



FACT SHEET: Total Eclipse Weekend Columbia, S.C.

*Celebrate all weekend in the Total Eclipse Capital of the East Coast
August 18-21, 2017*

What Will Happen During “Total Eclipse Weekend Columbia, S.C.?”

During the highly anticipated total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017 at 2:41 p.m., visitors and residents in the greater Columbia, South Carolina area will experience the **longest 100% total eclipse on the East Coast** for a metro area, with 2 minutes and 36 seconds of darkness in the middle of the afternoon.

As a result, Columbia, S.C., has been identified by astronomy experts as **one of the top places in the country** for the rare and highly desirable experience of viewing **the first transcontinental total solar eclipse in 99 years**. Visitors in Columbia, S.C., the “Total Eclipse Capital of the East Coast,” will enjoy a **long weekend of eclipse-related activities**, Aug. 18-21, 2017. Details can be found at www.totaleclipsecolumbiasc.com. Follow on social media at @TotalEclipseCAE.

“Close” is Not Close Enough

“For those who choose to experience this eclipse outside the path, a partial eclipse is all they will see. Even if the sun is 99.9% eclipsed for these observers, they will not experience the full, jaw-dropping, knee-buckling, emotionally-overloading, completely overwhelming spectacle that is totality.” – Dan McGlaun, veteran of twelve total solar eclipses

Where?

The greater Columbia, South Carolina area, “**Total Eclipse Capital of the East Coast**”

When?

Total Eclipse Weekend Columbia, S.C. | Friday, August 18–Monday, August 21, 2017

Total Solar Eclipse | Monday, August 21, 2017, 2:41 p.m.

Why is Columbia, S.C., a Top Destination for Viewing?

- *USA Today, Travel + Leisure, Forbes, Washington Post* and more have named Columbia, S.C., as **one of the best places to watch the eclipse** because of its lengthy duration of “totality.”
- **Columbia, S.C., has the longest totality on the East Coast** for a metro area, at 2 minutes and 36 seconds. (The longest in the country is 2 min. 41 sec. in the central U.S.)
- Travelers from Europe have already booked their trips to the area to witness the eclipse.
- Columbia, S.C., is the **third largest city in the U.S. to be on the center line of totality**
- Columbia, S.C., is the largest city in South Carolina with the longest period of totality.
 - **Columbia: 2 min. 36 sec.** | Charleston: 1 min. 30 sec. | Greenville: 2 min. 10 sec.
- NASA estimates that S.C. could see an influx of **1 million visitors** if the weather forecast is clear
- S.C. is **1 of 10 states** through which the center line of totality passes
 - Being on the center line is the most important for viewing the longest totality.

Total Eclipse Weekend | Columbia, S.C.

www.TotalEclipseColumbiaSC.com | info@totaleclipsecolumbiasc.com | [803-404-1354](tel:803-404-1354)

1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC 29201 | [@TotalEclipseCAE](https://twitter.com/TotalEclipseCAE) #TotalEclipseCAE #ColumbiaSC #Eclipse2017



Why is This Total Solar Eclipse So Important?

- First transcontinental **total solar eclipse** in 99 years; last one to cross the U.S. was in 1918.
- First total solar eclipse in the continental US since 1979, visible from only five states in the Northwest United States (38 years ago)
- Projected to be the **most viewed total eclipse in history**
 - Access for millions of people via technology, social media, highway accessibility, etc.
- The next time a total solar eclipse will be visible from the greater Columbia, S.C., area is **2078**.

What Makes a Total Solar Eclipse So Special?

A total solar eclipse occurs when the sun, moon and earth line up so perfectly that the moon blocks the sun, creating rare and spectacular effects across the sky and throughout the natural environment, including darkness in the middle of the day and the elusive “corona” effect around the sun, visible only during a 100% total solar eclipse.

The difference between a partial solar eclipse and a total solar eclipse is **monumental**:

- Few people will experience a total solar eclipse in their lifetime
- A partial solar eclipse will be visible to the entire continental U.S., but this is very different from witnessing a total solar eclipse.
- Witnessing a total eclipse is an unforgettable experience for which people travel globally

During a total solar eclipse, **strange phenomena** occur:

- Darkness in the middle of the day
- Corona, “diamond ring” and other light effects around the sun
- 360-degree sunset around the entire horizon; this deepens before darkness
- Nocturnal animals emerge and begin “nighttime” routines
- Birds come in to roost and stop chirping
- Temperature drops 5-15 degrees
- Stars and bright planets such as Mars, Venus, Mercury & Jupiter become visible
- After eclipse, as light breaks, birds chirp as if it is daybreak

Eclipse-Related Events All Weekend

Dozens of Columbia, S.C., tourism attractions, along with entertainment venues, cultural and educational institutions, retail and hospitality businesses and more are **creating a legacy** to celebrate and commemorate the eclipse through **special events, activities and offerings for the entire long weekend leading up to and during the eclipse**.

