Why February Has 28 Days: Timeline (2026 Guide)

From the Roman year to the Gregorian leap rule

1. **Romulus (attributed)**
   Ten-month year, March to December; winter months not counted
2. **Numa (per Livy)**
   Twelve lunar months in the year
3. **Numa (per Censorinus)**
   Both January and February had 28 days
4. **355-day year**
   A day added to January; February stayed at 28
5. **45 BC**
   Julius Caesar introduces the Julian calendar
6. **8 BC to AD 8**
   Augustus omits intercalations; extra day every four years
7. **Oct. 4 to 15, 1582**
   Gregorian reform; ten days deleted
8. **1712**
   Sweden gives February 30 days
9. **1752**
   Britain: 2 September is followed by 14 September
10. **2100**
    Not a leap year; February has 28 days

My notes

Source: Encyclopaedia Romana (University of Chicago); NASA, Calendars and their History; Royal Observatory of Belgium; Royal Museums Greenwich; U.S. Naval Observatory.