



Solar Eclipse FAQs

What is a total solar eclipse and what is expected to occur in Grey-Bruce during the eclipse on April 8, 2024?



A total solar eclipse happens when the moon's orbit positions it directly between Earth and the Sun, temporarily blocking the view of the Sun over a small part of Earth and plunging the area into momentary darkness.

While solar eclipses are relatively common, total solar eclipses are rare and tend to draw many people to the so-called Path of Totality.

On April 8, 2024, parts of southern and eastern Ontario will experience a total solar eclipse for the first time since 1925.

Grey-Bruce will be outside of the Path of Totality – the narrow area where the moon will completely block out the sun – but will still experience a partial eclipse. The eclipse is expected to begin around 2 p.m. and continue until roughly 4:30 p.m. The largest part of the sun will be blocked out at around 3:20 p.m.

Is it dangerous to watch a solar eclipse with the naked eye?



Yes, it is.

In fact, it's never safe to stare directly at the sun without proper eye protection.

However, the temptation to look at the sun may be higher during a total solar eclipse. Looking at even a small sliver of the sun before or after the eclipse without proper eye protection can harm your vision.

Can I safely watch the eclipse if I'm wearing sunglasses or ski goggles?



No.

Regular sunglasses or ski goggles will not protect your eyes during a solar eclipse. It is also not safe to view the eclipse through a camera/phone lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device.

How can I safely view the eclipse?



Only glasses with specialized filters that adhere to the ISO 12312-2 international standard can adequately protect your eyes while watching a solar eclipse. These glasses should be carefully inspected for wrinkles or scratches before use and should not be used if damaged.

Ensure that eclipse glasses fully cover your entire field of vision. Watching the eclipse on a LiveStream broadcast or observing it through an eclipse box are also safe ways to witness the eclipse.

What should you do if someone looks directly at the solar eclipse without proper eye protection?



You should speak with an eye care professional or health care provider as soon as possible if you or a loved one watches the eclipse and, as a result, experiences temporary vision loss or blurred vision.

If you are experiencing blindness after viewing the eclipse (immediate or delayed), seek emergency care immediately.

How can I safely view the eclipse?



Here are some informative links:

- [Canadian Space Agency](#)
- [Destination Ontario](#)
- Queens University: [Department of Physics, Engineering Physics & Astronomy](#)
- Canadian Association of Optometrists: [Solar Eclipse Safety](#)