

# Safety Precautions during the Eclipse

Never look at the sun directly with your naked eyes or through any optics. You will permanently damage your eyes.

It is dangerous to look at the sun directly with your eyes. It is even more dangerous to look at it through any telescope, binoculars, lens etc. You run the risk of permanently damaging your eyes and even blindness. The eclipse of 21 June 2020 will be an annular eclipse, with a maximum obscuration of 96%. The remaining 4% of the exposed sun is enough to damage your eyes if you look at the sun directly. Looking directly through a telescope or binoculars may even burn your retina.

Do not use sunglasses or other films. Even if your eyes may not hurt if the visible part of the sunlight is reduced, there might still be enough ultraviolet or infrared light passing through to your eyes.



There are special eclipse glasses that will enable you to see the eclipse directly. Since they are not easy to access, we describe a number of easy and safe methods by which you can see the eclipse, in the poster on easy methods of viewing eclipses.



## COVID-19 safety

Large gatherings of people to see the eclipse together will not be allowed in almost all countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please follow your local social distancing rules while watching the eclipse. If you do have access to eclipse glasses, sharing them with the general public may risk coronavirus transmission. Do not try to disinfect them with sanitisers etc.

**Stay safe, and enjoy the eclipse!**

## Did you know?

Isaac Newton suffered some eye damage for a few days when he looked at the sun through a mirror from a darkened room

## Activity

Do your neighbours, friends and family know about the eclipse and the precautions they need to take? Why don't you start a discussion with them about this eclipse and explain when it will occur, and how to see it safely?

**LOOKING AT THE SUN DIRECTLY WITH YOUR NAKED EYES OR THROUGH A TELESCOPE, BINOCULARS OR A LENS, MAY PERMANENTLY DAMAGE YOUR EYES.**

Download this poster series and our Eclipse Handbook for Africa from our website

<https://www.africanastronomicalsociety.org/solar-eclipse-2020/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/269613600825655/>

<https://twitter.com/africaastronomy>

[@africaastronomy](https://www.instagram.com/africaastronomy)

[niruj@africanastronomicalsociety.org](mailto:niruj@africanastronomicalsociety.org)



Designed by: Science Stars - [info@sciencestar.com](mailto:info@sciencestar.com) | [www.sciencestars.co.za](http://www.sciencestars.co.za)



Background image: A montage of the stages of the annular solar eclipse of 26 Dec 2019, by Aasif Iqbal J from Coonoor, India.