing Tefillin in private etc.).

Nonetheless:

- Since the entire city is celebrating the first day of Yom Tov then, it is forbidden for an individual who is not observing the holiday to perform any activities which are forbidden on Yom Tov, **even in private**. It is forbidden to do an activity which will cause people to suspect him of violating Torah. Likewise, for all external purposes, he should act as though it is Yom Tov (arranging for candles to be burning on Tuesday night - without a Bracha - at home, wearing Yom Tov clothing and attending Shul, if possible, etc.³).
- One may cook for Shabbos on Friday provided an Eiruv Tavshilin was made on Wednesday, as cited above.

¹ Some long international flights take polar routes, which complicates matters even more. If you took a flight that may be a polar route, please provide flight details to a Rav to be able to determine if there are any changes to the laws presented here.

² See previous note.

³ Where one has been invited out on Wednesday, it is questionable whether the host who is observing Yom Tov may do a specific Melacha for those not observing Yom Tov on this day. There are grounds to be lenient. This issue is usually not relevant, as in most cases the food is not prepared with allocated portions according to the number of guests.

The issue can be easily avoided if the extra allocated portion of food is added to the pot before the pot is put on the flame, unless it is an item that requires individual preparation and is an extra burden such as frying an extra blintz.

- It is recommended to hear Aseres Hadibros in Shul on Wednesday, with the advantage of hearing Aseres Hadibros on the day of Matan Torah (unless Davening with an independent Minyan of people who crossed the IDL; if such a Minyan has been established for Wednesday, proper Halachic guidance should be sought⁴).

B. Crossed the IDL while travelling eastwards (e.g., from Australia to the US)⁵ during the Omer:

1. Shavuos is observed on Tuesday, the 5th of Sivan regarding **all** matters. If living in the Diaspora, such a person should also observe Wednesday, the 6th of Sivan, as the second day of the holiday.

This means, for a resident of the Diaspora:

- Lighting the 1st day Yom Tov candles on Monday before sunset, and the 2nd day Yom Tov candles on Tuesday after nightfall (using a pre-existing flame).
 - Shavuos Davening and Kiddush on Tuesday and Wednesday.
 - No Melacha of Yom Tov on Tuesday and Wednesday.
 - Additional details:
 - a) On Tuesday (but not on Wednesday), one should omit all references (in Kiddush and Amida) to the holiday as "*zeman matan toraseinu*".
 - b) All other customs associated with Matan Torah (i.e., eating dairy, remaining awake on the night of Shavuos, no Taanis Chalom etc.) are to be celebrated on Tuesday, the 5th of Sivan, despite it being Erev Matan Torah.
 - c) It is recommended to hear Aseres Hadibros in shul on Wednesday, with the advantage of hearing Aseres Hadibros on the day of Matan Torah (unless davening with an independent Minyan of people who crossed the IDL. If such a Minyan has been established, proper halachic guidance should be sought⁶).
 - d) On Wednesday night, regular Havdalah - without Besamim or candle - is recited.
2. Thursday, the 7th of Sivan, is observed as a regular weekday (i.e., weekday Davening and wearing Tefillin in private etc.).

Nonetheless:

- Since the entire city is celebrating the second day of Yom Tov then, it is forbidden for an individual who is not observing the holiday to perform any activities which are forbidden on Yom Tov, **even in private**. It is forbidden to do an activity which will cause people to suspect him of violating Torah. Likewise, for all external purposes, he should act as though it is Yom Tov (arranging for candles to be burning on Wednesday night - without a Bracha - at home, wearing Yom Tov clothing and attending Shul (with the extra advantage of hearing Keriah on Thursday) if possible, etc.⁷).

Kabbolas Hatorah B'simchah Uv'pnimius!

⁴ Some basic guidelines: A weekday Minyan may not be arranged for Wednesday, as it is disparaging to the community Yom Tov to run a weekday service.

On Thursday, a Minyan may be arranged consisting of at least six people who crossed the IDL and four who have not. The Torah reading for this Minyan is Bachodesh Hashlishi (Aseres Hadibros).

On Friday, it is not advisable to arrange a Minyan unless the entire Minyan consists of individuals who have crossed the IDL.

⁵ See note 1.

⁶ Some basic guidelines: On Tuesday, a Minyan may be arranged consisting of at least six of people who crossed the IDL and four who have not. The Torah reading for this minyan is Bachodesh Hashlishi (Aseres Hadibros).

On Wednesday too, a Minyan may be arranged consisting of at least six of people who crossed the IDL and four who have not. The Torah reading for this Minyan is Kol Habechor.

A weekday minyan may not be arranged for Thursday, as it is disparaging to the community Yom Tov to run a weekday service.

⁷ Where one has been invited out on Thursday, see details in note 3.