More events are added weekly on the website, <http://totaleclipsecolumbiasc.com/event>.

- Arts | Public art; film; music; dance; space-themed concert by S.C. Philharmonic
- Food & Drink | Outdoor dining events; special parties; eclipse-themed cocktails
- Science | Astronomy workshops, exhibitions & lectures at University of South Carolina



- Education | Observatory, planetarium, exhibition featuring South Carolinian NASA astronaut Charles Duke, one of few people to walk on the moon, & viewing event at S.C. State Museum
- Outdoors | Solar 17 viewing party at Lake Murray dam; programming at Congaree National Park
- Entertainment | Eclipse viewing parties; Fireflies baseball games all weekend and during eclipse
- History | Guided historical walking tours at the 12,000 Year History Park in Cayce, S.C.

Eclipse Timeline on August 21, 2017 in Greater Columbia, S.C., Area

- 1:13 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) | Partial eclipse begins.
 - The process of the sky darkening is so gradual that it is barely discernible. However, when the moon totally covers the sun, darkness falls very rapidly.
- 2:41-2:44 p.m. EDT | Total solar eclipse (100% “totality”)
 - 2 minutes and 36 seconds of darkness in greater Columbia, S.C., area
- 4:06 p.m. EDT | Sun fully emerges
- The transcontinental path of the total solar eclipse will start in Oregon, at approximately 1:00 p.m. EDT (10:00 a.m. PDT), and will travel at 1,000 miles per hour, exiting the U.S. via South Carolina just after 4:00 p.m. EDT (1:00 p.m. PDT).

Eclipse Glasses and Viewing Safety

Anyone planning to witness the total solar eclipse needs **protective glasses** with a special safety film to view the partial eclipse leading up to and following the total eclipse. While the 2 minutes and 36 seconds of total eclipse is viewable without glasses (in fact, one can’t see the moments of total solar eclipse with the glasses on), viewers actually **need** glasses before and after totality, not just for eye protection but also to be able to **see** the partial eclipse before and after totality, since the sun is still so bright even up to the final moments of the moon covering the sun.

Organizations and companies may order custom glasses in bulk, and sponsorship opportunities are available for branded presence on the official Total Eclipse Weekend Columbia, S.C., eclipse viewing glasses: <http://totaleclipsecolumbiasc.com/>

Viewers should consider the same sun safety measures one would employ when spending time outdoors in the summer, such as hats, sunscreen and hydrating beverages.

Who is Leading This Effort?

The steering committee for Total Eclipse Weekend Columbia, S.C. includes the Columbia CVB and the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism; the City of Columbia, S.C.; Capital City Lake Murray Country; the South Carolina State Museum (S.C.’s Solar Eclipse Headquarters for education and training); the Columbia Fireflies minor league baseball team; and OneColumbia for Arts & History.

“It’s all about totality...Only totality reveals the true celestial spectacle: the diamond ring, the Sun’s glorious corona, strange colors in our sky, and seeing stars in the daytime.”

– Michael Bakich, senior editor, Astronomy Magazine



About Total Eclipse Weekend Columbia, S.C.

At 2:41 p.m. on Monday, August 21, 2017, viewers in the greater Columbia, S.C., area will experience the longest total solar eclipse on the East Coast, with 2 minutes and 36 seconds of darkness in the middle of the afternoon. NASA estimates that South Carolina could see an influx of up to 1 million visitors to witness the first total solar eclipse to make a path all the way across the continental U.S. in 99 years. Visitors and residents in the greater Columbia, S.C., region will enjoy long weekend of eclipse-related activities hosted by area attractions, arts and culture organizations, restaurants, hotels, retailers, community groups and more leading up to and during the eclipse. The Total Eclipse Weekend Columbia, S.C., initiative is spearheaded by a coalition of regional entities whose mission is to create an incredible, weekend-long experience for those witnessing the eclipse in the region. Plan your Total Eclipse Weekend at <http://www.totaleclipsecolumbiasc.com>.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/totaleclipsecae | Twitter and Instagram: @TotalEclipseCAE
Hashtags: #TotalEclipseCAE | #TSE2017 | #Eclipse2017 | #ColumbiaSC

Media Contact: Tracie Broom, Flock and Rally, 415.235.5718, tracie@flockandrally.com

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