

ACVA Newsletter 2025-06 – Holy Days



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Guru Purnima

Guru Purnima will be observed around the world on July 10, 2025. This Vedic holy day occurs annually on the first full moon after summer solstice in the *Ashadha* lunar month, which will extend from June 25 to July 24 this year. *Guru Purnima* is the most auspicious full moon of the year. It is a time when the whole world becomes more receptive to divine grace and celestial boons.



Guru Purnima occurs at the full moon in Sagittarius, the sign of knowledge and wisdom which is ruled by Jupiter, who is known as *Guru* in Vedic astrology. The Sanskrit term “Guru” broadly means teacher, but more specifically refers to one who sheds light and removes ignorance.

“Purnima” is the term for full moon, so *Guru Purnima* is the full moon of the Guru, or the full moon that dispels darkness.

Guru Purnima honors Veda Vyāsa, the legendary *rishi* and author of the *Vedas*, the *Mahabharata*, and the *Puranas*, some of the most important works within the Vedic tradition. Also known as *Vyāsa Purnima*, *Guru Purnima* commemorates Veda Vyāsa’s birth as well as the day when he organized and divided the *Vedas* into four parts. Lord Ganesha is also honored on this day because he is the true embodiment of wisdom and was also Veda Vyāsa’s scribe.



On *Guru Purnima*, it is customary to show appreciation to our preceptors, those who help to illuminate our paths, dispel the darkness within, and guide us toward enlightenment. This is a wonderful occasion for spiritual contemplation and celebration. It is also considered a favorable day on which to begin a new spiritual, educational, or healing practice. Devotees traditionally make sacred offerings of food to the needy (*annadanam*), or sponsor *pujas* (or *yagyas*) which include charitable giving.

Guru Purnima is really something to look forward to, and to make use of, both in our spiritual practices and in regard to our efforts in the world. May it be a peaceful and fruitful time for all beings everywhere.

May all be blessed!

