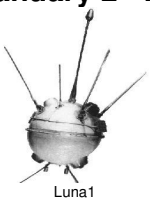
January 1st: Day 1 of the gregorian calendar.

Edwin Hubble

History:. In 1925, in a meeting of the American Astronomical Society and of the American Association for Science Development in Washington, D.C., Edwin Hubble reports that he has discovered cepheids in the "spiral nebulae".

This was the beginning of the fall of the hipothesis that said that our Milky Way was the entire Universe, because it led to the discovery that we live in one of many galaxies.
In 2001, the NEAT (Near Earth Asteroid Tracking) mission descovers an asteroid with a diameter of 1.5 km that passes near Mars (2001AA). This object was dubbed with nickname of Millenium Asteroid.
Observations: Moon at perigee at 21h (UT).

January 2nd: Day 2 of the gregorian calendar.


Luna1

History:. In 1959, the soviet probe Luna 1was launched .

Observations: Use this night to observe the Great Orion Nebula (M42).

January 3rd: Day 3 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 1999, the probes Mars Polar Lander and Deep Space 2 were launched.
In 2000, the probe Galileo made a flyby near Jupiter's moon Europa at a height of 351 km.

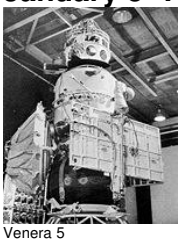
Observations: Earth at perihelion at 00h (UT). Mars 7° N. of Moon at 12h (UT). The Moon makes an occultation of Hygea at 17h (UT), but this is only visible from the southern hemisphere near Australia and New Zealand.

January 4th: Day 4 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 1610, 400 years ago the next days were probably the most important days of Astronomy History.

Since 1609 Galileo Galilei has been pointing his telescope to the sky and observed the craters of the Moon, sunspots that allow him to deduce the Sun's rotation, and the stars of the Milky Way.
Observations: Mercury in inferior conjunction at 19h (UT). Regulus is 3.7ºN of Venus. The occultation of the asteroid Echo by the Moon at 04h (UT) is only visible in Asia.

January 5th: Day 5 of the gregorian calendar.


Venera 5

History:. In 1969, the soviet probe Venera 5 is launched to Venus.

Observations: Mercury is 3.4ºN of Venus.

January 6th: Day 6 of the gregorian calendar.

Observations: Saturn 8°N of Moon at 19h (UT).

January 7th: Day 7 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 1610 Galileo observed with his telescope what he described at the time as "three fixed stars, totally invisible by their smallness," all close to Jupiter, and lying on a straight line through it. Observations on subsequent nights showed that the positions of these "stars" relative to Jupiter were changing in a way that would have been inexplicable if they had really been fixed stars. On January 10th, Galileo noted that one of them had disappeared, an observation which he attributed to its being hidden behind Jupiter. Within a few days he concluded that they were orbiting Jupiter: He had discovered three of Jupiter's four largest satellites (moons): Io, Europa, and Callisto.

Observations: The Moon is at Last Quarter at 10h (UT) . Spica 3.2ºN of the Moon at 23h (UT).

January 8th: Day 8 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 1977 the sovietmission Luna 21 was launched.
In 1994, the russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov departs on the Soyuz TM-18 to Mir. where he will stay until March 22nd, 1995, with a record of 437 days in Space.

Observations: The Pegasus Squre is still high in the sky. Try to find out where the Andromeda Galaxy is. You can see it with small binoculars (7x50).

January 9th: Day 9 of the gregorian calendar.

Observations: The occultation of the asteroid Victoria by the Moon at 01h (UT) is only visible in the Indian Ocean and in Australia.

January 10th: Day 10 of the gregorian calendar.

History:.In 1969, the probe Venera 6 (USSR) was launched. It reached Venus on May 17th, 1969. The atmopheric research send back data to Earth until 11 km above surface where the probe was destroyed.

