

268 Seconds in Texas

Owners of ranches in the Western Texas Hill Country know they are truly blessed. An unexpected benefit comes our way on April 8th when we will enjoy the best seat in Texas for the Solar Eclipse.

Much hype has been afforded this event, but here are some interesting facts you may not have heard or read about, along with some reference links for further information.

The April 8th eclipse will be nothing like the one we witnessed in October. There will be no “ring of fire”. Most RLAT members are in the very small geographic area of the United States that will witness both eclipses, and only parts of 15 states will see the total eclipse of April 8th. Alaska and Hawaii will miss out on totality, only seeing a small percentage of the eclipse. Source: <https://www.space.com/10-things-you-probably-did-not-know-about-the-2024-total-solar-eclipse>

Everyone in the continental United States will see at least a partial eclipse, and this will be the most-viewed eclipse ever. Come early and stay late because there is a lot to see before and after totality. Source: <https://www.astronomy.com/observing/25-facts-you-should-know-about-the-total-solar-eclipse-on-april-8-2024/>

Over two thirds of the path of totality is at sea. This eclipse is the result of a remarkable coincidence. The Moon, being 400 times closer, works perfectly to block the Sun for us on Earth. On April 8th the new Moon will appear to be 5.5% larger than normal. Source: <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/10-strange-facts-about-the-2024-solar-eclipse>

Don't miss the special effects of this eclipse just before the total phase begins. Look for unique shadows on the ground. They show up as stripes of black and white, switching back and forth every couple of inches, making a sort of shimmering pattern on the ground. These are called “shadow bands,” and they are light patterns that happen because the little bit of sunlight squeezing past the Moon just before and right after a total eclipse gets bent as it moves through the air. (This bending is the same reason stars seem to twinkle in the night sky.) Source: <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/the-great-solar-eclipse-2024>

Looking to photograph the eclipse? It's a bit tricky. Here is some great advice: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/prepare-for-2024s-solar-eclipse-now-with-these-four-key-steps-180981933/>

It's also all about scientific research. Scientists worldwide will be studying a variety of topics using jet planes, satellites, and ground instruments. It is a rare opportunity to gain more knowledge about the atmosphere and space. And if you enjoy this one, you'll want to be in Alaska in 2033! Source: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/total-solar-eclipse-sun-science-viewing-2024>

At RLAT part of our mission is to provide educational information and resources on subjects and endeavors relating to our mutual lifestyle.

Our goal is to ensure property rights and to maintain the quality of our ecosystem. Your membership is appreciated, and we hope you spread the word about RLAT. New members can join our worthy organization at www.RLATX.org

Enjoy the Eclipse and be safe!