

January

January (Jan.) is the first [month](#) of the [year](#) in the [Julian](#) and [Gregorian calendars](#), coming between [December](#) (of the previous year) and [February](#) (of the current year). It has 31 [days](#).

January begins on the same day of the week as [October](#) in [common years](#), and [April](#) and [July](#) in [leap years](#). January ends on the same day of the week as [February](#) and [October](#) in [common years](#), and [July](#) in [leap years](#).

<<	January						>>
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

The Month

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[Snow](#) in January in the [Northern Hemisphere](#), where it is a [winter](#) month.

January is named for [Janus](#), the [Roman god](#) of [doors](#) and [gates](#).

January and [February](#) were put on the [calendar](#) after all the other months. This is because in the original Roman calendar, [winter](#) did not have months. Although [March](#) was originally the first month, January became the new first month because that was when people chose the new [consuls](#) (Roman leaders). The month has 31 days.

January is a [winter](#) month in the [Northern Hemisphere](#) and a [summer](#) month in the [Southern Hemisphere](#). In each [hemisphere](#), it is the seasonal equivalent of [July](#) in the other. [Perihelion](#), the point in its orbit where the [Earth](#) is closest to the [Sun](#), also occurs in this month, between [January 2](#) and [January 5](#). January is the only month of the year that always has a "twin" - a month that both begins and ends on the same day of the week as it does. In a common year, this is [October](#), and in a leap year, [July](#).

January begins on the same day of the week as [October](#) in [common years](#) and on the same day of the week as [April](#) and [July](#) in [leap years](#). January ends on the same day of the week as [February](#) and [October](#) in [common years](#) and on the same day of the week as [July](#) in [leap years](#).

Every year, January both starts and finishes on the same day of the week as [May](#) of the previous year, as each other's first and last days are exactly 35 weeks (245 days) apart.

In common years immediately before other common years, January starts on the same day of the week as April and July of the following year, and in leap years and years immediately before that, September and December of the following year. In common years immediately before other common years, January finishes on the same day of the week as July of the following year,

and in leap years and years immediately before that, April and December of the following year.

January's flower is the [carnation](#) with its [birthstone](#) being the [garnet](#).

The first day of January is called [New Year's Day](#). It is said that it became this date when Roman consuls took office on this day in [153 BC](#). Different calendars across [Europe](#) made this the start of the New Year at different times, as some observed it on [March 25](#).

Reaching over from [December](#), the [Christmas](#) season in [Christianity](#) also extends into this month. Eastern [churches](#) celebrate [Christmas](#) on [January 6](#) or [January 7](#), and [Epiphany](#) on [January 18](#) or [January 19](#) - In Western Christianity this occurs on [January 6](#), with [Christmas](#) occurring on [December 25](#).

January 1 is celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, that is a feast day of precept of the [Blessed Virgin Mary](#).^[1]

Events

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Fixed Events

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Winter scene in [Tallinn](#), [Estonia](#) on [New Year's Day 2010](#).

The Three Kings, or [Magi](#), who are commemorated on [January 6](#) in Western Christianity and [January 19](#) in Eastern Christianity.

Traditional [Burns Night](#) supper, traditionally eaten in [Scotland](#) and Scottish communities on [January 25](#).

[Australia Day](#) celebration in [Sydney](#) on [January 26, 2004](#).

- [January 1](#) - [New Year's Day](#)
- [January 1](#) - Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
- [January 1](#) - World Day of Peace
- [January 1](#) - Founding Day ([Republic of China](#))
- [January 1](#) - Independence Day in [Brunei](#), [Haiti](#) and [Sudan](#)
- [January 1](#) - Triumph of the Revolution ([Cuba](#))
- [January 1](#) - [Constitution](#) Day ([Italy](#))
- [January 2](#) - [New Year's Day](#) Bank Holiday ([Scotland](#))
- [January 2](#) - Ancestry Day ([Haiti](#))
- [January 2](#) - Berchtold's Day ([Switzerland](#), [Liechtenstein](#), [Alsace](#))
- [January 3](#) - Statehood Day ([Alaska](#))
- [January 4](#) - Independence Day ([Burma](#))
- [January 4](#) - Day of the Fallen Against Colonial Repression ([Angola](#))
- [January 4](#) - Day of the Martyrs ([Democratic Republic of the Congo](#))
- [January 5](#) - Twelfth Night in Western [Christianity](#) - night to [January 6](#)