Observations: The occultation of the asteroid Athamantis by the Moon at 03h (UT) is only visible from Antartica and the occultation of the asteroid Ausonia by the Moon at 19h (UT) is only visible from middle of the Pacific Ocean.

January 11th: Day 11 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 1787, William Herschel discovers Oberon and Titania, the biggest moons of Uranus.

Observations: Venus is in superios conjunction at 21h (UT). The occultation of the star Antares by the Moon at 13h (UT) is only visible from North America and Greenland. In Europe in the evening Antares will be about 1º-2ºS of the Moon.

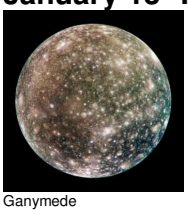
January 12th: Day 12 of the gregorian calendar.

Advancing Astronomy and Geophysics

History:. In 1820 the "British Royal Astronomical Society" is founded.

In 2005 the probe Deep Impact was launched from Cape Canaveral.
Observations: The Moon is at its furthest south position in the sky (-25.7º).

January 13th: Day 13 of the gregorian calendar.


Ganymede

History:. In 1610, Galileo discovered the fourth galilean moon, Ganymede.

In 2000, black holes were discovered drifting along the Galaxy.
Observations: Mercury is 4.5ºN of the Moon at 16h (UT). The occultation of the asteroid Sylvia by the Moon at 11h (UT) is only visible from the southeastern part of Europe and during daytime and the occultation of the asteroid Themis by the Moon at 14h (UT) is only visible from Antartica.

January 14th: Day 14 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 2005 the probe Huygens landed on Saturn's moon Titan.

Observations: Saturn is stationary at 18h(UT).

Jan 15th: Day 15 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 1965, the Soviet Union launched Soyuz 5.

Observations: An annular eclipse of the Sun is visible from within a 300-km-wide track that traverses half of Earth through the middle of Africa until the Eastern part of Asia. Unfortunately the phenomena that starts at 07h (UT) is only partially seen from the Western Europe.Venus 1.4ºS of the Moon at 09h (UT). Mercury stationary at 19h(UT).

January 16th: Day 16 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 2007 Space Shuttle Columbia was launched for mission STS-107, that would be its last..

January 17th: Day 17 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 2003, a Delta 2 rocket that transported GPS2R satellite explodes 13 seconds after ignition leaving 250 tons of burned debris on the lauching platform.

Observations: The Moon is at apogee at 01h(UT). Neptune 3.3ºS of the Moon at 20h(UT). The occultation of the asteroid Iris by the Moon at 18h (UT) is only visible from Antartica.

January 18th: Day 18 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 1896 Roentgen presented the first X-ray detector.

Observations: Jupiter is 4.2 ºS of the Moon at 06h(UT).

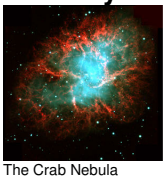
January 19th: Day 19 of the gregorian calendar.

Jacobus Kapteyn

History:. In 1747, Johann Bode, the author of Titius-Bode law, was born.
In 1851, Jacobus Kapteyn was born. He created the first modern model of the dynamic of the Milky Way.

Observations: This is a nice time to make observations of the Moon looking at the lunar terminator with a small telescope.

January 20th: Day 20 of the gregorian calendar.



The Crab Nebula

History:. In 1969, Jocelyn Bell discovers the first known pulsar in the Crab Nebula.

Observations: Uranus is 5.4ºS of the Moon at 06h(UT). The occultation of the asteroid Thisbe by the Moon at 08h (UT) is only visible from the Eastern part of Asia.

January 21st: Day 21 of the gregorian calendar.

Rover Spirit

History:. In 2004, NASA "lost" contact with the rover Spirit, a problem that would be solved remotely on February 6th.

Observations: Imediatelly after sunset, in souther european countries it is still possible to see Vega the "Summer Star" before it sets in the Northwest.

