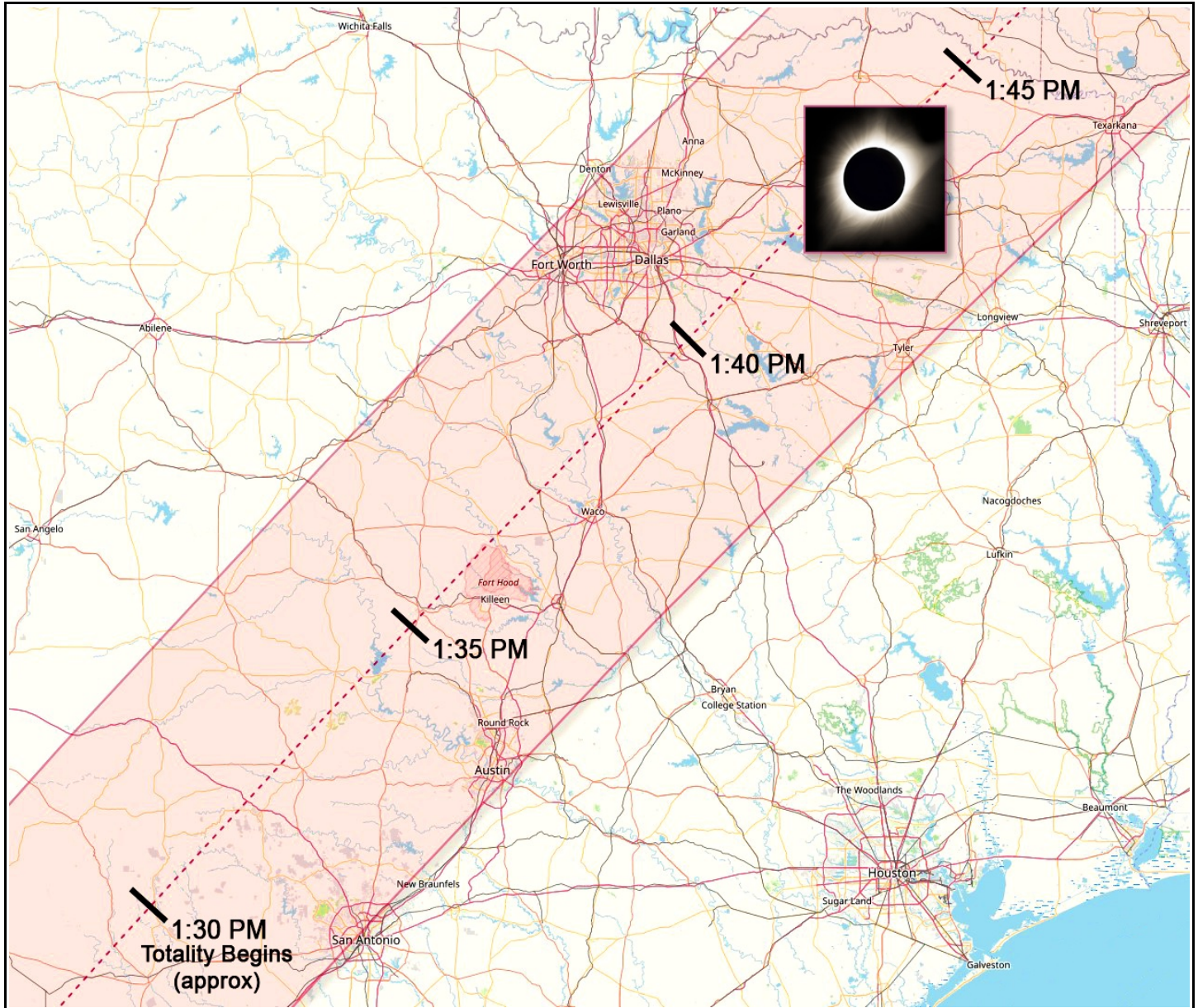


TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE PATH for TEXAS

Monday, April 08, 2024

Written for family & friends with the sincere hope that you will make the effort to experience magnificent totality! - Jody



*(Partial eclipse begins and ends roughly 1 hour & 15 minutes before and after totality.
Totality is visible in the U.S. from Eagle Pass, Texas through Maine, only in the path)
! Please read important safety information below !*

Detailed information available at: GreatAmericanEclipse.com & MrEclipse.com
Interactive and detailed map with precise times at clickable locations:
TimeAndDate.com/eclipse/solar/2024-april-8

"Some people see a partial eclipse and wonder why others talk so much about a total eclipse. Seeing a partial eclipse and saying that you have seen an eclipse is like standing outside an opera house and saying that you have seen the opera; in both cases, you have missed the main event."

Jay M. Pasachoff - Astronomer, Professor, Eclipse Chaser

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Why, Where, Viewing Tips and Information

Often heard: *“I just saw the annular eclipse back in October, and I've seen several partial eclipses, even one 90% eclipsed in the past. Why should I trouble about this one? It's pretty cool to see, but they happen fairly often, this one can't be that much different.”*

... **WRONG!**

- It is EXTREMELY rare to be able to experience a stunning **total solar eclipse** without having first traveled long distances around the globe, so you should not miss this opportunity happening so close to home! Only 3 total solar eclipses have been visible from the continental United States after 1878 (the years 1970, 1979 & 2017).
- The next total solar eclipse visible in the continental U.S. will not take place until 2044 (visible only from Montana and the Dakotas), with another in 2045 (sweeping across the U.S. from the west to east coasts), so be sure to take advantage while you have this chance! *Take your family - many schools in Central Texas have already scheduled that day out - I promise you all will be thrilled you did!*
- [David Baron has a Ted Talk video](#)- describing the rare and wondrous experience of watching totality occur. While I very much disagree with his views on the spiritual nature of the event, he does a great job describing the importance of seeing at least one in your lifetime.

