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Tuesday, August 24, 1999 Published at 12:49 GMT 13:49 UK

A global perspective of the eclipse



Did you witness the eclipse? Read about your experiences from around the world.

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Your Reaction from around the world:

It wasn't as dark as I expected. I live in Tehran and sky was a little cloudy. Anyway, it was a great experience for me because it won't happen again till next 80 years. My eyes have a little smart pain but it isn't important because the eclipse was so valuable for me and I know it will happen only once in lifetime!

Anita Modjahedpour, Iran

It left an eerie feeling in the air, and got very cool outside. We were able to see almost a full eclipse, and the best part of it was when the rooster crowed after the moon moved away.

Wes Garrett, Switzerland

Never have so many stared so futilely, for so long, at so little. The sky was completely overcast and the sun was glimpsed for only a few seconds about 30 minutes after totality (which lasted for 25 seconds here, just north of Luxembourg City).

Michael Jolliffe, Luxembourg

At Leon, France - cloud, cloud and more cloud. However, at

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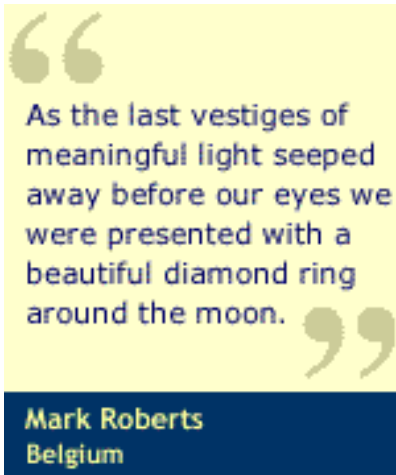
The eclipse as seen in Turkey by one of our users, Ebru Yalcin

the centre line of totality it went black as night for two minutes after what seemed like God switching the lights off. After the two minutes the lights came back on to the sound of a cock crowing!

Brian Fletcher, France

It was absolutely marvellous. I sat on a hill north of Graz surrounded by farm land and the Slovenian border in the distance. The lead up to the eclipse was as expected it gradually got darker. All of a sudden it was a very dark twilight except for Slovenia in the distance. The corona round the sun was amazing.

Colin Steele, Austria



Interesting to read some of the comments on the visibility of the eclipse in Munich. I watched the whole amazing event unfolding in clear skies near the centre of Munich. For those that didn't have a clear view it must be very disappointing - it was an awesome and humbling experience, with spontaneous applause breaking out at the moment when the sun was totally eclipsed, followed by equally spontaneous cheering when the sun again peeped out

from behind the moon. My lasting memory will be of the quiet and wonderment as scores of people took the glasses away from their eyes to gaze for a minute at the total eclipse.

Mike Allan, Germany

I was a participant at an eclipse party along the Isar River, and we were extremely lucky to catch the full eclipse phase during a gap in the cloud cover. I was truly amazed at the spectacular sight. I had always thought an eclipse would be a short replay of a night time atmosphere. But in fact the light conditions were different from any I've ever experienced anywhere before. It was an absolutely mind-boggling event, a once-in-a-lifetime show in the sky...

Marcella von Rechwitz, Munich, Germany

An awesome display of nature which will live with me throughout the rest of my days

Steve Maslen, France

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Milan only experienced about a 95% eclipse with partly cloudy sky's, but that did not deny us an early twilight. Business meetings stopped, traffic came to a standstill as people paused to see the eclipsed sun's crescent skip in and out of the clouds. The partial eclipse seem to hold the city in an hypnotic state...silence held the normally noisy city. And just a mere ten minutes later, we were back in bright sunlight and life returned to normal, as if somebody had clicked their fingers!

Alex Wolker, Italy



Ebru Yalcin sends another spectacular image from Ankara, Turkey

It was a unique experience. Thanks to the BBC for this program to be shown this way. It is very thrilling to see the way nature is.

Dr. Harish Bahadur, India

Very bizarre experience indeed.
Coldf Jedi, Turkey

I saw a total of 98 % and it was great. I never saw something before, only it was not dark here, such a little sun and such a strong light!!! GREAT!!!

Michael Otten Netherlands
Michael Otten, Netherlands

A slight momentary decline in the intensity of sun's beating rays. That's all I experienced in the moment of eclipse. Enjoyed the view by the BBC.

Mohammad Shaffi, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Though the sky was almost completely cloud covered, a break came at the perfect moment. Although we were not in the line of the total eclipse, it was still amazing to see and be party to an event such as that. There was, as usual, too much hype, but it was possible to factor it all out and enjoy the eclipse for the natural wonder that it is.

Antonia Mochan, Belgium



We're just back home after having seen a very spectacular event: the solar eclipse. At once everything was dark here... yes, the famous "penumbra". A lot of Italian people have come up to Germany just to see the eclipse. But they haven't had much luck with the weather: in fact, in many parts of the land this natural show has been

hidden by the clouds. Here in Wasserburg the sky was cloudy

too, but we have seen a lot. (All eyes skyward, and at once the absolute dark!) In Munich the heavy rains broke just at the moment of totality, making the event a washout.

Peter Patti, Germany

Venice - 12:40 - 90+ per cent total eclipse, light cloud cover restricted clear view. Pigeons in St Marco wanted to go to sleep. Not too cold.

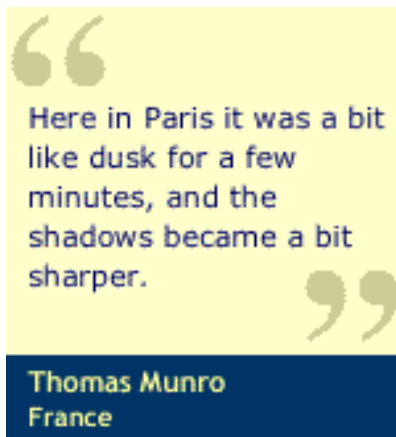
Alex, Italy

On top of a 15 level office block, we could perfectly see the 95% blockage which was forecast. The Hague is in the south west of The Netherlands and was partly cloudy. The clouds gave a very surreal feeling to the whole experience, blue and red edges with the occasional yellowish glow, it was stunning

Floris Scheurleer, The Netherlands

Good day from Duesseldorf, Germany. Unfortunately, the overcast sky today prevented us from having a full view of this spectacular phenomenon. I tried to catch the eclipse through sporadic openings in the clouds and what I did finally manage to see was indeed awesome. Semi-darkness covered the city and the temperature dropped noticeably. I am disappointed, however, that I couldn't get a full and clear view of this once in a lifetime experience. I guess it was better than not seeing it at all.

Anna Wacker, Germany



An overcast day, but the clouds cleared just before the eclipse reached totality. We witnessed 100% coverage and it was a humbling experience as it went so dark you could see the stars, street lights came on and birds took to the skies seemingly in panic.

Glyn Evans, Munich, Germany

I found the coverage great. Was able to get on line to watch it the telecast and the

rest of the coverage.

Kevin Jackaman, Australia

We stopped at the side of a small road between Heidelberg and Karlsruhe. It had been really cloudy beforehand, but there was a patch of clear sky just at the right time, and we got to see the full eclipse for almost a minute. There was a peculiar kind of darkness, not really like night at all. I wouldn't have missed it for anything.

