



# HOW TO VIEW A SOLAR ECLIPSE SAFELY

A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon completely blocks the sun's bright face, also known as totality, and day momentarily turns into night.



The only safe way to look directly at the sun during an eclipse is through special-purpose solar filters, like eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewers.



The only safe time to look at the sun without solar filters is during the 2-4 minutes of total eclipse. It is never safe to look at the sun without solar filters during any other phases of the eclipse.

## HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR SAFELY VIEWING THE ECLIPSE:

- Only look at the eclipse through a special-purpose solar filter. Safe eclipse glasses should comply with ISO 12312-2 international standard.
- Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are unsafe. They transmit too much sunlight and could damage the eyes.
- Inspect your solar filter; discard if scratched or damaged. Follow any instructions for the filter.
- Always supervise children using solar filters.
- Stand still, cover your eyes with your eclipse glasses or solar viewer before looking at the sun. Afterward, turn away before removing your filter — never remove it while looking at the sun.
- Do not look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device.
  - Similarly, do not look at the sun through a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while using your eclipse glasses or hand-held solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eye(s), causing serious injury.
  - Seek expert advice before using a solar filter with a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device. Note that solar filters must be attached to the front of any telescope, binoculars, camera lens, or other optics.

## TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE HEART OF IT ALL



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— Center line of total eclipse  
— Outer boundaries of the path of totality viewing area

