

Guidelines for someone who crossed the International Date Line (IDL) during the Omer - 5785

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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 Tuesday, the 7th of Sivan regarding **all** matters. If living in the Diaspora, such a person should also observe Wednesday, 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 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. One may not arrange for another Jew (or - *lehavdil* - a non-Jew) to do Melacha for them on Wednesday.
- Additional details:
 - a) One may not arrange for another Jew (or - *lehavdil* - a non-Jew) to do Melacha for them on Wednesday.
 - b) On both Tuesday and Wednesday, one should omit all references (in Kiddush and Amida) to the holiday as "*zeman matan toraseinu*".
 - c) 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 7th of Sivan, despite it being the day after Matan Torah.

2. Monday, 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 Sunday night - without a Bracha - at home, wearing Yom Tov clothing and attending Shul if possible, etc.³).
- It is recommended to hear Aseres Hadibros in Shul on Monday, 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 Monday, proper Halachic guidance should be sought⁴).

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 Monday, 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.

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

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

1. Shavuot is observed on Sunday, the 5th of Sivan regarding **all** matters. If living in the Diaspora, such a person should also observe Monday, 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 Motzei Shabbos after the end of Shabbos (using a pre-existing flame), and the 2nd day Yom Tov candles on Sunday after nightfall (using a pre-existing flame).
 - Shavuot Davening and Kiddush on Sunday and Monday.
 - No Melacha of Yom Tov on Sunday and Monday. One may not arrange for another Jew (or - lehavdil - a non-Jew) to do Melacha for them on Sunday.
 - Additional details:
 - a) On Motzei Shabbos: "*vatodienu*" is said in the Amida of Yom Tov. Kiddush is recited following the order of *yaknehaz*: 1. Askinu; 2. borei pri hagafen; 3. Kiddush (mekadesh Yisrael v'hazemanim); 4. borei me'orei ha'esh; 5. hamavdil bein kodesh l'kodesh; 6. Shehechyanu.
 - b) On Sunday (but not on Monday), one should omit all references (in Kiddush and Amida) to the holiday as "*zeman matan toraseinu*".
 - c) All other customs associated with Matan Torah (i.e., eating dairy, remaining awake on the night of Shavuot, no Taanis Chalom etc.) are to be celebrated on Sunday, the 5th of Sivan, despite it being Erev Matan Torah.
 - d) It is recommended to hear Aseres Hadibros in shul on Monday, 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).
 - e) On Monday night, regular Havdalah - without Besamim or candle - is recited.
2. Tuesday, 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 Monday night - without a Bracha - at home, wearing Yom Tov clothing and attending Shul if possible, etc.⁷).

Kabbolas Hatorah B'simchah Uv'pnimius!

Hashlishi (Aseres Hadibros).

On Wednesday, 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 Sunday, 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 Monday 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 Tuesday, as it is disparaging to the community Yom Tov to run a weekday service.

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