

Ganesh Chaturthi 2026: Dates, Puja Muhurat, Significance and Traditions for the USA, UK, Canada and Australia

Ganesh Chaturthi is a major Hindu festival dedicated to Lord Ganesha, the deity of wisdom, auspicious beginnings and the removal of obstacles. It is also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, Ganpati Festival, Vinayaka Chavithi and Vinayagar Chaturthi.

For Hindu families living in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, Ganesh Chaturthi provides an opportunity to maintain devotional traditions, introduce children to Hindu culture and celebrate with the wider community.

Ganesh Chaturthi does not fall on the same local date in every country or city. The correct day is determined according to the local Chaturthi Tithi, sunrise, sunset and Madhyahna period. Most listed cities will observe it on Monday, September 14, 2026, while Sydney will observe it on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Ganesh Chaturthi 2026 Date by Country and City

Country	City	Ganesh Chaturthi Date	Madhyahna Ganesh Puja Muhurat
United States	New York City	Monday, September 14, 2026	11:36 AM to 2:06 PM
United States	Los Angeles	Monday, September 14, 2026	11:34 AM to 2:03 PM
United Kingdom	London	Monday, September 14, 2026	11:39 AM to 2:12 PM
Canada	Toronto	Monday, September 14, 2026	11:58 AM to 2:28 PM
Canada	Vancouver	Monday, September 14, 2026	11:52 AM to 2:24 PM
Australia	Sydney	Tuesday, September 15, 2026	10:40 AM to 12:14 PM

Country	City	Ganesh Chaturthi Date	Madhyahna Ganesh Puja Muhurat
Australia	Melbourne	Monday, September 14, 2026	11:36 AM to 1:27 PM

Important: All Muhurats listed above are in the local time of the respective city, including daylight-saving adjustments where applicable. Devotees living elsewhere should use a location-based Hindu Panchang rather than converting Indian Standard Time directly.

Local Chaturthi Tithi Timings for 2026

City	Chaturthi Tithi Begins	Chaturthi Tithi Ends
New York City	September 13 at 9:36 PM	September 14 at 10:14 PM
Los Angeles	September 13 at 6:36 PM	September 14 at 7:14 PM
London	September 14 at 2:36 AM	September 15 at 3:14 AM
Toronto	September 13 at 9:36 PM	September 14 at 10:14 PM
Vancouver	September 13 at 6:36 PM	September 14 at 7:14 PM
Sydney	September 14 at 11:36 AM	September 15 at 12:14 PM
Melbourne	September 14 at 11:36 AM	September 15 at 12:14 PM

Why Is the Date Different in Sydney?

Ganesh Chaturthi is observed when the Chaturthi Tithi is present during the local Madhyahna period. It is not decided only by the Gregorian date followed in India.

In Sydney, the suitable Madhyahna worship period falls on September 15, while Melbourne has a valid worship window on September 14. This is why two cities within Australia may have different observance dates.

The same principle applies across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries. Local Panchang timings should always be preferred over a simple time-zone conversion from India.

Ganesh Visarjan 2026

The main Ganesh Visarjan associated with Anant Chaturdashi falls on:

Friday, September 25, 2026

Families may also perform Visarjan after one and a half days, three days, five days or seven days, depending on their tradition and practical circumstances.

Devotees living abroad should follow local environmental, housing and municipal regulations. An idol should not be immersed in a public lake, river, beach or fountain without permission.

What Is Ganesh Chaturthi?

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrates the sacred presence of Lord Ganesha and his qualities of wisdom, discipline, patience and thoughtful action.

According to a widely known traditional account, Goddess Parvati created Ganesha and instructed him to guard her entrance. When Lord Shiva arrived, Ganesha stopped him because he was following his mother's command.

A conflict followed, during which Ganesha lost his original head. To restore him to life, Lord Shiva placed an elephant's head upon his body. He then appointed Ganesha as the leader of the Ganas and declared that he would be worshipped before every auspicious undertaking.

This is why Lord Ganesha is known as:

- Ganapati – Lord of the Ganas
- Vinayaka – The supreme guide
- Vighnaharta – Remover of obstacles
- Pratham Pujya – The deity worshipped first

- Siddhivinayaka – The giver of success
- Ekadanta – The one-tusked Lord

Spiritual Significance of Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh worship is not limited to asking for external difficulties to disappear. It also encourages devotees to recognise and overcome inner obstacles.