Sarah McKenzie, Germany

Although we were not in the totally dark zone, we still experienced a very weird spectacle. The day gradually got

darker and when the moon was eventually in front of the sun, large black clouds swept across the sky making it even darker and colder. As soon as the moon began to move away from the sun, the clouds disappeared and we could see the spectacle very clearly. It was brilliant!

Elaine Edmondson, Germany



We had splendid weather. I was in a meeting, but took an improvised pin-hole camera (from a shoe box) with me. To the amusement of my work colleagues I sat by the window and every so often looked in the box. I was able to see the moon passing of the sun, and sometime around noon (as said I was in a meeting, so I can not be precise) the sunlight

became noticeably weaker. Even though it appeared bright outside, the shadows in the room were so much the more noticeable that the others commented. The weirdest thing was that I, who was sat with my back to the full glare of the sun, noticed at that time that there was little if any heat - normally you get roasted if you sit in this position behind the window.

Christopher Briggs, Norway

A beautiful cloudless sky here in Montpellier, enabling a perfect view. A remarkable drop in luminosity and temperature - eerie. Rendezvous in 2085...

Magnus Hutchins, France

It was 12:20 at the office. The eclipse seemed to be stuck behind the thick clouds. We just felt the sun going down.

Laurent Geslin, Lille, France

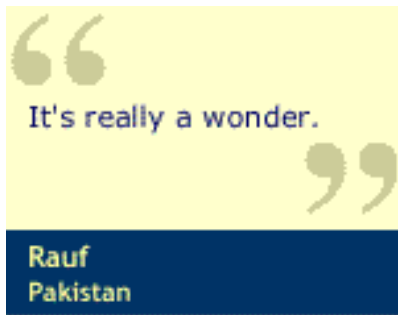
I saw one of the most spectacular events today from atop a seven story building in Rome. The sky was cloudless and blue and the by early noon people had started trickling onto the terrace for the view. Most of us had a gadget or a pin hole camera, or a pan with water to watch the gradual disappearance of the sun. And it did, well almost. There was a brief drop in light and temperature but then it was back to being sunny again.

S Dharmapuri, Italy

From Sofia, Bulgaria the eclipse was like sun cradle. It was very beautiful. The sun light was like before sunset and it was a little bit cold like before spring sunset. And now when the sun is full it is very, very hot - 37 Celsius degree.

Kosta, Bulgaria

In Belgrade we experience 98% of the eclipse. The streets are empty, without passengers, cars, traffic totally frozen, as



it was the first day when the bombs began to fall...

Vesna, Yugoslavia

The usually pulsating Torino heat of midday, was replaced by a crisp feeling, one almost associated with dawn.

Irfan, Italy

With "only" a 91.5% partial eclipse, the event in the Macedonian capital Skopje was not as spectacular as elsewhere. Nevertheless, there was a clear drop in light intensity and temperature between 1245 and the peak at 1300 CET, and the streets were deserted. Eerie!

John White, Macedonia

Miserable grey sky went even greyer. Switched off lights in office, could still see clearly. Had more exciting 'once-in-a-lifetime' experiences crossing the street!

Chris Clifford, Zurich, Switzerland



The build up to the eclipse was far better than the actual 'partial eclipse' itself as we had no cloud cover until the last half hour. What a feeling knowing I probably saw more here than the poor folk down in Cornwall !!! Better luck next time....what happened to Armageddon?

Corey Price, Holland

Here in Paris it was a bit like dusk for a few minutes, and the shadows became a bit sharper (or maybe that's my imagination), and the cars put their headlights on and then it had passed...

Thomas Munro, France

Sunny breaks, and nice view 97% Nice!

Gary Evans, Amsterdam, Holland

12:49: I can see sun (sunshine) from 80 %, but clouds cover the sun

Martina Jurasová, Czech Republic

Through gaps in the clouds I glimpsed a beautiful, partially excluded, cold light from the sun as the air traffic thundered overhead, as usual.

Jim Burns, Zürich, Switzerland

There was rain and heavy cloud 10 minutes either side of the eclipse but the sky was clear at totality and we got a fantastic view. The sky didn't go completely dark but we could still see

a couple of stars near totality.

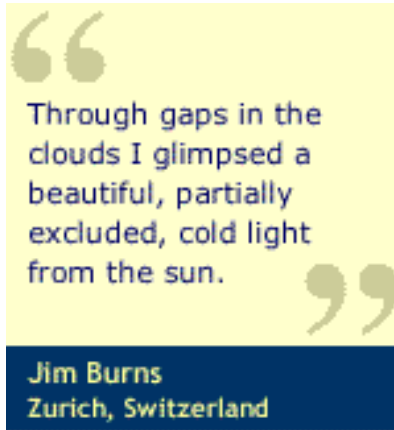
Janet Sampson, Cronenbourg, nr Strasbourg, France

Total change of atmosphere, beginning twilight, swallows flying, but no bird song. 80% eclipse, totally wondrous to see our students watch the miracle.

Helle Gjeding Jørgensen, Denmark

Didn't see much. About half way through it got cloudy and started Pouring with rain. Everyone thought the world was ending but it didn't. Great fun.

Klara P., Prague, Czech Republic



Here in Rome the weather has been very good for the observation of the eclipse. The silence in the cloud moment was so unreal... I've never seen one such thing before. There are no birds in sky at the moment. Strange uh?

Massimo Brigandi, Italy

We were watching the eclipse in Zurich - predicted 97.1% obstruction. Sitting outside at a local restaurant having lunch,

dodging out between showers we were able to occasionally view the tremendously evocative view of the very black moon sliding across the face of the sun. About 1 minute before maximum obstruction I was able to see several stars gleaming out - no mean feat considering that the small percentage of sun left was doing a very good job of providing a lot of background light due to refraction off the clouds. All together an interesting experience - but I am glad that I had not driven North into the 80 km traffic jam, stuck in a thunderstorm for 4 hours in the totality zone!

Michael Drinkwater, Switzerland

A light haze only aided the enjoyment of the eclipse. Only a slight dimming of daylight was observed. It was viewed best by projecting the image through binoculars onto a white surface.

R/V GD Nalivkin, Russian ship, Centre of Caspian Sea

It wasn't as dark as I expected, more like twilight. The local council had decided to light the streetlights though. A bit exaggerated I thought. The cats in the area were not impressed. Some people seemed to think being out on the streets was dangerous and stayed in.

Gert van der Straaten, Netherlands

It is the middle of the rainy season here in Burkina Faso. The weather last week has been cloudy with scattered sunny intervals so it was going to be a question of chance whether or not we were going to get a clear view of the partial eclipse.

However last night there was a prolonged heavy rain storm and this morning it is heavily overcast. Sometimes as the thunderstorms roll in it gets so dark during the middle of the day that the street lights automatically come on but it is not that dark this morning. If one was not aware what was going on above the clouds one would have no idea that there is something very special happening. My one year old daughter will probably never experience another eclipse.

