

News About the Eclipse on April 8, 2024

By Ayo Aje

What is an *Solar Eclipse*?

A *solar eclipse* occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, obscuring the view of the Sun from a small part of Earth, totally or partially. When Moon blocks all of the Sun's light, it is called a total solar eclipse. That is what happened on April 8, 2024 in North America.

Where & When

The path of the eclipse continued from Mexico, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Small parts of Tennessee and Michigan also experienced the total solar eclipse. The eclipse entered Canada in Southern Ontario, and continued through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton. The eclipse exited continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT.

Observations

During the eclipse, some observers saw red dots around the obscured sun. Photos have shown that they were actually plasma. As a result, multiple outlets including USA Today and NDTV reported that these fiery structures were produced by solar flares — explosions on the sun's surface that can launch massive clouds of plasma. Lots of observers also shared their photos of these "solar flares."

The Next Solar Eclipse

Missed this total solar eclipse? "The next total solar eclipse is set to happen on Aug. 12, 2026, over Greenland, Iceland, Spain, Russia and a small part of Portugal," says NASA. The next total solar eclipse is going to be in **20 more years**, which is a really long time! Events like this are really rare, which is why this eclipse is a very special eclipse.