

2024 Total Solar Eclipse – Monday, April 8, 2024

Mark it on the calendar: the biggest day of the year - perhaps the event of the decade - will happen on April 8, 2024. A total solar eclipse will cast the shadow of the moon on a narrow path across the Earth with the direct path of totality across northern Ohio.

WHO Does It Effect?

YOU, your family, your business, your employees.

WHAT is the Total Solar Eclipse?

A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun. Since the Earth and the moon are moving, the path of totality moves across our planet at around 1,400 miles per hour. A cross-country total solar eclipse in the United States won't happen again until 2045.

What Will the Total Solar Eclipse Look Like?

During a solar eclipse, the sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk. At the moment of totality, with protective eyewear, you will be able to gaze at the fully eclipsed sun for a once-in-a-lifetime view of the solar corona. **CAUTION:** Remember to never look directly at the sun, even during a total solar eclipse without approved protective eyewear.

The few select minutes of totality will be a once in a lifetime experience. The sky will darken as if it were early dawn or late dusk. Stars and planets may be visible. Most importantly, **this time in totality will be your one and only chance to view the sun's corona.** This is just one of many reasons to get excited for April 8, 2024.

In Rossford, the totality will start at 3:12:07 PM with a max eclipse at 3:13:09 PM, ending at 3:14:11 PM – with a time in totality of 2 minutes 4 seconds.

WHY should I prepare for this event?

Emergency services have been preparing for over two years for this event. It will affect everyone in the area. It is conservatively predicted that the



population of Wood County will double on April 8, 2024. Traffic and roads will be congested, hotels will be filled, groceries, gasoline, and other necessities will be in short supply due to the influx of people. Most schools have already planned to be closed.

WHERE are people coming from?

Northwest Ohio is the area of totality that is closest to those traveling south from Canada and Michigan and traveling east from here to Chicago and beyond. While some travelers may intend to go further east toward Cleveland where the totality exceeds three minutes, they may not get any further than NW Ohio before traffic has stopped.

WHEN should I prepare?

It's time to start preparing now, whether it is for yourself, your family, or your business. Travelers will begin to arrive gradually throughout the weekend of April 5-7, 2024. On Monday, April 8th, incoming traffic will begin early as the highways fill and visitors jockey for the best viewing areas. When the eclipse ends at 3:15 PM, everyone will be trying to leave at the same time which is likely to cause mass congestion.

HOW do I prepare?

Your Family

Your school age children will most likely be home that day. With the timing of the eclipse coinciding with school dismissal, it could be difficult to get buses through, and parents could be delayed. If you can stay home that day, it is recommended that you do so. Make sure to fill vehicles with gasoline and stock up on groceries, prescriptions, and other necessities well before the weekend. Have some cash on hand for

emergencies. It is anticipated that the event could affect cell phone service, so you may lose contact with family members.

Your Business

Non-essential businesses should consider closing for the day or allowing employees to work remotely from home.

Grocery Stores are encouraged to fully stock shelves and carry additional stock of necessities such as bottled water, baby formula and diapers, paper goods, grab and go food items, and basic perishables such as milk, bread, eggs, etc.

Gas Stations and Convenience Stores will be hit hard. Historically during an eclipse, many stations run out of fuel. Fill tanks to capacity and consider having a tanker on site at prime locations to refill. Stock up on bottled water and other drinks and snacks.

Restaurants should plan for an influx of visitors. Staff accordingly and make sure you have extra paper goods, beverages, and basic ingredients for your main menu items. You will not be able to source these products in real time if you run out. Traffic may be impossible and grocery stores and other sources may be sold out of products.

Retail Stores and Attractions should be prepared for an influx of visitors throughout the weekend looking for things to do and shopping for necessities, souvenirs, and local items. Staff accordingly and consider adding additional merchandise that provides a unique memento or gift commemorating the trip.

For more information on the **2024 Solar Eclipse** and updates on events and news in the Rossford area, go to www.VisitRossfordOhio.com and click on the 2024 Solar Eclipse link at the top of the page.