Mark Wilson, Burkina Faso (West Africa)

It was really beautiful. I could see 80 % coverage of sun by moon.

Viranchi H Joshi, Denmark

Amidst a sky covered in clouds and shortly following heavy rain, a gap appeared in the sky 2 minutes before the Totality. It remained perfectly clear for about 4 minutes, allowing the whole event to be witnessed, as the day became night, then day once more. Within two minutes of the return of day, the clouds returned, as did the rain. My first eclipse - spellbinding. Working away from my native country in Munich isn't so bad after all!!

Phil Hamer, Munich - Germany

Here in Soria we just felt the sun rays wasn't as strong as some minutes before, but it wasn't as spectacular as we expected. Hundreds of people here got out of their houses but they should have stayed home watching TV.

Manuel Suárez, Soria, Spain

The BBC site was the best site about total eclipse. Thanks a lot.

Rhaxwell Santos, Brazil

The weather just turned out to be perfect before the eclipse started, despite clouds in the morning. Had no special glasses, tried with black plastic sheets to get a blurred effect, but then got a pair of film negatives. Saw a very clear and fantastic view, magnificent nature in its glory...last one for the century.

Brijesh Goel, Norway

Not a lot to see from down-under! However great to see it on The Net, thank you BBC.

Paul Sheldon, New Zealand

Its really a wonder.

Rauf, Pakistan

Although only 97%, we saw a nice display as the clouds parted in Geneva for a good view.

Keithly, Diane, Switzerland

I have seen a partial solar eclipse at round 12:45 Swedish local time. It was my first experience to see solar eclipse , however it was partial. It was quite amazing how nature works. We had 70 percent solar eclipse at the peak time. The surroundings became like one is looking through a sun glass

in a sunny summer day. I wished I were in England this time.

Addisu Hunegnaw, Sweden

It was cloudy but bright. We could see a crescent sun from time to time through the clouds. At the time of maximum coverage there was a gap in the clouds. It was marvellous to see the thin sliver of light so clearly. There was a strange dimness about the light even though the sun was so high in the sky. We could see lots of little crescent suns casting shadows below the trees. It was really special.

Jon Kirkwood, Netherlands (the Hague)

In Zoetermeer, Holland we saw in between the clouds a nice but not total eclipse. Most people outside the office had expected more darkness. It became a little colder and it was a bit of strange light, very nice to experience.

Tineke Schoonbeek, The Netherlands

Eclipse was taken totally differently here in Karachi, Pakistan. Many offices were closed after 1400 and not because its an amazing celestial phenomena, but because people are considering it dangerous to be outside on an eclipse! Pregnant women were warned by some so called religious leaders not to go out side! One has to wonder how much education is important in my country....

Kamran Paracha, Pakistan

Here comes the sun, there is the moon, eerie and exciting but it was gone too soon.

John, Netherlands

The total eclipse happened here about one hour ago. Although there were many clouds we did get a glimpse of the moon passing in front of the sun. And we got a better view of the moon travelling away from the sun. Overall it was an eerie yet wonderful experience.

V. Susanne Hare, Stuttgart, Germany

What I saw was pretty much like a half-moon, except it was too bright to see the eclipse without some sort of sunglasses or the like to shield the eyes.

Siggi, ICELAND

I live near Stavanger in South-West Norway and have been able to follow the eclipse through a thin layer of clouds. It was at its maximum here at about 12.30 central European time with nearly 77 % of the sun covered, and one could sense a distinct weakening of the light, almost like early in the evening.

Gunnar Søyland, Norway

Cloudy sky cleared with one minute to go. Perfect views of the sun. Sky not as dark as during night-time, was able to see two stars. Absolutely amazing.

Joanne Parker, Walldorf, Baden Württemberg, Germany

At 91.8% coverage the local light levels were high. More like a summer evening about an hour before sunset.

Leavy, Switzerland

It was great. We had in Hanover a cloudy sky. It was 12.05 p.m. Then a wind came and the clouds disappear slowly. We could see without glasses because of some thin clouds. It was wonderful. We had about 90% eclipse. It was great!!!!

Emmanuel Sissimatos, Germany / Hannover

At 10:28 GMT, 10 mins before total eclipse, the black rain clouds parted over Unterschleissheim a few kilometres north of Munich. There was a completely unobstructed view of everything, the corona being most spectacular. Nobody was working, the temperature dropped perceptibly and the world was silent.

Rupert Brown, Germany

Parts of Munich had clear sky. We saw the whole show, 10km south of Munich centre - Taufkirchen. Others nearby were not so lucky.

Alan Ford, Germany

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Tuesday, August 24, 1999 Published at 12:49 GMT 13:49 UK

Views of the eclipse from around the UK



Did you witness the eclipse? Read and see what BBC News Online users in the UK felt and experienced.

[Click here to read the latest emails from around the world](#)

[Click here to read the first emails we received](#)

Your Reaction:

Being in Shropshire we did not experience full totality, but it was very eerie and the sky went a funny colour and it seemed as if it was going to rain. The BBC coverage was excellent, thank goodness for the Hercules.

Rosemary Hamilton, England

Despite many reports that the Eclipse was not visible from Cornwall we would like to state for the record that on the north Cornish coast 3 miles south of Newquay at Porth Joke we experienced clear views of the eclipse from about 5 minutes before totality to 15 minutes afterwards. The spectacle looked as though it would not be visible up until virtually the last minute but in the end all came good and the images experienced by those lucky enough to be on the cliff tops at that time will live on for ever. Regards

John Sekula, Joy Burnell, Alexis Burnell, Alan and Jan Martin and Charlotte, Cornwall

I didn't see a full eclipse BUT what I did see from here in the south east was very exciting indeed, I felt so helpless as the

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moon covered about 97% of the sun, it just goes too show that with all the wonderful invention we have created over the past 100 years it is no match for nature's wonderful display of great power that no-one can stop. I am sure I will visit a country soon for my first full eclipse. I can't wait.

Wayne, England



Karl Hayward Bradley, London, took this picture with a specially filtered digital camera

I saw the partial eclipse from my back garden, and I cannot remember a more spiritual experience. The quality of the subdued light and cooler temperature, combined a strong sense of a shared communal experience across Britain and Europe, made this a once in a lifetime event. It is not often that nature offers us the opportunity to take two minutes out to reflect individually on our lives by providing such an awesome astronomical event.

Richard Frisby, South London

Persuaded the boss that the best and safest technique for viewing the eclipse was from a pub garden in City. The eclipse was interesting, the beer somewhat better. Did you know that the eclipse actually ended at 12:00? Or was that my third pint?

John, London, England

Impressive in Oxford. It didn't get all that dark, but there was an extraordinarily rich quality of light - colours accentuated, and bright light contrasting with deep shadows. The spire and pinnacles of the University buildings looked spectacular.

Mark Purcell, UK

It's interesting to see how people have reacted to this event. It shows how interested people are about the world we live in. Perhaps the next step is to appreciate and care for it.

Neil Rodber, UK

What an experience. I viewed it from Reading and although it wasn't a perfect eclipse it is still a "Wonder" of the world. Many people may have been disappointed that we were not in total darkness but they have to remember this will depend on where they are. Imagine if you were in the direct path of darkness for nearly 3 hours! Wow that would be amazing.

