

TRAVEL PREPAREDNESS

TIPS FOR THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



The 2024 total solar eclipse promises to be a breathtaking experience, but it is crucial to stay safe during your journey if you decide to travel away from home to take in the sight. Ensure your travel safety before, during and after the eclipse by checking traffic conditions and following the tips outlined below.

BEFORE THE ECLIPSE: PLAN AHEAD

To ensure a smooth trip, start planning well in advance. [Research your eclipse viewing site](#), considering accessibility, parking and crowd size. Consider booking accommodations and transportation early, as there may not be availability closer to the event due to high demand.

Additional tips to consider shortly before setting off on your travels include:

- If you have any pre-existing health conditions, consult your doctor before embarking on your trip. Ensure you pack any necessary medications and that health devices you require are fully charged.
- Water is a necessity in life. Plan to bring a couple of gallons of water to ensure you have some around if you become stranded.
- Prepare to bring plenty of snacks with you on the trip. Make sure to choose something shelf-stable, such as energy bars or camping food.
- It might be stating the obvious, but be sure to bring your cell phone and any charging cables you need. Consider packing a portable battery pack to ensure you can stay fully charged.
- Bring cash. You might need to fuel up or buy supplies somewhere that does not accept electronic payment or cannot accept electronic payments due to a service outage.
- Make sure your vehicle has a full tank of gas. With the amount of visitors the state is expecting, fuel supplies could be depleted, or you could be stuck in traffic for long periods of time and unable to fill up.
- Before you head out on your eclipse road trip, make sure your vehicle is in great shape. For peace of mind, have the pros check out everything under the hood and top off all necessary fluids.
- Ensure you have a set of jumper cables in your vehicle. If needed, you will be glad you have them.
- If your vehicle has a spare or temporary tire, make sure it is properly inflated. If your vehicle does not have an extra tire, invest in a tire-sealant kit so you can make self repairs that will help you reach safety in the event of a flat tire.
- Emergency flares or reflectors can be a lifesaver if your vehicle breaks down on the side of the road. These will make sure other drivers are aware of the situation, allowing them time to make extra space for you to deal with the maintenance issues as they pass.
- Pack a physical (paper) map. There is potential that the cell network will get overloaded, causing unreliable access to navigation systems that rely on cellular coverage.
- If you do not have one already, assemble an emergency kit that includes a first-aid kit, a basic toolkit and items like a flashlight and batteries.
- Do not forget your specially designed solar eclipse viewing glasses! In order to view all phases of the eclipse, you will need these special glasses to ensure you do not damage your eyes. For more information, visit the [Viewing Safety webpage](#).



DURING THE ECLIPSE: ENJOY RESPECTFULLY

When the day arrives and visitors are flocking to Indiana to view the total solar eclipse, it will be important to keep these following tips in mind in order to make it a great experience for yourself as well as all others.

- Anticipate increased traffic. Check the [Indiana Department of Transportation's official website](#) for traffic information to plan your routes and travel times accordingly.
- If you are watching the eclipse at a [state or local park](#), follow all park rules and regulations, especially regarding parking, littering and campfires. Use designated viewing areas and respect any restricted zones set up by park authorities.
- Protect sensitive ecosystems and stay on designated trails and paths if visiting one of these parks. Avoid disturbing wildlife and respect any conservation efforts in place. Do not pick flowers or damage vegetation.
- Be considerate of other eclipse viewers. Keep noise levels down during the event so everyone can enjoy the celestial spectacle peacefully. Share your knowledge and eclipse glasses with fellow spectators, fostering community and shared wonder.

AFTER THE ECLIPSE: A SAFE RETURN

It is important that travelers return home safely and do not leave behind any unwanted signs of their presence after the eclipse.

- Plan your post-eclipse transportation method well ahead of time. Ensure everyone in your group has a safe and sober way to return to your accommodations or home.
- If you have celebrated the eclipse with friends or family and consumed alcoholic beverages, it is crucial to prioritize safety. Never drink and drive. Designate a sober driver in advance, or arrange for alternative transportation options like rideshares or taxis.
- After the eclipse, exercise patience when leaving the viewing area, as traffic may be heavy. Indiana State Police and local law enforcement agencies will be managing traffic flows. Follow their instructions and be considerate of fellow travelers for a safe departure.
- Embrace the "Leave No Trace" philosophy. Clean up after yourself and leave the place better than you found it. Dispose of trash in designated receptacles, or plan to take it with you when you leave.



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
**HOMELAND
SECURITY**