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January 22nd: Day 22 of the gregorian calendar.

Roberta Bondar

History:. In 1968, Apollo 5 was launched transporting the first lunar module.
In 1992, Roberta Bondar became the first canadian woman in Space on board of the STS-42.

In 2000 the launch platform Vandenburg was demolished.
In 2003, contact with the probe *Pioneer 10* was lost.

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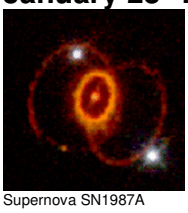
January 23rd: Day 23 of the gregorian calendar.


Supernova SN1987A

History:. In 1987, a supernova in the Great Magellanic Cloud became visible as the result of the explosion of the blue supergiant Sanduleak 69. Known as SN1987A, it was the first "close" supernova of the last three centuries.

Observations: Moon at First Quarter at 10h(UT).

January 24th: Day 24 of the gregorian calendar.

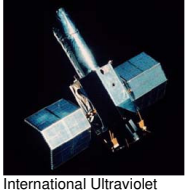
History:. In 1969 the probe Mariner 6 was launched.
In 1979, the probe Solwind P78-1was launched.
In 1996 the probe Polar was launched.

January 25th: Day 25 of the gregorian calendar.

Rover Oportunity

History:. In 2004, the rover Opportunity(MER-B) lands on the surface of Mars.

January 26th: Day 26 of the gregorian calendar.


International Ultraviolet Explorer

History:. In 1978 the satellite "International Ultraviolet Explorer" (IUE) is launched into a geosynchronous orbit.

Observations: The Moon is at its furthest North position in the sky (+25.7º). The occultation of the asteroid Nemesis by the Moon at 22h (UT) is only visible in equatorial regions.

January 27th: Day 27 of the gregorian calendar.

Apollo 1 crew

History:. In 1613, Galileo observes for the second time Neptune, marking it as a star (the first time was in December 28th, 1612).
In 1967, the astronauts of Apollo 1 - Virgil (Gus) Grissom, Edward H. White II e Roger B. Chaffee - are killed in a fire during test Apollo 204 (AS-204), of what was intended to be the first manned mission to the Moon.

Observations: Mercury at its greatest western elongation (25º) at 08h(UT). Mars at its nearest position relative to Earth at 19h(UT).

January 28th: Day 28 of the gregorian calendar.

Helvelius

History:. In 1611, Hevelius was born. He would be the first astronomer to observe the phases of Mercury and he died on the same day in 1687.

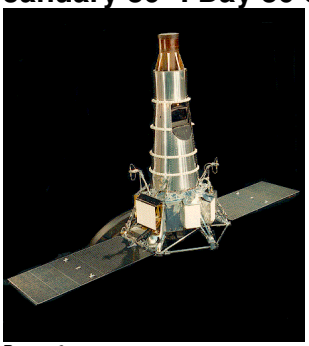
In 1986, Space Shuttle Challenger explodes 73 seconds after take-off.

January 29th: Day 29 of the gregorian calendar.

History:. In 1986 the incident Height 611 occurred.

Observations: Mars is at opposition at 19h(UT).

January 30th: Day 30 of the gregorian calendar.


Ranger 6

History:. In 1964, the probe Ranger 6 was launched.

In 1996, Comet Hyakutake was discovered by Yuji Hyakutake.
Observations: Full Moon at 06h(UT). The Moon is at perigee at 08h(UT). The occultation of the asteroid Hygiea by the Moon at 21h (UT) is visible from Western Europe.

January 31st: Day 31 of the gregorian calendar.

Ranger 6

History:. In 1862, Alvan Graham Clark Jr. discovers the faint companion of Sirius, dubbed Sirius B.
In 1958, Explorer I, the first American satellite was launched.

In 1966, Luna 9 was launched.
In 1971, Apollo 14 was launched to the Moon.
Observations: Regulus 3.7ºN of the Moon.