Wisdom

Lord Ganesha represents the ability to understand a situation clearly before acting.

Good Judgement

His worship encourages devotees to separate temporary emotion from thoughtful decision-making.

Discipline

A new goal requires consistency, patience and responsible effort.

Humility

Remembering Ganesha before beginning a task reduces pride and reminds us that success depends on preparation, cooperation and grace.

New Beginnings

Ganesh Chaturthi offers an opportunity to leave behind unhelpful habits and begin again with a clearer purpose.

Preparing for Ganesh Chaturthi Abroad

Families living outside India may not always find every traditional Puja item. A meaningful Ganesh Puja can still be performed with simple and locally available materials.

Clean the worship area and place a small table or platform in a safe part of the home. Cover it with a clean red, yellow or white cloth and place the Ganesha idol or picture upon it.

Decorations may be created using:

- Reusable fabric
- Paper flowers
- Fresh local flowers
- Leaves and natural materials
- Wooden decorations
- Reusable LED lights
- Children's handmade artwork

Avoid materials that create unnecessary waste, particularly plastic glitter, foam boards and single-use plastic decorations.

Ganesh Puja Items

Use the following items according to availability:

- A clay Ganesha idol or framed image
- A clean platform and cloth
- A Kalash or clean water vessel
- Turmeric and Kumkum
- Sandalwood paste
- Akshata or uncooked rice
- Fresh flowers
- Durva grass, when available
- Incense

- A ghee or oil lamp
- Fruit
- Modak, Laddoo or another Sattvic sweet
- Betel leaf and nut, where available
- Aarti plate

Not every item is compulsory. A lamp, flower, fruit and sincere prayer are sufficient for a simple home Puja.

Ganesh Chaturthi Puja Vidhi at Home

1. Clean Yourself and the Worship Area

Bathe or wash before the Puja and wear clean clothes. Clean the altar and keep it away from shoes, clutter and household waste.

2. Install the Ganesha Idol

Place a clean cloth upon the altar and install the idol carefully. Ensure that the platform is stable, particularly in a home with children or pets.

3. Light the Lamp

Light a ghee or oil lamp while reciting:

Deepajyotih Parabrahma Deepajyotir Janardana.

Deepo Haratu Me Papam Deepajyotir Namostute.

Flameless electric lamps may be used where open flames are restricted by a rental agreement, university residence, office or community venue.

4. Take the Sankalp

Hold a flower, Akshata and a small amount of water while stating your intention to perform the Puja for wisdom, family welfare and the removal of obstacles.

Mama Sakutumbasya Kshema-Sthairya-Ayur-Arogya-Aishvaryabhivridhyartham, Sakala-Vighna-Nivaranartham, Shri-Mahaganapati-Prityartham Pujanam Karishye.

Meaning: I perform this worship of Shri Mahaganapati for my family's well-being, stability, long life, health, prosperity and the removal of obstacles.

5. Meditate on Lord Ganesha

**Vakratunda Mahakaya Suryakoti Samaprabha.
Nirvighnam Kuru Me Deva Sarva-Karyeshu Sarvada.**

Meaning: O Lord with the curved trunk and vast form, radiant like millions of suns, please guide all my activities towards an obstacle-free completion.

6. Perform Avahan

Offer flowers and Akshata while saying:

**Om Shri Mahaganadhipataye Namah.
Avahayami, Sthapayami, Pujayami.**

Formal invocation is generally used for an idol specially installed for the festival. It is not necessary every day for a permanently installed home deity.

7. Offer the Puja Items

Offer the available items in the following order:

1. Asana or symbolic seat
2. Water for the feet
3. Arghya
4. Water for Achaman
5. Symbolic bath
6. Cloth or Akshata representing garments
7. Sandalwood, turmeric and Kumkum

8. Akshata
9. Flowers and Durva
10. Incense and lamp
11. Naivedya
12. Aarti and Namaskar

Do not pour water, milk or Panchamrit over a painted, plaster or delicate clay idol. Sprinkle a few drops with a flower as a symbolic bath.

8. Offer Durva

Offer fresh Durva grass while chanting:

Om Gam Ganapataye Namah.

