

# Hinduism

**Mandir** The Hindu place of worship.

**Brahman** The Hindu God and life force that is present in everything. The different Hindu Gods are all expressions of Brahman.

**Brahma** One of the Trimurti, Brahma the creator, is a Hindu god who created the world and all living things on it.

**Trimurti** The Trimurti, three forms, are the three aspects of Brahman: Vishnu, Shiva and Brahma. Often depicted in statues as one person with three faces

**Vishnu** The Hindu god responsible for protecting and preserving the universe.

**Shiva** A part of the Trimurti, Shiva is the Hindu god of destruction.

**Tridevi** The Tridevi is the joining of the three Hindu goddesses Saraswati, Lakshmi and Parvati.

**Saraswati** She is the Hindu goddess of knowledge and the arts and consort of Brahma the creator.

**Lakshmi** She is the Hindu goddess of wealth and purity and the consort of Vishnu.

**Shakti** Shakti is honoured as the mother goddess, a universal source of energy, power and creativity.

**Ganesh** The son of Shiva and Parvati, Ganesh is depicted as having a head of an elephant and a human body and gives good fortune and wisdom.

**Hanuman** He is the symbol of strength and energy. A devotee of Lord Rama, who fought with him against the demon king, Ravana

**Reincarnation** In Hinduism, it is believed that life is a cycle of birth, death and rebirth. The rebirth doesn't have to be in human form and could be an animal or plant.

**Moksha** Leaving the cycle of birth and rebirth to become one with the God.

**Karma** The belief that for every action there is a consequence. In Hinduism, Karma is the belief that the actions performed in this life will effect what happens to you in the next life.

**Dharma** Duty, religion, virtue and morality, Dharma is what is expected of each individual to uphold order - it is the 'right way of living'.

**Atman** Atman means 'eternal self' and it is the belief that there is a part of Brahma in everyone.

**Puja** The Hindu act of worship (often undertaken at home), where shrines of gods are offered food, treated as guests and prayed to

**Murti** A statue of a god or goddess.

**Diwali** The Hindu festival of lights is associated with many stories. The main one being a celebration of the return of Lord Rama after an exile of 14 years, where he killed the demon king Ravana.