



5 Facts to Know About: Hinduism in the United States

1. Hinduism is a major world religion that has approximately 3.2 million adherents in the United States and 1.15 billion worldwide.
2. The greatest increase of Hindus in the United States came after 1965 with the passing of the Immigration and Nationality Services Act which opened the borders to high-skilled workers.
3. American Hinduism is unique in that many groups accept converts and some have a missionary component. The question of conversion and intermarriage outside of the United States is very contested.
4. Hinduism has been described as a way of life more so than a religion. There is no one text all need to follow, or hierarchy/governing body, or god(s), or prophets. There is no demand for presence at temples or a specific way of prayer or ritual for all adherents. Specific groups tend to make their own requirements based on the needs of the community.
5. Hinduism became of interest to famous counter-culture icons such as Allen Ginsburg and George Harrison who brought it into the mainstream. Ideas like reincarnation and karma have been embraced by the many in the United States.

Learn more at:

<http://religion.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.001.0001/acrefore-9780199340378-e-436>

<http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/hindu/>

These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they will encourage you to explore this tradition more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. It is our firm belief that in understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity

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