



Total Solar Eclipse

August 21, 2017



Safety Tips for Viewing the Solar Eclipse

It is unsafe to directly look at the sun, except for during the brief total phase of a solar eclipse ("totality"). This is when the moon entirely blocks the sun's bright face, which will happen only within the [narrow path of totality](#).

- Eclipse safety glasses (pictured above) must be worn when looking directly at the eclipse. Regular sunglasses do not offer sufficient protection when looking directly at the sun.
- Check to make sure the glasses you have are ISO 12312-2 compliant. The American Astronomical Society (AAS) provides a list of [Reputable Vendors of Solar Filters & Viewers](#).
- Inspect your glasses prior to use. Discard or return all glasses with any scratches, punctures or tears in the filter.
- Turn your back toward the sun before putting on the glasses and taking them off.
- Prior to and after the total eclipse, glasses must be worn at all times when looking at the sun. A total solar eclipse can be viewed without a filter once the moon completely covers the sun's bright face. However, this only applies to those in the path of complete totality. If you are in Atlanta, it is recommended to keep glasses on at all times when looking at the sun.



Photo credit: NASA

- Optical devices such as cameras, binoculars, and telescopes cannot be looked through even with the glasses unless a solar filter is attached to the front of the device.
- Most vendors are sold out of the glasses. However, grocery stores and hardware stores may still have some in stock in Atlanta.

Alternate Safe Viewing Options

- The eclipse can still be viewed safely even if you do not have glasses.
- If you are unable to make it outside to watch the event or the weather does not permit a clear view, there are multiple organizations that will live stream the eclipse. One option for watching online is through [NASA TV- Eclipse Live Stream](#).
- Make a pinhole projector. This can be made with a long box, note card, or kitchen colander.

- Hold the item with the pin-sized hole above your shoulder or prop it up behind you. Place a sheet or white piece of paper in front of you, onto which the image of the eclipse will project. The image will be inverted. The further away the screen is from the notecard, the larger the image will be.
- Watch the eclipse through the leaves of a large tree. The leaves can create multiple pinholes and project the image of the eclipse onto the ground.
- Use your hands to create a “pinhole” and hold your hands out in front of you or over your shoulder. With your back toward the sun, the eclipse can be projected onto the ground through your hands.
- A welding helmet with Shade 12 or higher can also be used.
- Observe the eclipse through a solar telescope.
- Remember to keep the sun behind you.

Additional Safety Tips

- The view of the eclipse will not be enhanced at a higher point. Do not attempt to climb trees, ladders, or roofs to get a better look.
- Do not walk or drive while attempting to view the eclipse. The eclipse glasses block almost all light from entering your eyes and therefore, severely impede your vision.
- Avoid standing in building entryways or sidewalks for a prolonged period of time.

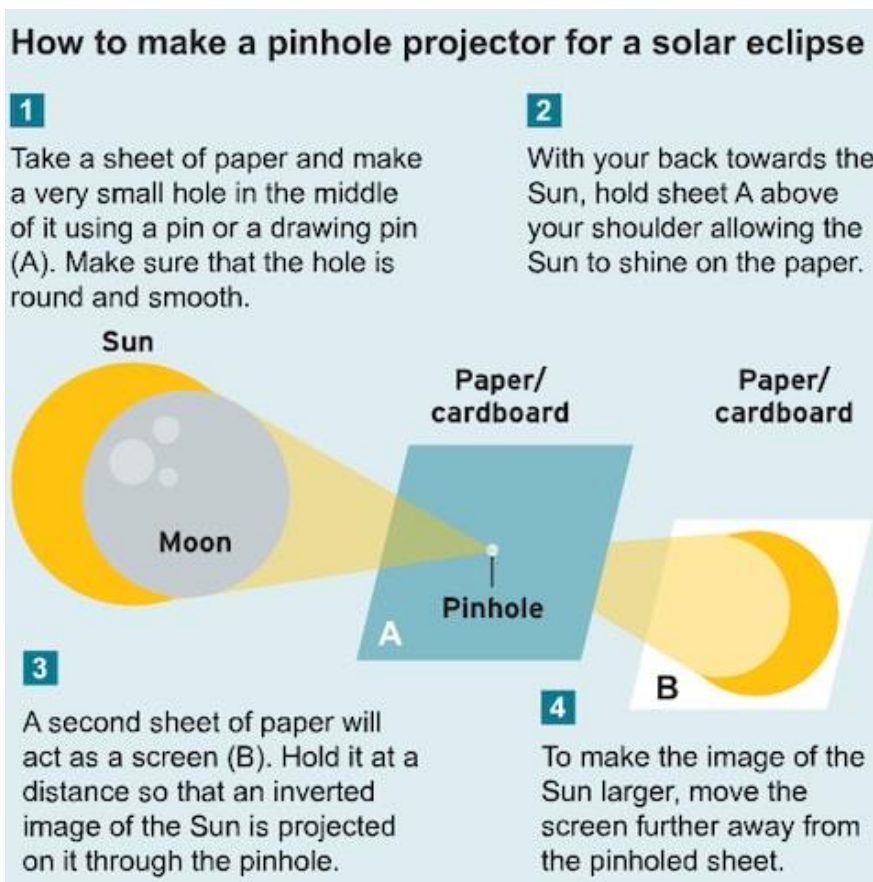


Photo credit: *The Telegraph*