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The “Great American Eclipse”

The total solar eclipse of August 21, 2017 will be remembered as much for the tempest of hype leading up to the event as for the event itself.

Travel accommodations to, from, and at prime viewing locations along the event’s transcontinental path of totality sold out months in advance. Purveyors of unsafe counterfeit solar viewing glasses exploited the shortage of legitimate devices, to the detriment of inexperienced users. Social media was ablaze with personal accounts of individual and group pilgrimages. Proposals of marriage and at least one wedding were planned to coincide with the mystical moment of obstructive climax.

The next total solar eclipse visible in the US will occur on April 8, 2024. Residents of Dallas, Cleveland, Buffalo, and Burlington, VT need only look out the window at the appropriate time to enjoy the show. The rest of us, alas, will have to make our reservations well in advance.



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