



Trump Lands in Beijing for First U.S. Presidential Visit to China in Nine Years

President Donald Trump touched down in Beijing on Wednesday evening for a two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the first visit to China by an American president in nearly nine years and one of the most consequential diplomatic encounters in recent memory. Trump descended the steps of Air Force One to a red-carpet welcome, with 300 Chinese children in blue-and-white uniforms waving American and Chinese flags, while Chinese Vice President Han Zheng led the receiving delegation on Xi's behalf.

The delegation that flew with Trump underscored the high commercial stakes. Tesla's Elon Musk and Nvidia's Jensen Huang boarded the presidential plane for the trip, joining Apple's Tim Cook and other executives in a

business-heavy entourage. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth also made the journey — Rubio despite being under Chinese sanctions, a diplomatic wrinkle that Beijing appeared to quietly manage by altering the Chinese transliteration of his name before his arrival.

The two leaders are set to begin formal talks on Thursday, with an agenda spanning trade, Taiwan, artificial intelligence and the ongoing U.S. war with Iran. On trade, the sides are expected to seek an extension of the one-year tariff truce Trump and Xi reached at their last meeting in South Korea in October. On Iran, Trump has said he wants a "long talk" with Xi about persuading Tehran to return to the negotiating table and reopen the Strait of

Hormuz — a choke point whose disruption has pushed the U.S. war's cost to \$29 billion and sent global energy prices surging. Yet Trump also told reporters he did not believe Washington needed China's help on Iran, even as experts noted both powers share an interest in restored shipping flows through the Gulf.

Beijing views the summit as a chance to lock in a more stable long-term relationship, though analysts at the Council on Foreign Relations cautioned that China may seek to use the meetings to "manage" Washington rather than make structural concessions. Further summits are expected later this year at APEC in Shenzhen and the G20 in Miami.

Top US News

FDA Chief Marty Makary Resigns After 13-Month Tenure Marked by Turmoil

Marty Makary is resigning as President Trump's FDA commissioner after a 13-month tenure characterized by mass layoffs, leadership clashes, staff turmoil, and complaints from pharmaceutical executives and Trump allies alike. Trump confirmed the departure, saying Makary was "a great doctor" who "will do well." Kyle Diamantas, who previously served as the top food official at the FDA, is expected to take over as commissioner, according to a Bloomberg report. The departure adds to instability at the top of major federal health agencies.

April CPI Hits 3.8%, Highest in Nearly Three Years, as Iran War Fuels Energy Prices

Rising gasoline prices pushed U.S. inflation to its highest level in nearly three years in April. Consumer prices were up 3.8% from a year ago, topping the 3.7% consensus estimate. Annual core CPI of 2.8% also exceeded Wall Street's 2.7% forecast.

The 2.1% monthly rise in electricity prices and a 0.5% gain in monthly food prices were both upward surprises. According to CME FedWatch, markets are now pricing in a nearly 30% chance of a Fed rate hike by December 2026. The inflation reading weighed on stocks, particularly tech and chip shares.

Redistricting Battles Intensify: South Carolina Defies Trump, Missouri Court Upholds New Map

President Trump's push to reshape U.S. House districts is producing mixed outcomes. South Carolina senators defied his redistricting push, expressing concerns it could backfire and result in Democratic gains, while Missouri's top court upheld a new map backed by Trump that could benefit Republicans in the midterm elections.

The national redistricting battle has intensified in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision weakening the federal Voting Rights Act. Republicans in Louisiana, Tennessee, and Alabama are now pushing for new districts, while Alabama is set to hold a special primary election after the Supreme Court cleared the way for the state to use a previously blocked map.

Top NJ/NY News

NYC Murder Rate Hits Record Low; Major Crime Down 9.5% in First Four Months of 2026

Murders in New York City hit a record low for the first four months of 2026, the NYPD announced this week. The milestone comes alongside a citywide drop in major crime of 9.5%. Mayor Zohran Mamdani also said his

Vietnamese News

Vietnam Fatherland Front Opens 11th National Congress With To Lam Presiding

The 11th National Congress of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) for the 2026-2031 term officially opened in Hanoi on May 12, with Party General Secretary and State President To Lam in attendance. The VFF congress is a key political event as Vietnam's new government — led by Prime Minister Le Minh Hung — settles into its mandate, with To Lam pledging to better harness the "strength of great national unity."

The government has been implementing sweeping administrative reforms, including eliminating all 13 general departments, cutting over 500 department-level units, and reducing 145,000 civil service positions to streamline governance and cut costs by approximately VND 39 trillion (\$1.53 billion) per year.

Vietnam's Agro-Forestry-Fishery Exports Hit \$23 Billion in First Four Months of 2026

Vietnam's export turnover of agro-forestry-fishery products reached an estimated \$23 billion in the first four months of 2026, up 5.4% year-on-year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. The strong showing reflects continued global demand for Vietnamese agricultural and seafood products.

