

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: 2017 Total Solar Eclipse

Viewing safety – will I go blind?

A solar eclipse can be safely viewed by wearing eclipse glasses that block most visible light and all harmful ultraviolet light. Eclipse glasses should be worn whenever a part of the sun can be seen; only during totality when the moon has slid fully in front of the sun is it safe to remove eclipse glasses. Check out these great eclipse-viewing [safety tips](#) from NASA. Solar eclipse glasses are currently available for purchase in many places.

What can I expect as far as weather and traffic?

Eclipse chasers from around the world are expected to visit Oregon to view the eclipse. There's the cachet of seeing an eclipse in the state where it first makes landfall, and meteorologists have predicted that Oregon will have the best weather conditions anywhere along the path of totality. Since neither Portland nor Eugene are within the path of totality, there will additionally be a significant number of urbanites making an exodus from cities to catch a glimpse of the totality. This situation will add up to a lot of people on the move. Roads will likely be very crowded, especially the limited networks throughout Oregon. Our advice? Be patient, enjoy the Oregon scenery and our wonderful residents, and be sure to have water, food and paper maps!

How can I book a place to stay?

Many hotels and campsites along the path of totality are already booked on the dates surrounding August 21, 2017 — Oregon State Parks reservations sold out just one hour after being posted online. Many first-come, first-served Oregon State Parks will be temporarily converted to reservation-only for the eclipse. Keep an eye on eclipse campsite reservations for updates.

Federal, county and private campgrounds have their own booking windows; be sure to check your reservation options in advance so you'll be ready to reserve at your preferred location. Wherever you go, get there early, stay put and leave late. The eclipse takes place on a Monday — the perfect excuse for extending your stay into a full week-long getaway.

Will roads be closed before, during & immediately after the eclipse?

There are no plans to close highways or other roads in the days surrounding the eclipse. During a major event such as this, however, it may be necessary to close a road and/or divert traffic due to an unforeseen issue (traffic accident, emergency, etc.). The goal is to keep all highways and roads open and keep traffic flowing! While traffic will no doubt be heavy at times, if people pay attention and keep intersections open it will certainly help. There are a few roads that will be open to emergency services only. Stay informed by using www.tripcheck.com.

Can we park on the side of the highways & roadways?

No. The eclipse is occurring at the height of fire season in a lot of agriculturally dominant landscapes. Over-heated vehicles are of major concern. Pulling your vehicle off on to an area that is not designated for parking is not only dangerous for you and other drivers, but can also produce a fire. So please plan to arrive in the area days prior to the eclipse and stay in a safe, designated area. If you just can't get here days before, at least plan to arrive Sunday night, or give yourself plenty of time to travel and have a plan for parking in a legal spot for eclipse viewing. If you end up parking on the street, please don't block fire hydrants (for safety reasons), respect property owners and don't block their driveways, and overall, don't park in No Parking areas (there's a reason they've been designated as such).

How long will it take to travel?

During the days leading up to the eclipse (especially the day before and day of), plan on much longer travel times. Stay informed by tuning in to media outlets and using www.tripcheck.com.

Where is the best place to park when we arrive on Monday morning?

Based on what we are anticipating and general consultation, Monday morning may be too late to arrive and experience the eclipse. We suggest "daytrippers" arrive Sunday night around 10 p.m. and sleep in their car (or enjoy spectacular starry skies all night). Check out this [Stay](#) page for information on locations offering "daytripper" parking.

Can I just drive to somewhere in the path of totality, park and watch it wherever I end up?

Yes, as long as you do it safely! Wildfire is a concern in many areas, so just pulling your vehicle off the road into a dry grassy area is not a good idea, but we don't want you to miss out on this incredible experience, so if for some reason, you aren't able to get here early and park in an appropriate area, please keep in mind the type of road you're traveling on, traffic conditions, and type of terrain. Don't park in emergency response areas, in front of hydrants, etc., and don't block people's driveways.

After the eclipse then what?

Like any event, with a multitude of spectators and vehicles, it takes time to pack up, depart and pursue access to roads and highways. So be patient, have water, snacks and various personal items for the post-eclipse trip!

Where can we find lodging, RV, or camping spots?

While many hotels and campgrounds have already been booked, there are still camping and RV spots available in Madras. Please check [Travel Oregon](#) page for information. You might also want to check www.vrbo.com and www.airbnb.com for other options. If

you are camping or staying in an RV, please adhere to our “Leave No Trace” policy and do not encroach on private property.

Will we be able to have campfires?

Many fire restrictions will be in place. For fire restriction go to:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Restrictions.aspx>

Wildfire is a major concern and with the influx of visitors during the height of wildfire season, it is imperative that we all exercise due diligence and FIRE safety! The average nighttime temperatures in August are very comfortable, so warming fires won't be necessary.

GENERAL INFO

Will there be activities, festivals, things to do?

There are several sites offering music, vendors and entertainment – some will be fee based, others will be free. Check out [this page](#) for ideas – and check back often as we'll be adding to this page additional fun festivities!

Will Oregon be able to handle the influx of people for the eclipse?

We're excited to have you experience the Total Solar Eclipse in Oregon. We began planning a long time ago to prepare for your visit. From sanitation, food and beverage service, health/safety services, transportation, local information collateral, maps and more – we'll be ready for you with a friendly smile and open arms.

Can I bring my animal(s)?

This is dependent upon where you decide to stay. With the exception of ADA certified service dogs, animals will not be allowed on the shuttles or in most businesses or public festivals. In addition, the average temperatures in our area during August can be extremely high, so if you bring your animals, please don't leave them locked up in hot vehicles – cars, RVs or tied up at campsites.

Is it safe to view with my telescope? Binoculars?