Twenty-one Durva blades or bunches are offered in some traditions. When Durva is unavailable abroad, offer a fresh flower or Akshata without using an incorrectly identified local plant.

9. Offer Naivedya

Offer Modak, Laddoo, fruit or another freshly prepared vegetarian food.

Om Shri Mahaganadhipataye Namah.

Naivedyam Samarpayami.

10. Recite Mantras or Stotras

Depending on available time, recite:

- Om Gam Ganapataye Namah
- Ganapati Atharvashirsha
- Sankatanashana Ganesh Stotra
- Ganesh Gayatri Mantra
- Ganesh Chalisa
- The twelve names of Lord Ganesha

11. Read the Ganesh Chaturthi Story

Families may read the story of Ganesha's creation, his meeting with Lord Shiva and how he became the first-worshipped deity.

12. Perform Ganesh Aarti

Sing a familiar Aarti such as:

- Jai Ganesh Jai Ganesh Deva
- Sukhkarta Dukkharta
- Shendur Lal Chadhayo

13. Offer a Forgiveness Prayer

Mantrahinam Kriyahinam Bhaktihinam Ganadhipa.

Yat Pujitam Maya Deva Paripurnam Tadastu Te.

Meaning: O Lord Ganesha, please forgive any deficiency in my mantra, ritual or devotion and accept this worship.

Main Ganesh Mantra

Om Gam Ganapataye Namah.

Meaning: Salutations to Lord Ganesha.

It may be chanted 11, 21 or 108 times. Concentration and sincerity are more important than completing a large number of repetitions.

Ganesh Gayatri Mantra

Om Ekadantaya Vidmahe Vakratundaya Dhimahi.

Tanno Dantih Prachodayat.

Meaning: We seek to understand the one-tusked Lord and meditate upon Vakratunda. May Lord Ganesha guide and inspire our intellect.

What Can Be Offered as Prasad Abroad?

Modak is traditionally associated with Lord Ganesha, but devotees may offer any fresh Sattvic food available locally.

Suitable offerings include:

- Steamed or fried Modak
- Coconut Laddoo
- Besan Laddoo
- Rice pudding or Kheer
- Fresh fruit
- Jaggery and coconut
- Dry fruits and nuts
- Homemade vegetarian sweets

When purchasing packaged food, check the ingredient list for gelatine, eggs, alcohol-based flavouring or ingredients that do not match your family's dietary practice.

How to Celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with Children

Children can participate by:

- Making paper flowers and reusable decorations
- Learning a short Ganesha mantra
- Helping prepare fruit or Prasad
- Reading the Ganesh Chaturthi story
- Drawing Ganesha symbols
- Learning why wisdom and good judgement matter
- Taking part in a family Aarti
- Donating food, books or toys

Keep the explanation age-appropriate. The purpose is not only to teach ritual steps but also values such as discipline,

respect, kindness and thoughtful action.

Celebrating in an Apartment, Condo or Rental Home

Devotees living in apartments can celebrate without creating excessive noise or fire risk.

- Use a small altar that does not block a walkway.
- Choose an electric lamp if open flames are restricted.
- Keep incense smoke away from alarms and ventilation systems.
- Avoid loud music late at night.
- Use reusable decorations.
- Perform Visarjan in a clean household container.
- Do not pour idol residue into shared swimming pools or decorative fountains.

Respecting neighbours and building regulations is consistent with the values of responsible worship.

Celebrating Around Work and School Commitments

The preferred Puja period may fall during working or school hours. When possible, family members may arrange a break, work remotely or attend a temple programme.

When performing the complete Puja during the Muhurat is not practical, a simple prayer may be offered during the appropriate period, followed by the full family Puja later in the day.

The simple prayer may include:

1. Lighting a safe lamp
2. Offering one flower or Akshata

3. Chanting “Om Gam Ganapataye Namah” 11 times
4. Offering fruit
5. Performing the longer Aarti later with the family

Community Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations

Hindu temples and cultural organisations across the USA, UK, Canada and Australia commonly organise:

- Ganesh Sthapana
- Abhishek and Archana
- Bhajans and Aarti
- Children’s cultural activities
- Classical music and dance
- Community meals
- Food and charity collections
- Eco-friendly symbolic Visarjan

Community programmes may take place on a nearby weekend for greater participation. Families may perform their personal Puja according to the local Panchang and attend the community programme separately.