Moody's in early May upgraded Vietnam's sovereign credit outlook from "stable" to "positive" while affirming its Ba2 rating, citing the country's robust economic trajectory. The upgrade could attract around \$1.7 billion in passive capital alongside \$5-8 billion from active global funds. Vietnam's agro-fishery

sector is seen as a key pillar of the country's export-led growth ambition.

U.S.-Vietnam Trade Tensions: Section 301 Hearings Underway as \$123.5B Trade Gap Draws Scrutiny

Washington and Hanoi are in a dense stretch of trade diplomacy that analysts say will test whether one of the Indo-Pacific's most important bilateral economic partnerships can sustain its momentum. U.S. Section 301 hearings on industrial capacity, forced labor discussions, and bilateral consultations are all taking place in this period.

Vietnam ran a \$123.5 billion trade surplus with the United States last year — the fourth-largest imbalance after China, the EU, and Mexico — drawing increasing scrutiny in Washington. Analysts warn that overly punitive U.S. trade measures could push Hanoi toward alternative economic alignments, weakening U.S. influence in a competitive Indo-Pacific at a time when Vietnam is benefiting from supply chain diversification away from China.

Domestic Airfares Rise 15-20% as Middle East Conflict Drives Up Fuel Costs

Domestic airfares in Vietnam have risen by 15-20% on average as a fuel supply crunch linked to the conflict in the Middle East drives up costs, according to Airports Corporation of Vietnam (ACV) in its 2025 annual report. The Iran war and Strait of Hormuz disruptions are affecting aviation costs across Southeast Asia.

Vietnam's hantavirus preparedness is also in the spotlight: the Ministry of Health confirmed on May 11 that the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology has full capacity to detect hantavirus, and that no human cases

Top Tech and AI News



Google Unveils Android 17 and Surprise 'Googlebook' Laptop Platform at The Android Show

Google's Android Show 2026 (I/O Edition) on May 12 delivered major announcements including Android 17, Gemini Intelligence integration, and a surprise new computing platform called the Googlebook. The Googlebook merges the best of Android and ChromeOS into a new laptop-focused platform with Gemini AI at its core, representing Google's re-entry into the laptop hardware space.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai said Android is evolving from an operating system to an "intelligent system." The event previewed new AI-powered Android Auto features compatible with BMW, Lucid, and Mini Cooper vehicles, among others. A full Google I/O developer conference follows on May 19.

Google Thwarts AI-Powered 'Mass Exploitation' Cyberattack; Hackers Used AI to Develop Zero-Day Exploit

Google said it likely thwarted an effort by an unnamed criminal threat actor to use AI for a "mass exploitation event" targeting software vulnerabilities. Google stated it does not believe its own Gemini model was used in the attack.

The findings highlight how hackers are exploiting AI tools like OpenClaw to find and weaponize software flaws at unprecedented scale. In a related development, Anthropic in April delayed rollout of its Mythos model citing fears that criminals could use it to prey on decades-old software vulnerabilities — concerns that prompted White House meetings with tech leaders.

Ukraine News



Top Global News

Iran War Aftermath: Israel Sends Iron Dome to UAE, Casualties Mount in Lebanon

The U.S. ambassador to the UAE confirmed that Israel sent Iron Dome anti-missile batteries and personnel to defend the country during the ongoing Iran war. Separately, at least 13 people were killed in Lebanon in Israeli strikes on Jibsheets, Kfar Dounine, and Nabatieh, with victims including a child, a woman, and a Lebanese army member.

Israel's Knesset passed a measure 93-0 targeting those responsible for the deadliest attack in Israel's history. Preliminary figures put total casualties from the wider conflict at 3,468 dead in Iran, 2,702 dead in Lebanon, and 28 killed in Gulf states. Kuwait also accused Iran of

Russia Kills 8 in Dnipropetrovsk; Ukraine Strikes Gas Facilities 1,500 km Inside Russia

Russian attacks on Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region killed eight civilians and injured 11 others on Wednesday. President Zelensky confirmed that two elderly people were killed in a Russian drone strike on a residential building in Kryvyi Rih, while their nine-month-old granddaughter suffered severe injuries.

In retaliation, Ukraine struck gas facilities in Russia's Orenburg region — more than 1,500 kilometers from Ukraine's border — one of its longest-range strikes of the war. Zelensky said, "Ukraine has said that we will act symmetrically in response to Russia." Russia claimed nine Ukrainian drones were repelled over the region. Separately, Ukraine's air force warned that Russian strategic aviation is being redeployed to distant airfields, possibly signaling preparation for new mass strikes.

Kremlin Claims Peace 'Is Approaching'; Zelensky Warns Russia Has No Intention of Ending War

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that progress in talks with the U.S. and Ukraine means the conflict's end is "indeed approaching," while cautioning it was too early to provide specifics. Putin tested a new nuclear-capable intercontinental missile, which he claimed was the "most powerful" in the world and capable of penetrating all existing anti-missile defense systems — claims analysts say are likely exaggerated.