As for telescopes, yes, but only if you have special solar lenses and filters that fit over the end of the scope (not the eyepiece). As for binoculars, you can only use them during the brief period of totality.

What is the chance that it will be a cloudy day?

Cloud cover in August in Oregon is fairly unusual but please check the [National Weather Service](#) or other sources for up to date weather information. Here are five things you need to know about this once-in-a-lifetime event, according to Jim Todd, director of science education programs at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry:

1. You must use eclipse glasses.

If you plan to look up at the sky at all, you must wear certified eclipse glasses with the ISO or CE mark on them. Sunglasses will not properly protect your eyes. It's important that you don't look at the sun directly with your eyes [without eclipse glasses], to avoid permanent damage to your retinas from the sun's ultraviolet radiation. Wear the glasses for the 2.5 hours before and after the two minutes of totality, according to Todd. Only during the moment of totality can you take it off. Time it to be safe. Always supervise children using looking up at the sky. When you do remove your glasses, turn away — do not remove it while looking at the sun.

2. Stock up like you're preparing for a snow day.

Highways, shops and visitor destinations will be crowded. Stock up on gas, food and supplies as if it's a snow day, because you may not be able to get out and about the day before, during and after the Aug. 21 event. If you are traveling to view the eclipse, go early and leave later. Be patient in traffic and carry water, supplies and a printed highway map with you — don't rely on your cell phone or GPS. For tips on extending your trip (and other resource information), pick up Travel Oregon's free Eclipse Guide, available at state welcome centers for a limited time.

3. You can enjoy the eclipse in Portland, Eugene or Bend

If you live in a city outside the path of totality and don't have plans for the eclipse, fear not: Many cities will still be able to experience about 99 percent of the event. So get out the lawn chairs and join your neighbors. If you are seeing the partial eclipse, you need to keep your glasses on the entire time because the 1 percent of sun can damage your eyes. The sky will darken as if it's overcast, and you'll see the silhouette of the moon covering the sun with a glow of sunlight at the top. You may see the bright sparkle of Venus.

4. Help us keep Oregon safe and beautiful

We love Oregon, and you probably do too. Leave No Trace; leave sites as you found them, dispose of your waste responsibly, respect the wildlife and be considerate of other visitors. Be mindful of private property and make sure you are not trespassing. Know that August is peak wildfire season in Oregon, so be vigilant about extinguishing and disposing cigarettes, and respect campfire bans when in place. It's also a great idea to pack large water containers to refill with tap water. Oregon's water is some of the best in the world, so there's no need to buy bottled water.

5. Do you need more information?

Before setting out, check road conditions and travel advisors at TripCheck.com. You'll find many other helpful resources at visitor centers around the state and at these websites.

Oregon State Agencies

- Oregon Office of Emergency Management: Oregon.gov/OEM
- Oregon Department of Transportation: Oregon.gov/ODOT
- ODOT TripCheck: TripCheck.com
- Oregon Department of Forestry: Oregon.gov/ODF
- Oregon State Parks: OregonStateParks.org

Welcome Centers

Pick up eclipse guides (while supplies last) at one of the state's eight official [welcome centers](#), where you can also get more trip-planning information.

- *Boardman*: 101 Olson Road, off I-84 East or West at Exit 164, in the SAGE Center. 541.481.7243
- *Brookings*: 14433 Hwy. 101 S., half a mile north of the Oregon/California border and 5 miles south of Brookings at the Crissey Field State Recreation Site. 541.469.4117
- *Klamath Falls*: 11001 Hwy. 97 S. in the Midland Rest Area, 9 miles north of the Oregon/California border and 8 miles south of Klamath Falls. 551.882.7330
- *Lakeview*: 126 N. E St. in downtown Lakeview, 15 miles from the Oregon/California border, in the Lake County Chamber of Commerce. 541.947.6040, 877.947.6040
- *Ontario*: 377 I-84 W. in the the Ontario Rest Area, a quarter-mile west of the Oregon/Idaho border. Accessible when traveling into Oregon. 541.889.8569
- *Oregon City*: 1726 Washington St., off I-205 at Exit 10 at the The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. 503.657.9336, 800.424.3002
- *Portland International Airport*: 7000 N.E. Airport Way, off I-205, located in the arrivals level near baggage claim carousel five. 503.284.4620
- *Seaside*: 7 N. Roosevelt (Hwy. 101) and Broadway St. in the Seaside Visitors Bureau. 503.738.3097, 888.306.2326

General Eclipse 2017 Information Websites

- TravelOregon.com/Eclipse
- Eclipse2017.org
- AmericanEclipseUSA.com
- Eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov
- NationalEclipse.com

Regional Websites

- Oregon Coast: VisitTheOregonCoast.com
- Willamette Valley: OregonWineCountry.org
- Central Oregon: VisitCentralOregon.com
- Eastern Oregon: VisitEasternOregon.com
- Portland: TravelPortland.com
- Mt. Hood Territory: MtHoodTerritory.com
- Southern Oregon: SouthernOregon.org
- Tillamook Coast: TillamookCoast.com
- City of Salem: TravelSalem.com
- Madras: MadrasEclipse.com
- Ontario: OntarioChamber.com
- Baker City: BasecampBaker.com

For more information about eclipses, visit [this post](#) from NationalEclipse.com.

Regarding eclipse lodging: *The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) recommends that visitors with hotel reservations during the eclipse contact the hotel directly as soon as possible to confirm that their reservations will be honored at the originally advertised price and to make sure that the reservation has not been canceled. Hotels must honor originally advertised prices, regardless of whether the prices are advertised directly by the hotel or through a third party. Any visitors encountering problems with hotel reservations should contact DOJ's consumer hotline by calling 877-877-9392 or filing an online complaint at <https://justice.oregon.gov/complaints/>*