- [January 6](#) - [Epiphany](#) in Western Christianity.
- [January 6](#) - [Christmas](#) in the [Armenian](#) Apostolic Church
- [January 7](#) - [Christmas](#) in Eastern Orthodox Christianity.
- [January 7](#) - Tricolour Day ([Italy](#))
- [January 7](#) - Victory from Genocide Day ([Cambodia](#))
- [January 8](#) - Commonwealth Day ([Northern Mariana Islands](#))
- [January 8](#) - Celebration of [Elvis Presley's birthday](#) at [Graceland](#)
- [January 8](#) - [Kim Jong-un's birthday](#) ([North Korea](#))
- [January 9](#) - Martyrs' Day ([Panama](#))
- [January 11](#) - Kagami Biraki ([Japan](#))
- [January 11](#) - Republic Day ([Albania](#))
- [January 11](#) - Day of National Unity ([Nepal](#))
- [January 12](#) - Memorial Day ([Turkmenistan](#))
- [January 12](#) - National Youth Day ([India](#))
- [January 12](#) - [Zanzibar](#) Revolution Day ([Tanzania](#))
- [January 13](#) - [Korean](#) American Day
- [January 13](#) - Old New Year (parts of [Eastern Europe](#))
- [January 13](#) - St. Knut's Day ([Norway](#), [Finland](#), [Sweden](#))
- [January 14](#) - [New Year's Day](#) (Eastern Orthodox Church)
- [January 14](#) - National Flag Day in [Georgia](#)
- [January 14](#) - National Forest Conservation Day ([Thailand](#))
- [January 15](#) - Armed Forces Day ([Nigeria](#))
- [January 15](#) - Army Day ([India](#))
- [January 15](#) - Tree Planting Day ([Egypt](#))
- [January 16](#) - Teacher's Day ([Thailand](#))
- [January 16](#) - Flag Day ([Israel](#))
- [January 17](#) - Roman Catholic feast day of St. Anthony
- [January 18](#) - Royal [Thai](#) Armed Forces Day
- [January 18](#) - Revolution Day ([Tunisia](#))
- [January 18](#) - World [Religion](#) Day
- [January 19](#) - [Epiphany](#) in Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- [January 20](#) - Armed Forces Day ([Mali](#))
- [January 20](#) - Martyrs' Day ([Azerbaijan](#))
- [January 20](#) - [Inauguration Day](#) ([United States](#)) - newly elected US president takes office in a year after a [leap year](#) (last in [2021](#), next in [2025](#))
- [January 21](#) - Flag Day ([Quebec](#))
- [January 21](#) - Christian feast day of St. Agnes.
- [January 22](#) - [Wellington](#) Anniversary ([New Zealand](#))
- [January 22](#) - Reunion Day ([Ukraine](#))
- [January 23](#) - National [Pie](#) Day ([United States](#))
- [January 23](#) - Bounty Day ([Pitcairn Island](#))
- [January 24](#) - Feast Day of Our Lady of Peace ([Roman Catholicism](#))
- [January 24](#) - Unification Day ([Romania](#))
- [January 25](#) - [Burns Night](#) ([Scotland](#) and Scottish communities), celebrating the birthday of Scottish [poet Robert Burns](#)
- [January 25](#) - Dydd Santes Dwynwen ([Welsh](#) equivalent of [Valentine's Day](#))
- [January 25](#) - National Voters Day ([India](#))
- [January 25](#) - Tatiana Day ([Russia](#))
- [January 26](#) - [Australia Day](#)
- [January 26](#) - Republic Day ([India](#))

- [January 26](#) - Duarte Day ([Dominican Republic](#))
- [January 26](#) - Liberation Day ([Uganda](#))
- [January 27](#) - [Holocaust](#) Memorial Day
- [January 28](#) - Army Day ([Armenia](#))
- [January 28](#) - [EU](#) Data Privacy Day
- [January 28](#) - Unofficial day commemorating [Charlemagne](#) by some Christians
- [January 30](#) - Martyrs' Day ([India](#))
- [January 30](#) - School Day of Non-Violence and Peace ([Spain](#))
- [January 31](#) - Independence Day ([Nauru](#))

Month-long or Moveable Events

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[Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) is commemorated in the [United States](#) on the Third Monday in January.

