PHP Date/Time Introduction

The date/time functions allow you to get the date and time from the server where your PHP script runs. You can then use the date/time functions to format the date and time in several ways.

**Note:** These functions depend on the locale settings of your server. Remember to take daylight saving time and leap years into consideration when working with these functions.

Installation

The PHP date/time functions are part of the PHP core. No installation is required to use these functions.

Runtime Configuration

The behavior of these functions is affected by settings in php.ini:

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| **Name** | **Description** | **Default** | **PHP Version** |
| date.timezone | The default timezone (used by all date/time functions) | "" | PHP 5.1 |
| date.default\_latitude | The default latitude (used by date\_sunrise() and date\_sunset()) | "31.7667" | PHP 5.0 |
| date.default\_longitude | The default longitude (used by date\_sunrise() and date\_sunset()) | "35.2333" | PHP 5.0 |
| date.sunrise\_zenith | The default sunrise zenith (used by date\_sunrise() and date\_sunset()) | "90.83" | PHP 5.0 |
| date.sunset\_zenith | The default sunset zenith (used by date\_sunrise() and date\_sunset()) | "90.83" | PHP 5.0 |

PHP 5 Date/Time Functions

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| **Function** | **Description** |
| [checkdate()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_checkdate.asp) | Validates a Gregorian date |
| [date\_add()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_date_add.asp) | Adds days, months, years, hours, minutes, and seconds to a date |
| [date\_create\_from\_format()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_create_from_format.asp) | Returns a new DateTime object formatted according to a specified format |
| [date\_create()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_date_create.asp) | Returns a new DateTime object |
| [date\_date\_set()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_date_set.asp) | Sets a new date |
| [date\_default\_timezone\_get()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_default_timezone_get.asp) | Returns the default timezone used by all date/time functions |
| [date\_default\_timezone\_set()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_default_timezone_set.asp) | Sets the default timezone used by all date/time functions |
| [date\_diff()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_date_diff.asp) | Returns the difference between two dates |
| [date\_format()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_date_format.asp) | Returns a date formatted according to a specified format |
| [date\_get\_last\_errors()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_get_last_errors.asp) | Returns the warnings/errors found in a date string |
| date\_interval\_create\_from\_date\_string() | Sets up a DateInterval from the relative parts of the string |
| [date\_interval\_format()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_interval_format.asp) | Formats the interval |
| [date\_isodate\_set()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_isodate_set.asp) | Sets the ISO date |
| [date\_modify()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_modify.asp) | Modifies the timestamp |
| [date\_offset\_get()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_offset_get.asp) | Returns the timezone offset |
| [date\_parse\_from\_format()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_parse_from_format.asp) | Returns an associative array with detailed info about a specified date, according to a specified format |
| [date\_parse()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_date_parse.asp) | Returns an associative array with detailed info about a specified date |
| [date\_sub()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_date_sub.asp) | Subtracts days, months, years, hours, minutes, and seconds from a date |
| [date\_sun\_info()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_sun_info.asp) | Returns an array containing info about sunset/sunrise and twilight begin/end, for a specified day and location |
| [date\_sunrise()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_sunrise2.asp) | Returns the sunrise time for a specified day and location |
| [date\_sunset()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_sunset.asp) | Returns the sunset time for a specified day and location |
| [date\_time\_set()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_time_set.asp) | Sets the time |
| [date\_timestamp\_get()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timestamp_get.asp) | Returns the Unix timestamp |
| [date\_timestamp\_set()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timestamp_set.asp) | Sets the date and time based on a Unix timestamp |
| [date\_timezone\_get()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_get.asp) | Returns the time zone of the given DateTime object |
| [date\_timezone\_set()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_set.asp) | Sets the time zone for the DateTime object |
| [date()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_date.asp) | Formats a local date and time |
| [getdate()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_getdate.asp) | Returns date/time information of a timestamp or the current local date/time |
| [gettimeofday()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_gettimeofday.asp) | Returns the current time |
| [gmdate()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_gmdate.asp) | Formats a GMT/UTC date and time |
| [gmmktime()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_gmmktime.asp) | Returns the Unix timestamp for a GMT date |
| [gmstrftime()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_gmstrftime.asp) | Formats a GMT/UTC date and time according to locale settings |
| [idate()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_idate.asp) | Formats a local time/date as integer |
| [localtime()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_localtime.asp) | Returns the local time |
| [microtime()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_microtime.asp) | Returns the current Unix timestamp with microseconds |
| [mktime()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_mktime.asp) | Returns the Unix timestamp for a date |
| [strftime()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_strftime.asp) | Formats a local time and/or date according to locale settings |
| [strptime()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_strptime.asp) | Parses a time/date generated with strftime() |
| [strtotime()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_strtotime.asp) | Parses an English textual datetime into a Unix timestamp |
| [time()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_time.asp) | Returns the current time as a Unix timestamp |
| [timezone\_abbreviations\_list()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_abbreviations_list.asp) | Returns an associative array containing dst, offset, and the timezone name |
| [timezone\_identifiers\_list()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_identifiers_list.asp) | Returns an indexed array with all timezone identifiers |
| [timezone\_location\_get()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_location_get.asp) | Returns location information for a specified timezone |
| [timezone\_name\_from\_ abbr()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_name_from_abbr.asp) | Returns the timezone name from abbreviation |
| [timezone\_name\_get()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_name_get.asp) | Returns the name of the timezone |
| [timezone\_offset\_get()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_offset_get.asp) | Returns the timezone offset from GMT |
| [timezone\_open()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_open.asp) | Creates new DateTimeZone object |
| timezone\_transitions\_get() | Returns all transitions for the timezone |
| [timezone\_version\_get()](http://www.w3schools.com/php/func_date_timezone_version_get.asp) | Returns the version of the timezone db |

PHP 5 Predefined Date/Time Constants

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| **Constant** | **Description** |
| DATE\_ATOM | Atom (example: 2005-08-15T16:13:03+0000) |
| DATE\_COOKIE | HTTP Cookies (example: Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 UTC) |
| DATE\_ISO8601 | ISO-8601 (example: 2005-08-14T16:13:03+0000) |
| DATE\_RFC822 | RFC 822 (example: Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 UTC) |
| DATE\_RFC850 | RFC 850 (example: Sunday, 14-Aug-05 16:13:03 UTC) |
| DATE\_RFC1036 | RFC 1036 (example: Sunday, 14-Aug-05 16:13:03 UTC) |
| DATE\_RFC1123 | RFC 1123 (example: Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 UTC) |
| DATE\_RFC2822 | RFC 2822 (Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 +0000) |
| DATE\_RSS | RSS (Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 UTC) |
| DATE\_W3C | World Wide Web Consortium (example: 2005-08-14T16:13:03+0000) |