I tell people often: Outside of your own newborn children, witnessing totality will be the most astonishing thing you will ever see - you'll sharply feel your small place in the universe. If you believe in God, I promise it will strengthen that belief, and you will sense His hand in the almost clock-like motions and timing of our solar system. If you don't believe...well, it might just change your mind as the moon moves in front of, then completely covers the sun. You will also understand why total solar eclipses so badly frightened people long ago!

During the awesome total solar eclipse of 2017, I was among roughly 1,000 people from all over the world, watching from a pasture just outside Alliance, Nebraska, right on the center-line. The moment the sun became totally obscured by the moon, when the temperature dropped, the sun's corona began to bloom and we could see the bright stars and planets, EVERYONE began clapping and cheering, hugging, laughing and many were crying. Yes, it really IS that kind of intense experience.

- Don't make the mistake of settling for someplace “close enough”. The amazing spectacle of totality can be seen ONLY from inside the red-shaded band. Outside the band, even right next to it at 99% eclipse - it's just another partial eclipse and **is NOT the same experience!** You will not see the sun's corona or the 360 degree twilight, nor the planets and stars at mid-day.

On or near the dotted center-line is where you should locate yourself in order to experience the longest duration of totality (spanning almost 4.5 minutes in Texas - longer than many eclipses). The farther your distance from the center-line, the shorter the duration of totality (down to less than 1 minute, or even just a few seconds).

- **Protect your eyes!** - Eclipse viewing glasses are available at: [GreatAmericanEclipse.com](#), [ThousandOaksOptical.com](#), and [SouthPlainsAstronomy.org](#), among others, and they are selling fast. Many more local merchants such as museums, home improvement and grocery stores, etc. will likely be selling them as the date approaches, but be sure to purchase glasses that are approved for direct solar viewing. Standard sunglasses will NOT work, and are NOT SAFE for viewing the sun. Also, NEVER use binoculars in front of your eclipse glasses.

- While watching the moon progress in front of the sun, **you MUST wear eclipse glasses until totality begins** (the moment when the moon completely covers the disc of the sun and the sky goes to dark/twilight), at which time you must take them off - *that's when you will see the sun's beautiful corona, the 360 degree twilight, the planets and stars.*

To the left of the merged moon and sun you will see Jupiter, to the right will be Venus, Saturn and Mars. Comet Pons-Brooks will be to the right of Jupiter, though it likely will not be bright enough to spot. Comets are unpredictable though, it might surprise everyone and show up.

- **You MUST replace your eclipse glasses few seconds before totality ends.** Your pupils will be dilated from the darkness during totality, and the sun's rays can easily and *permanently* burn your retina when it reappears.

- The time will go by quickly, so to prompt you to replace your glasses take a kitchen timer or set a timer on your phone or watch. There are several apps available for smartphones that will announce the different phases of the eclipse according to your GPS location. After some research and advice from friends, I believe the best app is: **Solar Eclipse Timer** by Foxwood Astronomy (for both Android & iPhone). It's not free, but should be well worth the \$1.99 cost. It will use your GPS location and provide audio prompts for each phase of the eclipse at your exact location. Be sure to read the instructions and practice a couple of times.

- Hotels, rooms and campsites are already booked solid or are extremely expensive. People are coming from all over the world to see this eclipse, and traffic will likely be heavy on the day of, so be sure to leave early and allow yourself plenty of time. Fuel and food will likely be in short supply, so leave early, pack lunch and snacks, hats, sunscreen and lawn chairs, find a spot and make a day-long picnic of it! Keep your fingers crossed and good weather in your prayers!

- The path of totality on land will sweep from Mazatlan, Mexico up through Newfoundland. *The following totality beginning times are local P.M. and approximated for location:*

Del Rio, TX 1:29; San Antonio 1:34; Fredericksburg 1:33; Mason 1:34; Austin 1:36; Waco 1:38; Hillsboro 1:39; Dallas 1:41; Paris 1:44; Texarkana 1:47; Little Rock, AR 1:52; Indianapolis, IN 3:06; Cleveland, OH 3:14; Buffalo, NY 3:18; Burlington, VT 3:26.

Be sure to consult [the TimeAndDate.com map site](http://theTimeAndDate.com) to get precise beginning and ending times for your exact location.

- Remember that your camera's lens (even your phone's camera) magnifies light, and the sun's rays can easily damage your camera's sensor. Take a quick environmental shot or two, then leave the photography to others and *simply enjoy the experience of totality!* There will be millions of photographs and videos out there when it's over, and most will be pretty much alike.

- For those determined to photograph the event, it can be a bit complicated, so be sure to research proper filters and procedures, practice your plan, and get set up WELL ahead of time. Don't miss most of totality fretting with your camera!



Total Solar Eclipse

Alliance, Nebraska - August 21, 2017
Jody Smyers Photography – Lubbock, Texas

www.JoJoPhotography.com