Matt Bates, Reading

A group of us local government employees huddled, sharing solar viewers and digital cameras, on the front lawn of the town hall. It was quiet in Catford, London. Streets were empty of cars, and a strange, almost hurricane like darkness

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R Hawton, UK, sent in this picture of an eclipse watcher

descended. We watched as the sun was eaten by the dark disk of the moon, and then, enriched by our experience, went back to work.

Joe Knappett, Catford, London

It is a privilege to have shared a once in a lifetime experience with millions of people all over the world. The eclipse is an event which forces us to acknowledge the awesome power of nature and that, after all, man is but a "quintessence of dust".

Ikenna Azuike, England

I was at work during the eclipse in Bristol but I managed to sneak out on to the fire escape to see it - it was one of the most spectacular things I have ever seen. As I will be 110 yrs old at the time of the next one - I just HAD to see it

David Trevaskus, England

Fantastic, it is a clear day up here in the North East and clear views of the eclipse were seen which were absolutely amazing- A few minutes after the time of 'totality' the sun became surrounded by a huge shadow which was completely encircled by a rainbow! This lasted about 5 minutes... simply spectacular . Can we have an encore!

Lucy, UK, North East (University of Sunderland)

Here in the south-east of England it went quite dark and the temperature dropped. I also noticed there was no wind. It was a spectacle I will not forget, although I did not see the full eclipse, seeing it live on BBC1 and hearing the people on Radio1, gave me goose bumps and a feeling of goodwill. Here's wishing a happy eclipse day to all the people at BBC News/News 24.

Neil Green, UK

What did we see ? Lots of fluffy clouds !!

Kevin Hardy, U.K.

Everyday life pales into insignificance. I think it reminds everybody of their position on a cosmic level.

Martin, Scotland

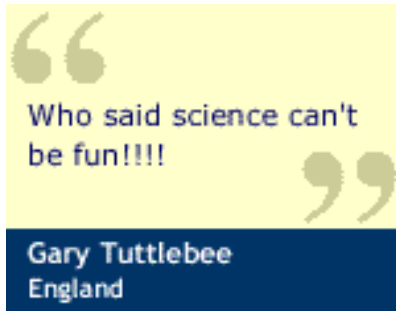
The PwC building is above Charing Cross Station and looks south over the river. On the front of the building is a lattice work of metal decoration. By getting the sun behind one of the crossbeams I was able to see the progression of the eclipse in a reflected picture on this crossbeam. It was a fascinating experience and a phenomenon I shall never forget. I shared this with a number of office colleagues who were all equally impressed by the magnitude of what was happening. You can understand why people in history were

frightened by the sudden twilight and cold with its resultant superstitious theories.

Elizabeth Bush, London

We stood on top of our office block and watch as hundreds of people gathered in Trafalgar Square. It went rather cloudy, but we could see the sun being covered and it went dusky. All the lights came on in the Square and in the fountains, the pigeons all went to roost on the base of Nelson. All very spectacular and worth seeing. Only hope the photos come out!!

Karen Sweeting, London UK



It's heart-warming to hear of distant communities coming together in a spirit of conviviality from all over Europe, to share in what must be the world's largest ever excuse for a fag break.

Simon Ball, Glasgow, Scotland

I saw nothing... The damn

moon got in the way.

Barnaby Hart, England

We all went out to the university parks with special glasses, pin hole camera cards and the mirror reflecting device... and saw the 95% eclipse! through some glasses. It looked like a white disc and thru the black ones like an orange crescent! Around 11:18-19 it became very grey and the light was very diffused. Then more light came on. We were looking for crescents under the trees, as I had remembered seeing in India during the 24th Oct '95 eclipse. And one of us took a white sheet under a near by tree...and lo and behold! we saw millions of crescent-shaped shadows! Then later on our way back we could spot such shadows on the ground as well! Told everyone we met...as most people didn't know about the foliage working as pin hole cameras. So it was great to see the eclipse and experience this celestial phenomenon the last one of this millennium! wow!

Vibha Joshi, UK

Wow! What can I say? I'm in Brighton and even though it was a partial eclipse what I experienced was something else. The best part was almost 98 percent cover and being able to see Venus visible, I even saw two satellites passing over!

Simon Clout, Brighton

The Sun and the Moon are among the signs of Allah. They are there so that we can contemplate His wondrous and incredible creation. The eclipse is one of the greatest signs of Allah. Do you not see how the moon perfectly covers the sun? The moon is the perfect size to block out the light of the



The view from Cambridge, UK, as sent in by Colin Myles

sun. Allah made the universe in perfect proportions. Will you then not believe? I spent the eclipse with other Muslims in prayer as this was the practice of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, when an eclipse happened during his lifetime. We remembered the Day of Judgement, a day when all men and women will be brought before their creator. Allaahu Akbar!

Abdul-Wahid, UK

“
In Horsted Keynes near Haywards Heath, Sussex, we have a clear blue sky and can see the partial image very clearly!
”

Chris Philpot
Age 9

Here in Cambridgeshire we had a few high clouds but we could see the eclipse fairly easily. The only strange thing was that there was a shadow being projected against the clouds...Very thin and running North to South. I just wonder if this was the actual shadow of the moon or some other phenomenon.

Jonathan Bullwinkle, Cambridge

I saw the moon eclipse the sun and bathe Wandsworth Common in an eerie light as crowds of people grappled with their half-baked attempts at home-made eclipse glasses. One elderly gentleman sat on a bench eating a sandwich, steadfastly refusing to take any notice of one of the few events that is commensurate with modern man's capacity to wonder. Or something like that.

Nick Moore, London

Watched the eclipse in Bushy Park. During the last minute towards the 97% coverage, the light dropped to 'dusk' levels and it got quite cold. Very surreal looking around at the landscape. The birds didn't stop singing, but the squirrels in the trees went mad! The sky was quite clear, but as the temperature dropped a thin layer of cloud formed in the upper atmosphere as the water vapour cooled and condensed. Good views of the sun through 'eclipse' glasses, and amazing pinhole camera effects seen in the shadows of trees - hundreds of images dancing on the ground.

Clive Scoggins, Teddington, Middx.

I was impressed - as it got colder and colder it made me realise how much I wanted our big yellow friend to come back! It makes you realise how vulnerable we all are. I felt mankind's significance was rather eclipsed by the grandeur of



Billy Ackers sends this dramatic image from just outside Manchester, UK

the display...

Alex, Oxford, UK

I joined the majority of staff and student outside at 11am at the University of Warwick to watch the eclipse, some having made pin holes out of two sheets of card. We were fortunate in having some special glasses to use. We were very lucky that the sun was out the whole time, the cloud seemed to disappear just at the right time. It seemed to go very cold and the birds stopped singing for a few minutes and also a cold wind seemed to come out of

nowhere. Altogether quite a eerie experience, and one that I certainly won't see again in my lifetime. At least I can say to my grand children that "I was there".

