

WORLD AGENDA 2017



Jan: Chinese around the world welcome the **Year of the Rooster**

JANUARY

1 **Donald J. Trump** will be inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States

2 The new UN Secretary-General, former Portuguese prime minister **Antonio Guterres**, takes office

3 Apple CEO **Steve Jobs** unveiled the original, game-changing, **iPhone** 10 years ago

FEBRUARY

4 Taiwan's parliament decides whether it will become the first Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage

5 **Lady Gaga** plays the half-time show at the **2017 Super Bowl**

6 The red carpet is rolled out for the **89th Academy Awards**

MARCH

7 China's **National People's Congress** will be closely analysed for clues to Beijing's military and economic ambitions

8 Dutch far-right leader **Geert Wilders** says he will pull the Netherlands out of the EU if his Freedom Party wins the General Election

9 Hong Kong elects a new Chief Executive. Pro-democracy activists fear the appointment will bring them no closer to the universal suffrage they seek

APRIL

10 NASA's **Cassini** spacecraft moves into the final phase of its exploration of Saturn with the first of 22 dives between the planet and its innermost ring

11 Cannabis lovers in Canada mark **National Weed Day** as the government edges closer to controversial legislation which would decriminalise the drug

12 A 10-year refit begins at Buckingham Palace, the London residence of **Queen Elizabeth II**

MAY

13 France votes in presidential elections, with one of the two run-off spots almost certainly reserved for **Marine Le Pen**, the National Front leader who wants to hold a "Frexit" referendum on EU membership

14 Iran holds presidential elections

15 Leaders of the **G7** nations meet in Taormina, Sicily

JUNE

16 50th anniversary of the **Six-Day War**, when Israel defeated Arab armies and began to occupy land beyond its borders

17 A ban on roaming charges for mobile phones comes into effect across the EU

18 The world's most famous yachting competition, the **America's Cup**, races to its finish line in Bermuda

JULY

19 A new British banknote, and global tributes, will mark 200 years since the death of English author **Jane Austen**

20 The summit of the 20 major world economies takes place in Hamburg

21 150 years ago, three British colonies amalgamated to form the federal **Dominion of Canada**

AUGUST

22 An impressive display of the new T-50 stealth fighter at the biennial **MAKS** air show outside Moscow, will give Russia the chance to show its disdain for Western sanctions

23 A solar eclipse will sweep across the U.S. from coast to coast, beginning in the Pacific northwest

24 Special events will commemorate the death 20 years ago of **Diana, Princess of Wales**. She was 36

SEPTEMBER

25 German chancellor **Angela Merkel** seeks to emulate her mentor, **Helmut Kohl**, by winning a fourth term as president

26 The **IOC** convenes in Lima to pick the city that will host the 2024 Olympic Games

27 Catalonia plans a second referendum on independence from Spain in a move likely to infuriate the central government in Madrid

OCTOBER

28 Britain's **Bloodhound** team will attempt to break the world land speed record of 1,228km/h in South Africa's Kalahari Desert

29 The iconic Marxist revolutionary **Ernesto "Che" Guevara** was killed 50 years ago

30 Events worldwide commemorate the 500th anniversary of the **Protestant Reformation**

NOVEMBER

31 Leaders of the 21 **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** nations gather in Da Nang, Vietnam

32 Russia marks the 100th anniversary of the 1917 revolution, which brought the Bolsheviks to power

33 Chile votes in presidential elections with scandal-hit President **Michelle Bachelet** making way for a new leader

DECEMBER

34 A vast, pristine area of the **Ross Sea** off the Antarctic coast comes under protection as the world's biggest marine reserve

35 **Dr Christiaan Barnard** performed the first heart transplant 50 years ago, in South Africa

36 **Star Wars: Episode VIII**, the latest installment in the Star Wars sequel trilogy, is released