



Venture into Hanukkah



The Hanukkiah (Hanukkah menorah)

What is the difference between a menorah and a Hanukkiah?

Did you know that menorahs are not just used during Hanukkah? The Hebrew word *menorah* means, simply, lamp and can actually mean any number of lamps, including the seven-branched candelabra lit every day in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. This is the menorah we are referring to in the Hanukkah story when we talk about how the light was lit with just enough oil to last for one day but miraculously lasted for eight days.

A *Hanukkiah* is a type of menorah. Specifically, it is the celebratory nine-flame* candelabra lit during the eight nights of Hanukkah.



*The ninth flame is the *shamash*, the candle that we light each night to help light the others. In some Sephardic communities, Jews light an extra candle each night (in addition to the *shamash*) to show gratitude for their safe arrival in their new land after having been forced out of their homeland.