

Programme Information Highlights

December 2016



Happening this month...

Sunday 4th December

Austrian Presidential Election
Right-wing Freedom Party candidate Norbert Hofer faces independent candidate Alexander Van der Bellen in the re-run of the presidential election. The original result was annulled after irregularities were revealed in the vote counting.

Saturday 10th December

International Human Rights Day
Human Rights Day commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Saturday 10th December

Nobel Prize Award Ceremonies
Nobel Prizes are presented to Laureates on the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

Sunday 11th December

80 years since abdication of Edward VIII
On 11th December 1936 Parliament endorsed the abdication of the King.

Wednesday 14th December

Sakharov Prize Ceremony
The European Union human rights award will be presented to two Yazidi women who escaped sexual enslavement by so-called Islamic State and now campaign for their community.



(L-R) John Knoll, Kiri Hart, Gareth Edwards, Kathleen Kennedy, Forest Whitaker, Mads Mikkelsen, Alan Tudyk, Wen Jiang, Donnie Yen, Felicity Jones, Riz Ahmed, Diego Luna, Ben Mendelsohn and Gwendoline Christie on stage during the Rogue One Panel at the Star Wars Celebration 2016 at ExCel on July 15, 2016 in London, England. (Photo by Ben A. Pruchnie/Getty Images for Walt Disney Studios)

Friday 16th December

Rogue One released
The first Star Wars standalone film 'Rogue One: A Star Wars Story' is released in cinemas.

Programme Information Highlights

December 2016

sky NEWS HD

Saturday 17th December

Pope Francis' 80th Birthday

The first Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church celebrates his 80th birthday.

Wednesday 22nd December

El Gordo Lottery

Spain's annual Christmas lottery is known as 'El Gordo' (The Fat One) because of the amount of money which is distributed in prizes. 75 percent of adult Spaniards will play the Christmas lottery.

Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day

The Christian holy day marks the birth of Jesus, the son of God.

Monday 26th December

Istanbul Eurasia Tunnel Inauguration

Istanbul's first-ever road tunnel under the Bosphorus Strait will link the European and Asian sides of the city. Construction of the 5km-long tunnel began in February 2011.

Saturday 31st December

New Year's Eve

In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve, the last day of the year, is on 31st December. In many countries, New Year's Eve is celebrated with evening social gatherings and fireworks.



Pope Francis waves to the faithful as he delivers his Christmas Day message from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica on December 25, 2014 in Vatican City, Vatican. (Photo by Franco Origlia/Getty Images)