Sheila Hammerton, Warwickshire

Actually, the main thing I noticed was that those people who had been consistently mocked for buying 'eclipse viewers' when there wouldn't be a chance of using them found their social standing radically elevated. Erstwhile figures of fun became suddenly the most popular people in the company!

Tim Smith, United Kingdom

MY EYES HURT!!!!

Adam, England - South Coast - Worthing

“
We have the glasses and paper with pin holes- what an exciting experience.
”

Jackie Blake
High Wycombe UK

Mainly watched reflections in water. We had about 90% totality here in Leics (but made sure I was in sight of the TV for totality!). As the moon moved across the sun, it was mainly cloudy, but thin enough to see the sun without glare, whilst as the moon moved away, the clouds broke, giving a very interesting light effect - a sort of very dirty sunlight. I had hoped to go to Devon, but the purchase of a new dog at the

weekend put paid to that. I will regret not going, but perhaps got a better deal up here!

Liz Pearce, Leicestershire

In Leeds it was terrific. Although the clouds were covering the sun, it provided a good filter to see the eclipse clearly. Good fun.

Jason Campion, Leeds

Clear blue skies in Basingstoke meant a superb view of a partial Eclipse. Around 100 people gathered in the IBM car park where two of them held up a large white board onto which were reflected images of the sun by two small mirrors. As the moon moved towards the 95% coverage mark, pigeons flew in to roost under the eaves of the office roof and everyone shivered as a sudden chill came down. One man took pictures; not of the sun but of his colleagues watching the white board. As the moon passed on, the crescent on the board rotated from the right to the left. Birds started singing as if it was morning and people shrugged their shoulders and slowly departed back to their desks.

Matthew Lynch, Basingstoke



Watched it through welders glasses PLUS my sunglasses due to the paranoia of going blind! We had 95% coverage here in Edgware (North London). It felt really odd in the semi-darkness! We had nice clear skies too. Some people thought it was an anti-climax but I thought it was pretty cool! I hope I haven't damaged my eyes though!

Anna Larke, Edgware, London

J Knaggs sends in the view from his office window in Yorkshire

I saw the eclipse from London. It was just awesome. The

speed at which it got dark was breath taking. It looked at first like storm clouds but as it got darker, you realised there was no rain. It was unbelievable to see the sunlight trickling through the darkness.

Simon Black, London

That was great, a definite carnival atmosphere in the West End with people on top of buildings all waving to each other. Shame it got cloudy, but we still managed to see most of the eclipse through viewers and pinholes.

Judith Howell, London

In Belfast it did get slightly darker, more like dusk, but it was very cloudy, we could only see the end of the eclipse. We made up for it by watching it on the TV. Til the next eclipse, bye...

Karen, Northern Ireland

Very nice indeed! Not quite total in Milton Keynes, but at least we got to see it at all, unlike the South West. Just the finest crescent, and ideal viewing through very thin cloud and an assortment of pinhole cameras and approved glasses. This combination reduced "flare" dramatically, allowing the crescent's shape to be seen with a lot more definition than

“
Although I didn't look at
it for long spells, I'll
never forget it.”

John Clancy
Ireland

would have been the case with a completely clear sky. When a bigger cloud briefly covered the sun, it went very gloomy, and at the peak, the lighting was overall somehow very strange, difficult to say in what way, just strange...

David Gosnell, Milton Keynes

Just enough cloud cover to see the crescent of the sun without

needing special glasses. An amazing experience!

Adam Batenin, Bath,

We had no sundancers - it was cloudy and the sun looked like a crescent moon at 11-11:30. Everyone looked sadly upward with their 2 pieces of card tucked under their arms. It was very cold though so at 11:30 we all returned to our offices to clog up the network looking for eclipse pictures on the web!

Patsy Lalfam, England

It was like a November morning in August. We only got 90% but it was good to experience and the sky was relatively clear.

Nick Flanagan, Manchester,



The Imperial College, London, took this picture with an Olympus 820 camera with an infra-red filter

We were able to see most of the sun covered by the moon by frosted glass. Aside from those chatting it all went quiet and some street lights turned and then it became eerily cool. What a wonderful humbling experience...

John Lashley, UK

I didn't see much of the eclipse, but I saw the burning spirit of light and darkness illuminate the faces of the mortals gathered to witness this symbolic cleansing. It was well wicked.

Anthony Nokling, UK

Wow! That was so cool! I saw the eclipse through both the special glasses and the pin-hole method. Even though it was a bit cloudy we could see almost a total eclipse. It was really cold and I can't really describe the change in light and atmosphere but it was weird. A lot of people (including myself) experienced physical effects as well; we felt a bit "strange" and also slightly nauseous. FAB - want to see a total eclipse now.

Lindsey Buckle, London,

Fantastic clouds, which added to the experience because we could actually see what was going on. Disappointed that it didn't go dark though in Regents Park.

Charlie, London



Hi from Edinburgh! Most of our office left their desks to watch the event. It was pretty amazing, even though we only got about 80% of it. It still went noticeably chillier and the shadows on the ground got longer. Through the hole in a paper method you could see the moon covering half of the sun. Astounding.

Karen Foley, Scotland

Nothing spectacular, but clear skies and the aid of a binoculars gave a reflection of a crescent moon shape.

Dylan Morris, North Wales

The weather was OK in Newcastle. The eclipse was 86% here and was clearly visible. The most amazing thing was the quality of the light - a really eerie grey (unlike dawn or dusk) - a nuclear winter someone described it as

Graeme Walker, Newcastle

Curiously appreciative of the slight cloud cover over Lancashire taking the glare off the disk. Pretty good viewing conditions with a freaky hue of light and significant chill cast at maximum coverage (92% here). Made me realise that to fully appreciate full totality, an observer would definitely need magnification equipment to bring the spectacle of totality closer to the naked eye. Maybe next time !

Steve White, Lancashire, England

Loads of clouds, not as dark as I thought it would go.

Kevin Bailey, Harrogate

The City of London stood still. Hundreds of workers left their office near Liverpool Street and packed Broadgate Square. The clear skies minutes before became cloudy, but alas this allowed people to see the eclipse more clearly. Did the birds stop singing. Well there aren't any song birds in the city, but city folk stopped working for a few twenty minutes!

Paul Johnson, London (UK)

Although not in the totality zone, the images of the moon gradually eclipsing the sun were magnificent. 'Out of this world, truly the greatest show on earth.' I can't wait to see the one in North America in 2008.

Linda, West Sussex

We all went up to the roof at work but it didn't go dark, our eyes went funny from looking at a reflection in a puddle and found it was a disappointment compared to the hype but at

least we can say we saw it as most of us won't be alive (or very, very old) when the next one comes along!

Venetia Thompson, Uk

Standing in Regents Park, the gradual creeping of dusk having silenced the birds gave way to human noise as the clouds gradually cleared and a cheer rose from the cloud as the eclipse became visible at exactly 11.19. Hundreds were able to view the eclipse directly through the remaining cloud cover, and glimpse -for many- a chance in a lifetime.

Tim Mulhall, London UK

The clouds did not cover this part of the country so the sight was wonderful. The temp did drop and the feeling of dusk felt. Great team on the BBC from MB & PF on the beach and of course the boys from the RAF (what would we do with out them)

Robin Johnston, UK

In Edinburgh the eclipse,
Was just a blip,
In everyone's imagination;
Silently we waited, but it just wasn't fated,
And nobody saw a thing!

