

[www.science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/](http://www.science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/)

## What is a total solar eclipse?

It is a rare occurrence that happens when the Moon passes directly between the Sun and Earth. This happens when the Moon is in its new moon phase and its orbit brings it close enough to the Earth to completely block out the Sun.

## When, exactly, will the eclipse occur?

A good portion of San Antonio will be in the direct path for the total eclipse on Monday, April 8th, 2024. It will appear as a partial eclipse about 12:14 p.m. with peak viewing at 1:34 p.m., and ending around 2:55 p.m. Millions of Texans will have an opportunity to view the event, weather permitting. The last total solar eclipse in Texas was in 1878. The next total eclipse in the United States will be in 2045, and then only a small portion of the Texas Panhandle will experience totality.

## Should you wear glasses?

Yes! Absolutely. You cannot look directly at the sun without risking severe damage to your eyes.

## The Path of Totality

Lara Eakins, Sr. Administrative Program Coordinator in the Department of Astronomy at the University of Texas at Austin gave this description: "You'll start to hear like crickets chirping and things that you more associate with twilight or birds chirping that are normally at dawn or in the evening, you'll start to hear those because they're going off the amount of light and they're being completely discombobulated by the fact that a lot of the light just went away, even though it's one in the afternoon or whatever."

Since a large amount of visitors are expected to travel to Texas on eclipse day, residents should plan ahead, and be alert for traffic problems and other issues a large influx of visitors may bring. Most school districts in San Antonio will not be closed on eclipse day, with the exception of South San Antonio ISD. During an eclipse, temperatures drop. Birds flock throughout the darkening sky as they settle into silence and get ready to sleep. In the last moments before totality, the moon blocks enough of the sun's rays to reveal the faint solar corona. Unlike daily sunsets that bestow a colorful sky reserved to one portion of the horizon, a mosaic of colors will engulf the whole horizon in the seconds leading up to totality.

"There's a huge difference just before and once in totality," Speck said. "Look quickly or else you'll miss it."

Once the moon has completely covered the sun, reaching totality at 1:33 p.m. to 1:35 p.m., it's safe to view without eclipse glasses.

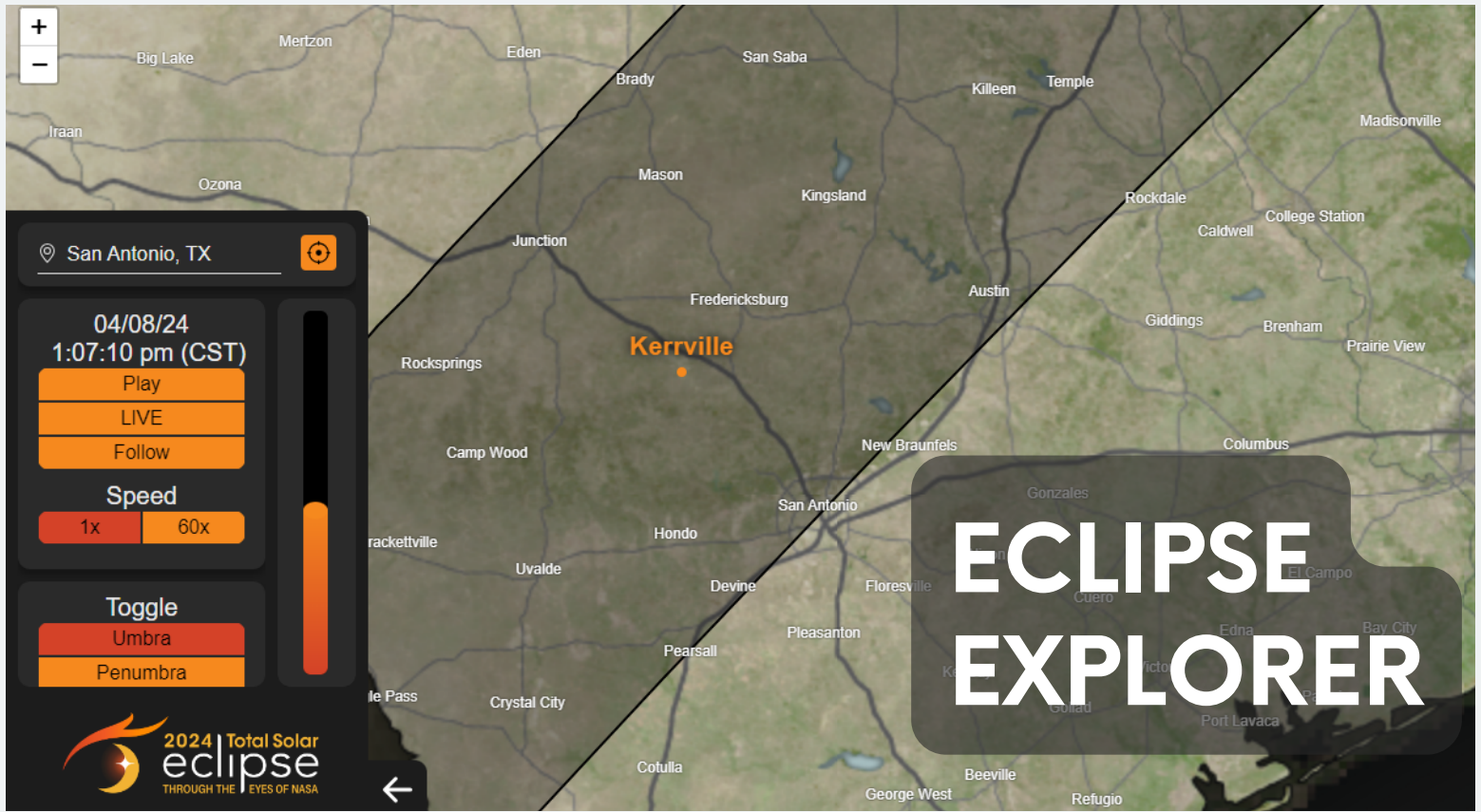
"It'll be as bright as a full moon," Speck said. The entire progression of the eclipse will end in San Antonio at 2:55 p.m. April's event is the last chance to catch a total solar eclipse from the contiguous United States until 2044. A total solar eclipse will sweep across western Alaska in 2033.

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## TOTAL ECLIPSE DETAILS FOR SELECT SAN ANTONIO LOCATIONS

Location	Totality Start	Duration
Natural Bridge Caverns	1:34:25 PM CDT	1:16
Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch	1:34:28 PM CDT	1:13
Nelson W. Wolff Municipal Stadium	1:33:59 PM CDT	0:19
San Antonio Aquarium	1:33:26 PM CDT	1:39
SeaWorld San Antonio	1:33:01 PM CDT	2:03
Six Flags Fiesta Texas	1:33:14 PM CDT	2:25
The Shops at La Cantera	1:33:13 PM CDT	2:24
The University of Texas at San Antonio	1:33:13 PM CDT	2:23

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