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| **THE TRIMURTI (Hindu Trinity):** | | **SHAKTIS (female aspects):** | |
| [Hindu god Brahma](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/brahma.html)  Click photo to enlarge | **Brahma**  **The Creator**  Vehicle: swan  Has 4 heads, 4 arms, and a reddish complexion  Not commonly worshipped  Not to be confused with Brahman (the ground of all being) or the Brahmin (priestly caste) | **Saraswati**  **Goddess of knowledge, music, and the arts**  Vehicle: swan  Wife of Brahma  Sits on a white lotus playing a veena | [Hindu goddess Saraswati](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/saraswati.html)  Click photo to enlarge |
| [Hindu god Vishnu](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/vishnu.html)  Click photo to enlarge | **Vishnu**  **The Preserver**  Vehicle: garuda (bird)  Has 4 arms, a blueish complexion, and rests on a snake  Was incarnated (born as an animal or human) nine times with one more still to come  Is the main god of **Vaishnavism** | **Lakshmi**  **Goddess of wealth and prosperity**  Vehicle: owl  Wife of Vishnu  Usually shown bestowing coins and flanked by elephants | [Hindu goddess Lakshmi](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/lakshmi.html)  Click photo to enlarge |
| [Hindu god Shiva](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/shiva.html)  Click photo to enlarge | **Shiva**  **The Destroyer / Transformer**  Vehicle: bull  Has matted hair, a third eye, a blue throat and a trident in his hand  Often worshipped in the featureless lingam form  Is the main god of **Saivism** | **Parvati**  **The Divine Mother**  Vehicle: lion  The reincarnation of Shiva's first wife  Has many forms, such as the popular Durga and Kali (see below); often shown together with Saraswati and Lakshmi as the **tridevi** ('triple goddess') | [Hindu goddess Parvati](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/parvati.html)  Click photo to enlarge |

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| **OTHER POPULAR HINDU GODS** | | | |
| [Hindu god Ganesh](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/ganesh.html)  Click photo to enlarge | **Ganesh**  **God of the intellect and the remover of obstacles**  Vehicle: mouse  Son of Shiva & Parvati  Has an elephant's head | **Murugan**  **God of war**  Vehicle: peacock  Son of Shiva & Parvati  Popular in Tamil areas  Also known as Skanda | [Hindu god Murugan](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/murugan.html)  Click photo to enlarge |
| [Hindu goddess Durga](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/durga.html)  Click photo to enlarge | **Durga**  A fiercer form of Parvati  Vehicle: tiger  Has ten arms holding many weapons | **Kali**  **Goddess of time and death**  Vehicle: donkey  Usually portrayed as dark and violent | [Hindu goddess Kali](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/kali.html)  Click photo to enlarge |
| [Hindu god Rama](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/rama.html)  Click photo to enlarge | **Rama**  **The 7th avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu**  The central figure in the epic story*Ramayana* | **Krishna**  **The 8th avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu**  Asually portrayed as a child and a prankster; often shown playing the flute | [Hindu god Krishna](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/krishna.html)  Click photo to enlarge |
| [Hindu god Hanuman](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/hanuman.html)  Click photo to enlarge | **Hanuman**  An ape-like god known for assisting Rama | **Surya**  **God of the Sun**  Pulled on a chariot by horses | [Hindu god Hanuman](http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/hinduism/surya.html)  Click photo to enlarge |