- Coming of Age Day ([Japan](#)), second [Monday](#) in January
- [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) ([United States](#)), third Monday in January, commemorating [civil rights](#) activist [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), who was born on [January 15](#).
- [Chinese New Year](#) (between [January 21](#) and [February 21](#))
- [Australian Open](#) - One of the major Grand Slam [tennis](#) tournaments. Starts between [January 13](#) and [January 19](#), ends between [January 26](#) and [February 1](#).
- [Auckland Anniversary](#) ([New Zealand](#)) on a Monday between [January 26](#) and [February 1](#).
- [Weight Loss Awareness Month](#) ([United States](#))
- [National Mentoring Month](#) ([United States](#))

Selection of Historical Events

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The [Euro](#) currency came into use in twelve [EU](#) member states on [January 1, 2002](#).

Photo Montage of the [Galilean moons](#), discovered on [January 7, 1610](#).

Landing force preparing to overthrow [Hawaii](#)'s monarchy on [January 17, 1893](#).

The [planet Uranus](#), photographed by [Voyager 2](#) on [January 24, 1986](#).

The [Space Shuttle Challenger](#) disaster occurred on [January 28, 1986](#).

- [January 1, 153 BC](#) - [Roman](#) consuls are said to have taken office on this day for the first time.

- [January 1, 1801](#) - The [United Kingdom](#) is created, with the inclusion of [Ireland](#).
- [January 1, 1804](#) - [Haiti](#) becomes the second independent country in the Americas, after the [US](#).
- [January 1, 1901](#) - [Australia](#) is given self-government.
- [January 1, 1956](#) - [Sudan](#) becomes independent.
- [January 1, 1959](#) - [Fidel Castro](#) takes over in [Cuba](#).
- [January 1, 1962](#) - [Samoa](#) becomes independent.
- [January 1, 1984](#) - [Brunei](#) becomes independent.
- [January 1, 2002](#) - The [Euro](#) currency comes into use in 12 [EU](#) countries.
- [January 2, 1492](#) - Spanish [Reconquista](#): [Granada](#), the last [Moorish](#) stronghold, surrenders.
- [January 3, 1868](#) - [Meiji Restoration](#) in [Japan](#).
- [January 3, 1959](#) - [Alaska](#) becomes the 49th [US](#) State.
- [January 4, 1948](#) - [Burma](#) becomes independent.
- [January 4, 2010](#) - The world's tallest building, the [Burj Khalifa](#) in [Dubai](#), opens.
- [January 5, 1066](#) - [Edward the Confessor](#), [King](#) of [England](#), dies.
- [January 6, 1066](#) - [Harold Godwinson](#) is crowned [King](#) of [England](#).
- [January 7, 1610](#) - [Galileo Galilei](#) discovers [Jupiter](#)'s four [Galilean moons](#) - [Io](#), [Callisto](#), [Ganymede](#) and [Europa](#).
- [January 7, 1979](#) - The [Khmer Rouge](#) in [Cambodia](#) is overthrown by [Vietnamese](#) troops.
- [January 7, 1989](#) - [Japanese Emperor Hirohito](#) dies, aged 87.
- [January 7, 2015](#) - [Charlie Hebdo shooting](#) in [Paris](#).
- [January 8, 1642](#) - [Galileo Galilei](#) dies.
- [January 8, 1912](#) - The [African National Congress](#) is founded.
- [January 8, 1935](#) - [Elvis Presley](#) is born.
- [January 10, 1863](#) - The first section of the [London Underground](#) opens.
- [January 12, 2010](#) - The [2010 Haiti earthquake](#) causes many deaths and destruction across [Haiti](#).
- [January 13, 1915](#) - The [Avezzano earthquake](#) in [Italy](#) kills 29,800 people.
- [January 13, 1935](#) - Most voters in [Saarland](#) choose to be part of [Germany](#).
- [January 14, 1954](#) - [Marilyn Monroe](#) marries [Joe DiMaggio](#).
- [January 14, 1972](#) - [Margrethe II of Denmark](#) becomes the first Danish Queen since [1412](#).
- [January 15, 1929](#) - Civil rights leader [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) is born in [Atlanta, Georgia, US](#).
- [January 15, 2001](#) - [Wikipedia](#) goes online.
- [January 15, 2009](#) - [US Airways Flight 1549](#) is safely landed on the [Hudson River](#) in [New York City](#) by [Chesley Sullenberger](#), after experiencing difficulties shortly after take-off.
- [January 16, 2006](#) - [Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf](#) of [Liberia](#) becomes the first female [President](#) in [Africa](#).
- [January 17, 1893](#) - American and European [sugar](#) planters overthrow the government of Queen [Liliuokalani](#) of [Hawaii](#).
- [January 17, 1912](#) - [Robert Falcon Scott](#)'s expedition reaches the [South Pole](#) over a month after that of [Roald Amundsen](#).
- [January 17, 1991](#) - [Operation Desert Storm](#) in the [Gulf War](#).

