

Both full and new moon days are observed as yoga holidays in the Ashtanga Yoga tradition. What is the reasoning behind this?

Like all things of a watery nature (human beings are about 70% water), we are affected by the phases of the moon. The phases of the moon are determined by the moon's relative position to the sun. Full moons occur when they are in opposition and new moons when they are in conjunction. Both sun and moon exert a gravitational pull on the earth. Their relative positions create different energetic experiences that can be compared to the breath cycle. The full moon energy corresponds to the end of inhalation when the force of prana is greatest. This is an expansive, upward moving force that makes us feel energetic and emotional, but not well grounded. The Upanishads state that the main prana lives in the head. During the full moon we tend to be more headstrong.

The new moon energy corresponds to the end of exhalation when the force of apana is greatest. Apana is a contracting, downward moving force that makes us feel calm and grounded, but dense and disinclined towards physical exertion.

The Farmers Almanac recommends planting seeds at the new moon when the rooting force is strongest and transplanting at the full moon when the flowering force is strongest.

Practicing Ashtanga Yoga over time makes us more attuned to natural cycles. Observing moon days is one way to recognize and honor the rhythms of nature so we can live in greater harmony with it.

	full	new
<b>2006</b>		
<b>December</b>		
Monday 4th	○	
Wednesday 20th		●
<b>2007</b>		
<b>January</b>		
Wednesday 3rd	○	
Thursday 18th		●
<b>February</b>		
Thursday 1st	○	
Saturday 17th		●
<b>March</b>		
Saturday 3rd	○	
Sunday 18th		●
<b>April</b>		
Monday 2nd	○	
Tuesday 17th		●
<b>May</b>		
Wednesday 2nd	○	
Wednesday 16th		●
Thursday 31st	○	
<b>June</b>		
Thursday 14th		●
Saturday 30th	○	
<b>July</b>		
Saturday 14th		●
Sunday 29th	○	
<b>August</b>		
Sunday 12th		●
Tuesday 28th	○	
<b>September</b>		
Tuesday 11th		●
Wednesday 26th	○	
<b>October</b>		
Wednesday 10th		●
Thursday 25th	○	
<b>November</b>		
Friday 9th		●
Saturday 24th	○	
<b>December</b>		
Sunday 9th		●
Sunday 23rd	○	