

# Trump's incredible ride

Derided and underestimated as too small, shallow and outlandish, Mr Donald Trump's 18-month campaign was a roller-coaster ride before it ended at the threshold of the White House yesterday. Here's a look back at some key moments.

2015

June 16

Billionaire real estate mogul and reality TV star Donald Trump, 69, rides down a golden escalator from the Trump Towers in New York to announce his candidacy. He unfurls plans to build a great wall on the US-Mexico border, accusing Mexico of sending rapists and other criminals to the US.



Aug 6

Mr Trump makes a strong showing at the first US Republican presidential nominee debate, but later stirs controversy by suggesting that Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly asked him tough questions because she was menstruating.



Dec 7

Mr Trump calls for a ban on all Muslims entering the US after making an earlier call for a database to track Muslim activity in September.



2016

Feb 1

The Iowa caucuses are held, with Mr Trump coming in second after Mr Ted Cruz. At a rally after the caucuses, he encourages violence as a response to protesters at his rallies.



Feb 18

Mr Trump wades into a fight with Pope Francis, who suggested that Mr Trump's plan for a border wall was "not Christian".



May 3

Mr Trump's main rival for the Republican nomination, Mr Cruz, exits the race after losing Indiana to Mr Trump. His remaining rival, Mr John Kasich, follows suit, leaving Mr Trump as the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.



July 16

Mr Trump announces Governor Mike Pence of Indiana as his vice-presidential running mate.



July 21

Mr Trump accepts the Republican nomination at the party convention in Cleveland.



Aug 1

Mr Trump attacks the family of a Muslim American soldier killed in Iraq.



Sept 12

After trailing in the polls, Mr Trump draws even with Democratic rival Hillary Clinton following her remark that his supporters were a "basket of deplorables". Aiding his cause, a video surfaces of Mrs Clinton being helped into a car after falling ill at a 9/11 commemoration event.



Sept 16

Mr Trump backs away from his earlier claims that US President Barack Obama was not born in the US.



Sept 26

Mr Trump clashes with Mrs Clinton in the first presidential debate. He is seen to lose to a well-prepared Mrs Clinton, and is also judged to have lost two subsequent debates.



Oct 2

A 1995 tax record is released that shows Mr Trump paid no federal taxes for the next 18 years.

Oct 7

A 2005 video surfaces of Mr Trump bragging to a TV show host that his fame and status allow him to sexually assault women. Prominent GOP leaders condemn him, trying to distance themselves from the fallout.

Nov 9

Mr Trump wins the US presidential election.