- [January 17, 1995](#) - The Great Hanshin [earthquake](#) strikes [Japan](#), mainly the city of [Kobe](#), killing over 6,000 people.
- [January 18, 1778](#) - [James Cook](#) reaches the [Hawaiian](#) Islands.
- [January 20, 1936](#) - King [George V of the United Kingdom](#) dies, leaving the throne to [Edward VIII of the United Kingdom](#), who lasts less than 11 months in the post.
- [January 20, 2009](#) - [Barack Obama](#) becomes the first [African American President of the United States](#).
- [January 21, 1793](#) - King [Louis XVI of France](#) is executed by [guillotine](#).
- [January 22, 1901](#) - [Queen Victoria](#) dies aged 81, ending Britain's Victorian Era.
- [January 22, 1968](#) - [Apollo 5](#) lifts off, carrying the first [lunar](#) module.
- [January 23, 1960](#) - In the Bathyscaphe *Trieste*, Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh, dive to the deepest point of the [Pacific Ocean](#), the [Challenger Deep](#) in the [Mariana Trench](#).
- [January 24, 41](#) - Roman Emperor [Caligula](#) is assassinated by the Praetorian Guard.
- [January 24, 1965](#) - British [statesman Winston Churchill](#) dies.
- [January 24, 1986](#) - [Voyager 2](#) flies by the [planet Uranus](#).
- [January 25, 1919](#) - The [League of Nations](#) is founded.
- [January 25, 2011](#) - The [2011 Egyptian protests](#) begin.
- [January 26, 1788](#) - The first British fleet arrives in what is now [Sydney Harbour, Australia](#).
- [January 26, 1950](#) - [India](#) becomes a [Republic](#).
- [January 26, 2020](#) - [NBA](#) legend [Kobe Bryant](#), his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others are killed in a helicopter crash in [Calabasas, California](#).
- [January 27, 1945](#) - The [Red Army](#) liberates [Auschwitz](#).
- [January 27, 1967](#) - US [astronauts](#) Gus Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee are killed in a [fire](#) while testing the [Apollo 1](#) spacecraft.
- [January 28, 1897](#) - The [Criminal Tribes Act of 1871](#) was amended by the [British Raj](#) within [British India](#) respectively.
- [January 28, 1935](#) - [Iceland](#) becomes the first country to legalize [abortion](#).
- [January 28, 1986](#) - The [Space Shuttle Challenger](#) explodes shortly after take-off from [Cape Canaveral, Florida](#), killing all seven astronauts on board.
- [January 29, 1996](#) - [Venice's La Fenice opera](#) house is destroyed by [fire](#).
- [January 30, 1649](#) - King [Charles I of England](#) is executed.
- [January 30, 1933](#) - [Adolf Hitler](#) comes to power in [Germany](#).
- [January 30, 1948](#) - Indian independence and non-violence campaigner [Mahatma Gandhi](#) is shot dead by a Hindu extremist in [Delhi](#).
- [January 31, 1968](#) - [Nauru](#) becomes independent from [Australia](#).
- [January 31, 1990](#) - [Moscow's](#) first [McDonald's](#) restaurant opens.

Trivia

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Statue of the Roman God [Janus](#).

- January is named after the Roman God [Janus](#), who was the Roman God of [doors](#) and [gates](#).
- January and July are the only pair of 31-day month's that are exactly six months apart. In the English language, they are also the only pair of months to both begin and end with the same letters (J and Y respectively).
- The star signs for January are [Capricorn](#) ([December 22](#) to [January 20](#)) and [Aquarius](#) ([January 21](#) to [February 19](#)).
- It is the coldest month in the [Northern Hemisphere](#), and the warmest in the [Southern Hemisphere](#).
- It is one of three months in the [English language](#) to begin with "J", along with [June](#) and [July](#), but unlike the latter two, does not have a "U" as a second letter.

References

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1. [↑](#) "[Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God \(1 January 2018\) - Francis](#)". *w2.vatican.va*.

Months of the Year

January | [February](#) | [March](#) | [April](#) | [May](#) | [June](#) | [July](#) | [August](#) | [September](#) | [October](#) | [November](#) | [December](#)

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