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As seen from earth, a solar eclipse /ee-klips/ happens when the moon is directly between the earth and the sun. This makes the moon fully or partially (partly) cover the sun. Solar eclipses can only happen during a new moon. Every year there are about two solar eclipses. Sometimes there are even five solar eclipses in a year. However, only two of these can be total solar eclipses,[1][2] and often a year will pass without a total eclipse.

The area in which an eclipse is total is only a narrow track along the earth. Totality lasts only a few minutes. Outside this path, all eclipses are partial, and places far from the track get no eclipse at all. The track can be predicted many years before it happens.

A total solar eclipse is a natural phenomenon (event). Long ago, solar eclipses were thought to happen because of something supernatural or as a sign that something bad was going to happen. This is still believed in some cultures today. A total solar eclipse can frighten people who do not know what it means, because the sun seems to disappear during the day and the sky turns dark in just a few minutes. Other people like to go to the eclipse path for a good view while wearing special glasses.

Looking directly at the bright surface of the sun itself can hurt the retina of the eye greatly because of the radiation that comes from the sun. It can even blind people. The retina does not feel pain, so damage may not be felt for hours.[3]

The sun is usually so bright that it is hard to look at it directly. However, when the sun is covered in an eclipse, it is easier to look at it. Looking at the sun during an eclipse is equally dangerous, except in the very short time when the sun"s surface is completely covered. Looking at the sun"s surface through binoculars, a telescope, or even a camera is extremely dangerous and can damage the eye in less than a second.[4][5]

This is a list of solar eclipses visible from the United States between 1901 and 2100. All eclipses whose path of totality or annularity passes through the land territory of the current fifty U.S. states and the District of Columbia are included. All types of solar eclipses, whether recent, upcoming, or in the past, are also included. For lists of eclipses worldwide, see the list of 20th-century solar eclipses and 21st-century solar eclipses.

Shown below is the key for the eclipse types denoted for each date for a particular state. Each date will be followed by a small uppercase letter in parentheses, indicating the type of solar eclipse that passed over the particular state.

From 1900 to 2100, the state of Alabama will have recorded a total of 87 solar eclipses, two of which are annular eclipses and four of which are total eclipses. The two annular solar eclipses occurred on April 7, 1940,

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and May 30, 1984, respectively. One total solar eclipse occurred on June 8, 1918, and three more will occur on August 12, 2045; March 30, 2052; and May 11, 2078.

The most recent total solar eclipse in Alabama was on June 8, 1918; the most recent annular solar eclipse was on May 30, 1984; and the most recent partial solar eclipse was on April 8, 2024. The next total solar eclipse in Alabama will occur on August 12, 2045, and the next partial solar eclipse will occur on January 26, 2028.[1]

From 1900 to 2100, the state of Alaska will have recorded a total of 127 solar eclipses, six of which are annular eclipses and eight of which are total eclipses. Two of the annular eclipses have already occurred on April 19, 1939 and May 9, 1948, respectively, and four more will occur on June 21, 2039; July 1, 2057; June 22, 2066; and July 3, 2084. Six total solar eclipses have already occurred on June 29, 1927; February 4, 1943; September 12, 1950; July 20, 1963; July 10, 1972; and July 22, 1990, respectively, and two more will occur on March 30, 2033, and May 11, 2097.

The most recent total solar eclipse in Alaska was on July 22, 1990; the most recent annular solar eclipse was on May 9, 1948; and the most recent partial solar eclipse was on April 8, 2024. The next total solar eclipse in Alaska will occur on March 30, 2033; the next annular solar eclipse will occur on June 21, 2039; and the next partial solar eclipse will occur on August 12, 2026.[2]

The most recent annular solar eclipse was on October 14, 2023; and the most recent partial solar eclipse was on April 8, 2024. The next annular solar eclipse will occur on November 15, 2077; and the next partial solar eclipse will occur on January 26, 2028.[3]

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