Zelensky, however, sharply disagreed: "Russia has no intention of ending this war. And we are, unfortunately, preparing for new attacks." Trump, leaving for China, said he thinks the Ukraine war's end "is getting very close." The ISW think tank found that Russia's rate of territorial advance has slowed dramatically — from 9.76 sq km/day in early 2025 to 2.9 sq km/day in early 2026, and that Ukraine may have actually recaptured more territory than it lost in April.

Sweden Detains Two for Helping Russia Procure Advanced Sanctioned Products; EU Airport Ceasefire Proposed

Swedish authorities detained two suspects on suspicion of violating international sanctions by helping Russia procure "advanced products," the Swedish Security Service announced on May 11. The arrests underscore ongoing Western efforts to enforce sanctions and cut off Russia's access to dual-use technology.

Separately, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba told Politico that Europe may be able to help broker an agreement for Ukraine and Russia to pause attacks on each other's airports — a limited confidence-building measure that could lay groundwork for broader diplomacy.

Fed Watch: Rate Hike Odds Rise to 30% by December; Powell Faces Inflation Dilemma

April's 3.8% consumer price reading — the hottest in nearly three years — is complicating the Federal Reserve's path forward. Markets are now pricing in a nearly 98% chance the Fed holds rates at its June meeting, but a nearly 30% chance of a rate hike by December 2026.

Capital Economics chief North America economist Stephen Brown warned that pressure on core inflation is "still a bit too strong for comfort" and flagged renewed food inflation as a key concern. A significant transition is also underway at the Fed: Kevin Warsh is expected to take charge later this week and has indicated a preference for different inflation metrics than the current PCE-focused framework.

GameStop's \$56B Bid for eBay Rejected; Wendy's Surges on Trian Buyout Report

eBay officially rejected a \$56 billion unsolicited takeover bid from GameStop, dismissing the proposal as "neither credible nor attractive." eBay Chairman Paul Pressler cited a massive funding gap and the high debt load required for the \$125-per-share cash-and-stock deal, expressing full confidence in eBay's current turnaround strategy instead.

In other corporate news, Wendy's shares rallied more than 9% after the Financial Times reported that Nelson Peltz's Trian Fund Management was seeking to raise funds for a bid to take the fast food chain private. Wendy's stock had fallen 45% over the prior year, making it an attractive target.

CALENDAR

TODAY — MAY 13

3:00 PM Math placement test
7:00 PM Racquetball weekly

TOMORROW — MAY 14

12:00 AM Me Nga's birthday
8:00 AM Sprinkler turn on
5:00 PM William: Karate
5:00 PM Lizzy: Hip hop
6:00 PM Mai Huong Nguyen
6:30 PM Soccer: Dorchester practice
7:00 PM Board Meeting
8:25 PM Robinhood Gold: The Gold Bar Private Sale

FRIDAY — MAY 15

12:00 AM Bring Kay necklaces for polish and inspection
3:40 PM Lizzy teeth appointment
6:00 PM [William] Soccer Lakeland (H)

SATURDAY — MAY 16

12:00 AM WCL Spring Festival
2:00 PM Music class William and Elizabeth
6:00 PM Dinner reservations

SUNDAY — MAY 17

11:00 AM Joba: Picture day

MONDAY — MAY 18

12:00 AM Bo Tao's birthday
5:00 PM Lizzy Ballet
6:00 PM WCL Hoops - Free Clinic (2nd Grade Girls REC)
7:00 PM Transition 2nd to 3rd grad
7:00 PM Gr. 2 into 3 Transition Meeting for Parents

TUESDAY — MAY 19

4:00 PM Lizzy: Hip hop

WEDNESDAY — MAY 20

12:00 AM Hien Nguyen's birthday
9:30 AM Huong: Patient follow up
7:00 PM Racquetball weekly

FRIDAY — MAY 22

12:00 AM Memorial Day Weekend School Closed

MONDAY — MAY 25

12:00 AM Memorial Day - School Closed

MOVIES

The Big Break

In theaters May 12, 2026

A costumed mascot, fueled by an unyielding ambition to break into the entertainment industry, unexpectedly finds himself in a high-stakes situation: a chance encounter with a renowned Hollywood agent at a boisterous children's birthday party, where he must use his comedic timing and infectious energy to make a lasting impression, all while navigating a chaotic environment filled with cake, confetti, and the boundless enthusiasm of screaming kids...& Adults.



The Sheep Detectives

In theaters May 8, 2026

George Hardy is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.



My Hero Academia: More

In theaters May 2, 2026

Eight years later, Deku and his friends are on their adult hero journeys, but something is bothering Uraraka...



Swapped

In theaters May 1, 2026

A small woodland creature and a majestic bird, two natural sworn enemies of the Valley, magically trade places and set off on an adventure of a lifetime to switch back. Their journey soon uncovers a greater threat—one that could endanger not only their species, but the entire valley they call home.