



Surya Namaskar or Sun Salutation is a sequence of 12 powerful yoga poses. Besides being a great cardiovascular workout, Surya Namaskar is also known to have an immensely positive impact on the body and mind.

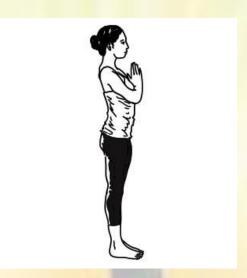
Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutation)



How to do?

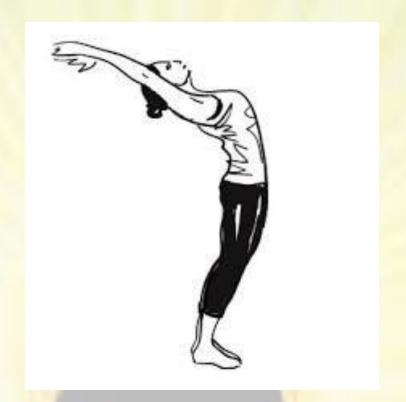
Surya Namaskar is best done early morning on an empty stomach. Each round of Sun Salutation consists of two sets, and each set is composed of 12 yoga poses. You might find several versions on how to practice Sun Salutation. However, it is advisable to stick to one particular version and practice it regularly for best results.

Step 1. Pranamasana (Prayer pose)



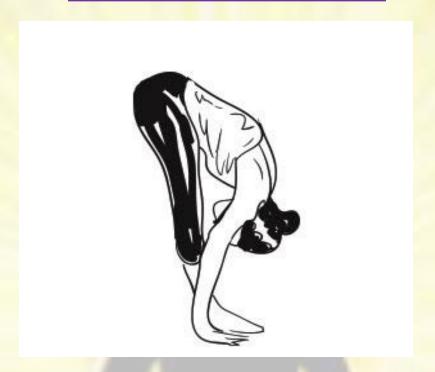
 Stand at the edge of your mat, keep your feet together and balance your weight equally on both the feet. Expand your chest and relax your shoulders. As you breathe in, lift both arms up from the sides, and as you exhale, bring your palms together in front of the chest in prayer position.

Step 2. <u>Hastauttanasana (Raised arms pose)</u>



 Breathing in, lift the arms up and back, keeping the biceps close to the ears. In this pose, the effort is to stretch the whole body up from the heels to the tips of the fingers.

Step 3. <u>Hastapadasana (Standing</u> forward bend)



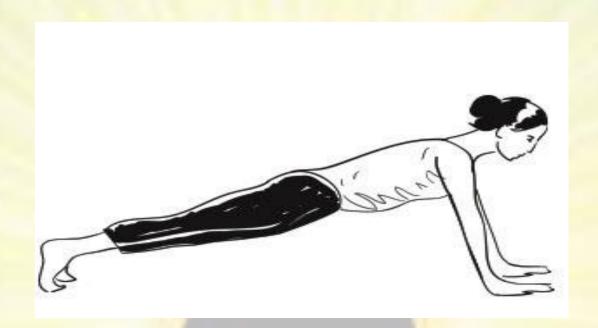
 Breathing out, bend forward from the waist keeping the spine erect. As you exhale completely, bring the hands down to the floor beside the feet.

Step 4. <u>Ashwa Sanchalanasana</u> (<u>Equestrian pose</u>)



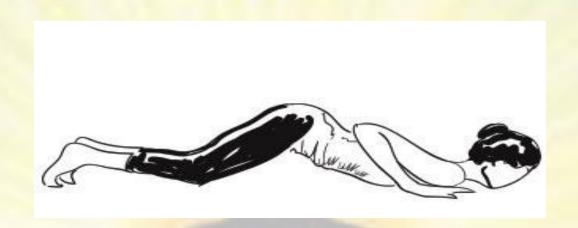
 Breathing in, push your right leg back, as far back as possible. Bring the right knee to the floor and look up.

Step 5. Dandasana (Stick pose)



 As you breathe in, take the left leg back and bring the whole body in a straight line.

Step 6. <u>Ashtanga Namaskara (Salute</u> with eight parts or points)



 Gently bring your knees down to the floor and exhale. Take the hips back slightly, slide forward, rest your chest and chin on the floor. Raise your posterior a little bit. The two hands, two feet, two knees, chest and chin (eight parts of the body) should touch the floor.

Step 7. Bhujangasana (Cobra pose)



 Slide forward and raise the chest up into the Cobra pose. You may keep your elbows bent in this pose with the shoulders away from the ears. Look up at the ceiling.

Step 8. Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward facing dog pose)



 Breathing out, lift the hips and the tailbone up to bring the body into an inverted 'V' pose.

Step 9. <u>Ashwa Sanchalanasana</u> (<u>Equestrian pose</u>)



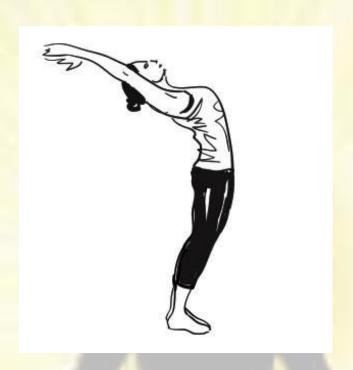
 Breathing in, bring the right foot forward in between the two hands. The left knee goes down on the floor. Press the hips down and lookup.

Step 10. <u>Hastapadasana (Standing</u> forward bend)



Breathing out, bring the left foot forward.
Keep the palms on the floor. You may bend the knees, if necessary.

Step 11. <u>Hastauttanasana (Raised arms pose)</u>



 Breathing in, roll the spine up. Raise the hands up and bend backward a little bit, pushing the hips slightly outward.

Step 12. Tadasana (Prayer Pose)



As you exhale, first straighten the body, then bring the arms down. Relax in this position and observe the sensations in your body.

This completes one set of Surya Namaskar.



Complete the round by repeating the steps. Only this time, start with taking the left foot behind in step number 4 and bringing the right foot forward in step number 10. Once done, you would've completed one round of Surya Namaskar.

Incredible benefits of Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutation)

- Helps maintain cardiovascular health
- Stimulates the nervous system
- Helps in stretching, flexing and toning the muscles
- An excellent exercise for weight loss management
- Strengthens the immune system
- Enhances cognitive functions
- Improves overall health, strengthens the body and relaxes the mind