Jamie Apold, Scotland

Watching from Reading in the South through eclipse glasses was excellent. We had clear skies here and a perfect view. It truly was a once in a lifetime experience.

Caty Johnston, Reading, England

Through a borrowed welding mask it was easy to see the moons steady progression across the face of the sun. In true British style just as we hit the crucial moment a cloud crossed the view, however through the cloud the filtered view was spectacular, seeing the corona around the sun briefly before the moon moved past the moment of cover and slowly allowed light to return to London. Office workers moved back to their offices and the A13 which had come to a stand still slowly started moving again and life like the moon moved on.

Steve Levene, London, England

It went really cold from about 10:30 onwards. Luckily we got a break in the cloud and saw about 97%. It was amazing. It was silent. It was the experience of a lifetime.

Janet, Wales

Hi, Here in Harrogate the clouds broke and although we only got 85%, we got to see the whole thing. Using the reflections in our darkened office windows, the effect was very clear (without hurting the eyes). We were also able to reflect the image using a mirror onto paper. We watched the moon slowly move across the sun leaving the top edge of the sun peeping through, it got quite dark and extremely quiet. The effect was great and we all enjoyed the event.

Debbie Wiggins, Harrogate

Arrrrggh! I'm blind, I'm blind!

Dave Stare, UK (Derby)

95 % eclipse seen. An excellent view using a pin hole camera. Very cloudy. Very cold but not very dark.

Mandy Mawer, England

Saw partial eclipse through heavy cloud, tried pinhole device but not enough sun to project onto card. Weather very spooky, went very dark and quiet. Great TV coverage from BBC..well done!

Melanie Deeprise, Stroud, England

We all went to St James' Park with hundreds of others to view the eclipse. The weather was chilly and but clouds obscured most of it which was disappointing. It went dark as if a thunderstorm was looming but a lot of the hype that was being said before this eclipse just did not happen.

Martin Ashton, London, UK

There is a big aura of mad calm and serenity. The world feels like it has changed for the better. Hoorah

Scott Jaeger, Surrey, England

Location: Central London, Berkley Square Nice crescent shape easily visible through light cloud cover gave a minute or so of low light and a noticeable temperature. A bit of a let down but still worth seeing.

Eric Price, London

Rather anticlimactic, but the quality of light was rather surreal - very much like an old Technicolor film where they would film night scenes by day and simply turn down the contrast.

Tim Smith, United Kingdom

I was disappointed because I expected it to go very dark. I saw the birds acting confused and go quiet and then I felt very cold and for some strange reason I felt very emotional.

Karen Ellis, England

Videoed the event (through two thicknesses of welding glass. Saw about 97% totality in company with a number of my colleagues as had found out I'd brought the camera in. Very impressive experience with lots of fun chat and camaraderie!

Jim Beston, England

In North Yorkshire the sky was cloudy, so as a college class we willed the cloud to clear. Surprise, surprise, it cleared just enough to get the final glimpse of the eclipse, it was spectacular. It felt like we were in for a severe storm.

Cliff Thompson, England

Street lights went on as an eerie twilight darkness descended in Portsmouth. Cars thundered past on the nearby M27 seemingly oblivious to the sun "going out". Hundreds of staff gazed upwards wearing solar viewers looking every bit like an audience at an outdoor 3D cinema. In a word: "awe-inspiring"

Mark Chapman, UK

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Tuesday, August 24, 1999 Published at 12:49 GMT 13:49 UK

The eclipse - how was it for you?



BBC News Online received an enormous number of your emails describing the eclipse. This is the first of three pages.

[Click here to read the latest emails from the UK](#)

[Click here to read the latest emails from around the world](#)

Your Reaction - emails and pictures that arrived during the eclipse:

The rooftops of central London - just off Oxford Street - were covered with people. It was like something out of Mary Poppins...

Richard Thompson, UK

Coventry- A very strange feeling and sight, dusk falling late in the morning!! It was surprising as to how cold it went. A fantastic view never to be forgotten!!

Jeremy Aston, England



Patrick Hickey captured these images in his back garden in Edinburgh

Disappointing in Milton Keynes. We were told it would be 95% and get quite dark but it just went a bit dark and left you with a feeling of "was that it?" and why did we bother looking for anything.

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Debbie Fewings, Milton Keynes, UK

Gets things into perspective, doesn't it!

Carlo Scattini, UK



An eerie chill, rushing wind - the strangest feeling. Looking forward to 2090!!!

David Challinor, Sutton, Britain

To think that at the same time millions of people would be looking at the Sun at the same time was a thought within itself and to be able to see this once in a lifetime experience was just truly amazing.

Ronnie Fisher, Kent, England

The Creative Team at Kingston Internet, Hull, sent in the view from their office window.

Good clear view in Loudwater, South Bucks, UK. Very sunny day, fairly clear skies. The light

got dimmer but even at 11.15 it was dull but still very sunny with well defined shadows.

Gary Clark, UK

Only 85% up here in the north east - but at least we had clear skies!! My advice - look through a compact disc.

Al MacLeod, UK

It was beautiful and can only be described as a nuclear dawn!!!

Robert Black, UK

Totally underwhelming.

Dave, England



It was really surprising at first, I didn't think I would be scared but I was. Oddly though I found it a really arousing experience

Andrew Nayland, UK

The clouds broke just in time for all of us in Norwich to see a wonderful partial eclipse!

Sarah B, Norwich, England

From Coventry, it got quite cold and semi-dark, The shadows were distorted. It looked quite dramatic through eclipse glasses.

Tony Colclough, UK

The University grounds in Leeds were full of people anticipating this great eclipse...all we got was cloud and 30

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seconds of the whole event. I suppose we should be used to the weather in this country but I hope people enjoyed the experience wherever they were!

Alyson Dyson, Leeds, UK

What do I think? What can I say! Wow! What else is there to say about such an experience?

Dave Ashcroft, Scotland



For 95% coverage here in Bristol, I was expecting it to get slightly darker than it does on an overcast summer evening. What a disappointment.

Matt, UK

The sky went as though it was twilight and it was colder with a funny feel to the light.

Everything went quiet and still. We watched the eclipse in a bucket of water lined with a black bag it was great.

Thomas Edgar, England

Colin Myles from Cambridge, UK, sent in his view of the eclipse

Here in Bexley, just east of London, a small dark cloud obscured the sun at 11:15. The timing could not have been better. We were able to look directly at a dim but pin-sharp image of a crescent sun for about 15 seconds. It was beautiful.

Chris Davies, England

As the light dimmed until only a sliver of the sun remained, there was practically no sound. The sight was spectacular, but the dimming of the light was not as complete as we had hoped. Altogether though, Coventry had a pretty good view!