How to Perform Eco-Friendly Visarjan Abroad

Public immersion is controlled or prohibited in many locations. Follow the regulations of your local council, municipality, temple and housing community.

A practical home method is:

1. Use a small natural-clay idol.
2. Perform Uttar Puja and Aarti.
3. Place the idol in a clean bucket or large container of water.

4. Allow it to dissolve naturally.
5. Use the settled clay in a flowerpot or garden, where permitted.
6. Do not pour decorated water into storm drains.

Reusable metal, stone or wooden idols should not be immersed. Perform a symbolic Visarjan by sprinkling water and returning the idol to the home altar.

Ganesh Visarjan Prayer

0 Lord Ganesha, thank you for entering our home and accepting our worship. Please forgive our mistakes, bless our family and return again with auspiciousness.

Ganpati Bappa Morya! Come again next year!

Why Is Moon Sighting Avoided?

According to a traditional story, Chandra mocked Lord Ganesha and was cursed. The belief associated with the story states that viewing the Moon while the relevant Chaturthi conditions prevail may bring Mithya Dosha, symbolically connected with false accusation.

The Moon-avoidance period differs by city and should not be copied from Indian timings. Devotees wishing to follow this practice should use their own city's Panchang.

When the Moon is accidentally seen, the following traditional mantra may be recited:

**Simhah Prasenam Avadhith Simho Jambavata Hatah.
Sukumaraka Ma Rodis Tava Hyesha Syamantakah.**

This practice is based on devotional and Puranic tradition.

What to Do on Ganesh Chaturthi

- Use the local date and Puja Muhurat.
- Keep the altar clean and peaceful.
- Offer fresh flowers, fruit and Sattvic food.
- Include children in age-appropriate activities.
- Read a Ganesha story or Stotra.
- Support a community or charitable cause.
- Respect local safety and environmental rules.
- Share Prasad responsibly.

What to Avoid

- Do not convert Indian Muhurat directly into your time zone.
- Do not immerse idols in public water without permission.
- Avoid plaster idols and harmful chemical paints.
- Do not leave a burning lamp or incense unattended.
- Avoid excessive noise in residential areas.
- Do not waste food or Puja materials.
- Do not use unknown local grass as a replacement for Durva.
- Do not pour Puja waste into storm drains or public fountains.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When is Ganesh Chaturthi 2026 in the United States?

It is on Monday, September 14, 2026, in New York and Los Angeles.

2. When is Ganesh Chaturthi 2026 in the

United Kingdom?

It is on Monday, September 14, 2026, in London.

3. When is Ganesh Chaturthi 2026 in Canada?

It is on Monday, September 14, 2026, in Toronto and Vancouver.

4. When is Ganesh Chaturthi 2026 in Australia?

It is on September 15 in Sydney and September 14 in Melbourne.

5. What is the New York Puja Muhurat?

11:36 AM to 2:06 PM local time.

6. What is the London Puja Muhurat?

11:39 AM to 2:12 PM local time.

7. What is the Toronto Puja Muhurat?

11:58 AM to 2:28 PM local time.

8. What is the Sydney Puja Muhurat?

10:40 AM to 12:14 PM on September 15.

9. Can I perform Ganesh Puja without Durva?

Yes. Offer a fresh flower or Akshata when Durva is unavailable.

10. Can I use a picture instead of an idol?

Yes. A simple Puja may be performed before a clean picture of Lord Ganesha.

11. Is home Visarjan allowed?

Yes, a small natural-clay idol may be dissolved in a clean household container.

12. What is the main Ganesh mantra?

“Om Gam Ganapataye Namah.”

Conclusion

Ganesh Chaturthi is a celebration of wisdom, disciplined effort, humility, family unity and meaningful new beginnings.

For devotees living in the USA, UK, Canada and Australia, using a location-based date and Puja Muhurat is important. The festival may be adapted to local homes, work schedules, available ingredients and environmental rules without losing its spiritual purpose.

Whether the Puja is elaborate or simple, its deeper intention remains the same: to remove ignorance, make thoughtful decisions and begin every important action with humility.

O Lord Ganesha, grant us clear judgement, patience during difficulties and the courage to act with honesty and wisdom.

Ganpati Bappa Morya! Mangal Murti Morya!