

February 2026 is packed with diverse cultural festivals, major sporting events, and unique astronomical displays. In Australia, it's the peak of summer, bringing iconic celebrations, world-class performances, and unforgettable experiences across the country and around the globe.

Happy reading!

The Shortest Month of the Year

February is best known for having **28 days**, with a **29th day added during leap years** (every four years). This adjustment keeps our calendar aligned with Earth's orbit around the sun. Because of this, February is the only month that can pass without a full moon roughly every 19 years.

Historical Roots

February's name comes from the Latin word *februa*, meaning **"to cleanse" or "purify."** In ancient Rome, this time of year was associated with purification rituals preparing for the coming spring.

Seasonal Significance

- In the **Northern Hemisphere**, February is the last full month of winter, often associated with reflection, renewal, and anticipation of spring.
- In the **Southern Hemisphere** (including Australia), February is a peak summer month, known for festivals, outdoor events, and holidays

Global Highlights

Lunar New Year (Year of the Horse) – 17 February

Celebrations will take place across East and Southeast Asia, including China, Vietnam (Tết), and South Korea (Seollal). Expect vibrant parades, fireworks, cultural performances, and family gatherings marking the new lunar year.

"Ring of Fire" Solar Eclipse – 17 February

A rare annular solar eclipse will occur, with the full "ring" visible primarily over Antarctica. Partial views may be seen in parts of South America and Africa.

Planetary Parade – 28 February

Six planets—Mercury, Venus, Neptune, Saturn, Uranus, and Jupiter—will align in the evening sky shortly after sunset, creating a spectacular celestial display.

Carnival & Mardi Gras Celebrations

Global festivities peak mid-month, with world-famous events such as Rio de Janeiro's Carnival and New Orleans' Mardi Gras culminating around 17 February.

Black History Month

Observed throughout February in the United States and Canada, this month honours the achievements, contributions, and legacy of African American communities.

Famous Historical Events in February

February has been the backdrop for many world-changing moments:

◇ **February 4, 1945 – Yalta Conference**

World War II leaders Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin met to plan the post-war world order.

◇ **February 11, 1990 – Nelson Mandela Freed**

After 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela was released, marking a major step toward ending apartheid in South Africa.

◇ **February 14 – St. Valentine's Day Origins**

Rooted in ancient Roman traditions, the day evolved into a global celebration of love and friendship.

◇ **February 20, 1962 – First American Orbits Earth**

Astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth.

◇ **February 28, 1953 – Discovery of DNA Structure**

Scientists James Watson and Francis Crick announced their discovery of DNA's double-helix structure.

Unique February Traditions Around the World

Carnival (Brazil & Europe)

Countries like Brazil, Italy, and Spain host vibrant parades, costumes, and celebrations leading up to Lent.

Lunar New Year Celebrations

Often falling in late January or February, it includes family reunions, traditional foods, fireworks, and cultural rituals across many Asian countries.

Sapporo Snow Festival – Japan

Features massive snow and ice sculptures, attracting millions of visitors annually.

Candlemas – Europe

Celebrated on February 2, marking the midpoint between winter and spring with candle lighting and festivals.

Friendship and Love Festivals

Different cultures celebrate relationships in unique ways throughout February, not limited to Valentine's Day.

Australia Highlights

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

13 February – 1 March

One of Australia's most celebrated festivals, featuring the world-famous parade on **28 February** and Fair Day on **15 February**.

Adelaide Fringe Festival

20 February – 22 March

Australia's largest arts festival transforms Adelaide with thousands of performances spanning theatre, comedy, music, and circus acts.

Major Sporting Events

Australian Open Finals

Concludes on **1 February** in Melbourne, wrapping up one of the world's premier Grand Slam tournaments.

Bathurst 12 Hour

13–15 February

The prestigious endurance race returns to Mount Panorama, attracting top international drivers.

LIV Golf Adelaide

12–15 February

Global golf professionals compete at The Grange in one of the season's most anticipated tournaments.

Music & Arts Festivals

Laneway Festival

Touring major Australian cities throughout the month, with the final stop in Perth on **15 February**.

Perth Festival

6 February – 1 March

A dynamic multi-arts program featuring local and international artists across music, theatre, dance, and visual arts.

Enlighten Festival – Canberra

Starting **27 February**, Canberra's iconic buildings will be illuminated with stunning light displays and cultural events.

Significant Observances

Anniversary of the National Apology – 13 February

Commemorating the 2008 apology to the Stolen Generations, this day serves as an important moment of reflection in Australia.

Royal Hobart Regatta – 9 February

A public holiday observed in parts of Tasmania, celebrating one of the nation's oldest sporting traditions.

***Sourced from the web.

With so much happening across Australia and around the world, February 2026 promises unforgettable experiences for everyone — from cultural celebrations and sporting spectacles to rare cosmic events.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our February Annual General Meeting.