Gordon McKenzie, UK



Here in Guildford, Surrey, we apparently had better skies than down in SW England. From about 10:50 a change became noticeable in the quality of the light, like looking through slightly tinted glasses. This grew stronger as the eclipse progressed, while with the aid of pinholes (for which a long 'focal length' - e.g. projected on the ground - seemed to give better views) and even a sexton which one of us had brought, we could observe the phenomenon

itself). The 'sunglasses effect' was most marked, as was the

obvious drop in temperature. What was surprising was how much light there still was even when the sun was clearly seen to be over 90% obscured. 5/10 from me!

Jonathan Hutchins, UK

I stood in London, Regents Park and mainly saw some clouds.

Matthew Barnett, UK

The last solar eclipse I saw on television ended with everyone going blind and being eaten by ten-foot gladioli, called triffids. This eclipse has me scared witless and no one is safe. I have taken to the mountains and am currently hiding out in a cave. No large flowering plant is going to eat me alive!!!

Mike Groves, England

A light covering of high cloud made for ideal conditions, reducing glare and enabling the remarkable sight of the moon obscuring nearly 90% of the sun. Under trees myriad crescents of sunlight flickered as everywhere became bathed in a soft pewter-grey light.

Tim Hooper, Huntingdon, Cambs, UK



Crescents reflect on the ground as a result of the partially eclipsed sun shining through a tree in Eastbourne, UK - P Jones

I saw the moon cover the sun and come out the other side in a matter of minutes. I looked through a welding hat for a few seconds each time. It was amazing and the way it went overcast was just fab.

Sandra, Ireland

Oxford skies were perfect - superb views

A Clarke, UK

Most of my office came out in expectation of a once in a lifetime event. I must say it was a big disappointment, as here in Surrey, apart from a slight temperature drop, nothing

much happened. Perhaps I will recreate the event tonight by sitting in the fridge and passing a lollipop in front of a torch.

A Pearce, UK

A rare occasion when you can actually feel the magic and sheer presence of space and the planetary movements first hand. What a fantastic experience.

Ian Gow, England

Being from Ireland, and being quite used to adverse weather conditions, it's quite obvious that the eclipse was something extraordinary. In a sky full of overcast and drab-looking cumulus clouds its no wonder that this phenomenon extracted no more than just a nonchalant gesture from most

of the crowd that gathered outside to 'marvel'. Just before the total eclipse the clouds broke, and we were treated to a two-minute spell of nature's greatest wonder. I believe I will invest most of my savings in the faltering cryogenic market, to ensure I will be around for the next one...

Stephen, Ireland

“
It didn't go half as dark
as I expected!
”

Rich
England

Boring! A big non-event. It went cold, it didn't go dark. I've seen worse darkness and been colder in the middle of a day during winter storms.

Ric, UK

In Dublin, we were lucky to get a break in the clouds to see the partial eclipse. We found a mucky pond and could clearly

see it's reflection. A once in a lifetime experience.

Paul Chandler, Ireland

Glad we saw the almost total eclipse as we shall not be around for the next one.

All at Clifton Library Nottingham, England

The streets of London were amazing - a real sense of spirit, just like the blitz again.

Simon, UK

A non-event, just like a December afternoon before it rains.

Kath Evans, Bristol, England



Billy Ackers emailed this image from just outside Manchester UK

Here in Nottingham the sky cleared fantastically so that at the maximum eclipse there was a brilliant view. It went quite distinctly cold too. I had a look through various types of welding masks, and at the images from various pinhole cameras, including the images cast through the leaves of a tree onto the ground. The best view of all though was through welding glass, looking at the reflection from the still surface of a bucket of water. The image was much finer and detailed than looking at the sun directly,

as much of the glare was reduced.

Peter Lewis, United Kingdom

From Bath University, the Sun appeared briefly through the clouds, as an ever-narrowing crescent. By five past eleven, only a thin arc remained, which seemed to rotate over the

next 10-15 minutes as the Moon passed through its point of maximum obstruction. During this period, the sky as a whole was noticeably darkened, everything appearing as if in twilight; colours were muted. Shortly after this the clouds closed in again, and the show was over.

Dan Soper, UK

I live in Taunton but work in London and foolishly decided that I would try and see the eclipse from London given that it would have taken me days to get home. I regret that decision now, all we saw here was a marginal 'dusk' effect with a bit of a chill in the air. The birds were a bit phased though and all went home to roost.

Simon Howat, England

Complete waste of time. What on earth was all the fuss about?

John Haines, UK

Forget Cornwall, we got a fantastic view of our partial eclipse up here in sunny York.

Mark Kent, UK

We watched outside our offices in the centre of Swindon, the best bit was watching the moon move slowly over the sun. When we did go outside to experience the total eclipse it was rather disappointing as the light just appeared to do, and seemed like any other day in Swindon.

Dan Croxen-John, Swindon UK

The eclipse was spectacular, even in Glasgow, where I am told we only had 80% totality. I am sure that many people would have found it an uplifting and amazing experience. The shadows cast on the ground and the eerie appearance of the sky, is truly indescribable. I have decided that when I win the lottery I will become an "eclipse chaser".

Johanna Speirs, Britain

Saw 85% eclipse quite clearly in spite of cloud

Peter Mercer, N. Ireland

Great view here in Newcastle. One thing that surprised me though was the huge rainbow-like effect around the sun's circumference. Can anyone explain this?

M. Jones, UK

Excellent through binoculars with filters fitted. Got about 92 percent and some good breaks in the cloud cover

Stu Brierley, Warrington UK

We had very cloudy skies here in Chippenham but just at the point of totality the clouds parted and we were able to see the eclipse. It was a truly magical experience.

Ann, Chippenham UK

Everyone poured in the office car park to view the eclipse. We were lucky to get about 95% coverage. Whilst it got darker, it was more noticeable how much cooler it had gotten.

Faiz Rehman, UK

I was looking through an office window along with colleagues - it barely darkened at all even though the sun was down to a fuzzy crescent - a real letdown. We haven't even had the lights on in the office.

L Smith, Edinburgh, Scotland

Everyone in Manchester is gathered in the streets around Albert Square and the town Hall as if it is New Years Eve. People are hanging out of office windows and watching the moon gradually creep across the lower part of the sun from right to left, but with a tiny crescent of light remaining on top of (as we have no 'totality!'). The dusky light combined with the volume of people standing around in the streets for no purpose makes the whole city seem unreal. I suspect there will be a lot of people who don't make it back to work!

Dan Williams, Manchester, UK

Fantastic! Only saw it briefly by chance through a gap in the clouds. Will not forget it.

George White, Drax, England

In Guildford, Surrey, we watched a reputedly 96% partial eclipse. It went a bit dark, but no darker than a rainy day, and got quite cold, so the phenomenon was not very apparent, but looking at the sun we could see the movement as it was lost and we were left with a small golden glow. Although not amazing, it was certainly a sight worth seeing. The highlight for me was when you could see the moon had moved and the sun coming out the other side. I only wish I'd been in Cornwall. Was/is it as good as everyone hoped, down there?

Alanna, England

Saw a partial view through the cloud. Was expecting total darkness, looked only like a very dull day. Enjoyed the scene and watched the moon's outline cover the sun gradually. Although I did not see the total eclipse, thought it was spectacular. Thanks to the BBC for their coverage on the web.

Jennifer McFarland, Northern Ireland

I saw the sun go a bit. It went a bit dark and cold and my mummy was scared so I held her hand.

Simon, (aged 10) UK

We climbed out of the office, and onto the roof to have a look at the eclipse, It grew very dark, and sharing a viewer we could see the sun covered almost completely by the moon. Amazing experience just so brief. I'm hoping my friends holidaying in Plymouth have had a chance to see the eclipse, it looked extremely cloudy on the web cam.

Des, London, UK

As the eclipse was almost total. A Jumbo Jet passed close to us on its way out of Heathrow. The light from the almost obscured sun threw a huge shadow of the jet across some thin cloud. The shadow was something I had never seen in

such sharp relief before.

Alan Goswell, England

Only 85% up here in the north east - but at least we had clear skies!! My advice - look through a compact disc.

Al MacLeod, UK

It got very cold and I could see the sun as a crescent through the glasses, like the moon.

Jo James, Scotland

We saw a much better eclipse than the one in Cornwall, apparently, it was cloudy there, but we had a perfect sky. We may not have seen totality, but it was brill. I thank the B.B.C very much for showing the live coverage.

Jen Hammy, Birmingham, England

I must say, I thought it would be much colder and darker. Still... A Once in a lifetime thrill!

Dan Norcott, Farnborough, UK

I looked through a floppy disc and could see everything perfectly.

Chris Lake, England

Did not see very much. It did not get that dark either. It just looked like it was getting ready to rain.

Sharon Rodger, Stirling, Scotland

I was in Leeds, working at the University library, and many staff went on the roof to view the eclipse. It was very disappointing! The clouds meant that we could view the crescent without damaging our eyes, but it only went slightly dark and that was all.

Liz Townson, England

We all watched it in Aberdeen from the hospital. We started watching it about 10.15pm using a projection box and we saw a good image of part of the eclipse. It was quite cloudy later on and we got a very good view through the clouds of it. It was very dull and cold throughout although at the time of totality the eclipse was not total for us. In fact it never fully covered the sun. It is now 11.32pm and it is now starting to move off on the sun and it is getting brighter. It was a great experience as I did not expect to be able to experience it. All the consultants, nurses, researchers watched it together.

Mariesha Jaffray, Aberdeen

Excellent. The cloud cover was such that you could look through it without hurting your eyes and see the outline of the sun. The crescent just got smaller and smaller and then they suddenly started to part again. The whole of Tottenham Court Road came to a standstill!

Chris Brown, UK (london)

The first thing we noticed was the temperature dropping, and it is still chilly for an August day. Then it was as though we were all looking through the same set of sunglasses as the

light dimmed and the shadows sharpened. We were in a path of 95 percent totality, in Crawley, Sussex, and were all surprised by how light it has stayed - a revelation about the power of the sun even when obscured. A marvellous experience

Zeba Clarke, UK

It was surreal, since I was a little kid I have wanted to try the pin hole experiment... it was well worth waiting 24 years. If you are get the chance then drop everything and go out and see it...

Graeme, UK

Southampton - we saw nothing!

Nicola Blick, UK

Up in London (Smithfield) saw very little due to cloud base, managed to see first stages with the aid of a mirror, reflecting it onto the wall of the office!

Jocelyn, UK

What a breath taking experience ! Despite the lack of totality, there still was a great sight of the eclipse from the naked eye. For a split moment, just after the eclipse, you could see the shadows begin to form and the sun rays began to hit us. Who said science can't be fun !!!!

Gary Tuttlebee, Colchester, England

In London, there was some champagne being popped, and crowds in all the central squares. Amazingly, due to the clouds, there were many, who felt they could look directly at the eclipse. Let's hope there aren't too many injuries from it all.

Oliver Brew, UK

It was a bit of a disappointment to be perfectly honest; I watched in Norwich and saw the beginnings of the eclipse, but then cloud cover obscured the full eclipse. It didn't even go completely dark, just a little cold. You could see birds flying home to roost, but I'm sure they weren't fooled for long!

Dominque Guyot, UK

A bit disappointing really seen from here (about 80%). I expected it to get much darker but it was much like a cloudy day, having been warned that cars would need to use headlights.

Simon Clarke, Spain

Wow. The sun disappeared for a couple of minutes. A real life-changing experience. Back to work people.

Karl Hayward-Bradley, England.

Fab. Croydon came out onto the streets to watch. Every tower block had huddles of people outside staring into the sky and using pinhole cameras. The sun side of most offices were full of people looking skyward. As predicted the crescent shape of the sun was projected onto the ground thousands of times by light filtering through trees.

Simon Bryant, United Kingdom

From Loch Tay in Scotland the eclipse is visible through very thin cloud and breaks in the cloud. Although very bright, watchers are being tempted to take a 'quick look' and describe the eclipse as a dark shadow covering the sun. All are keen to stop work and watch this amazing phenomenon pass in front of their eyes. The shadow is moving from left to right and has at a maximum covered almost 80% of the sun. It is now dipping lower on the sun and we expect the skies to begin to lighten again and the air to warm a little as the temperature appears to have dropped.

Phil Simson, Scotland

We kept the office open at the University of Central England Student Services - in Birmingham but looked out of the windows and because of the cloud we could see the outline of the partial eclipse!!! Here in Birmingham it got very dark as if there was a huge thundercloud overhead and yet the sky looked like a normal summers one - white clouds and plenty of blue!! Our receptionist determined to stay at her desk - but it transpired not because she was consumed by duty but because she was terrified the world would end!!!

Ruth Lawton, Birmingham

From Bedfordshire outside the office it could be plainly seen. From inside the BBC tv coverage was appalling. Hardly any coverage on the sun but endless presenters yapping on. The license fee should be halved and the BBC staff reduced by 50%presententers

John P. Glasgow, England

Cold here at max eclipse, eerie light quality. Dawn chorus was heard.

Andy Jones, N London

No birds went quiet, no skies went dark, it got a little colder, hope it goes better for my great grandchildren in 2090.

Gary Jacobs - Watford

Just looks like your normal Scottish summer day - in fact, it's nice to see the sun for a change!!

Andy Wall, Scotland

Very Cold, unusual bright light, like a halogen lamp. Saw eclipse through welders glass and saw 85% of the sun covered.

Graeme Walker, Scotland

Well we didn't see all that much, it went darker, but we weren't over the path of totality. It was a bit of an anticlimax really.

Mark Koszler, England

A pinky hue and a soft hush brushed across the campus. A weird and wonderful aura.

Lyn Honnan, Scotland

We took early lunch and went to a playing field. Kicking a football around lent a surreal feeling to the event as the light fell and began to look like we were viewing the world through a polarised lens.

Anthony Clark, UK

Our kind employers allowed us to watch the eclipse all the way through We are based in Banbury and the atmosphere was eerie and the crescents were clearly seen on the floor changing with spectacular patterns. A chill came into the air and it is still extremely cold here, the birds stopped singing and it was dead calm, a sudden gush of wind came across from the left and the temperature dropped even more. A totally amazing experience and even though the special glasses were used all of use are complaining of sore eyes. Our one in a lifetime experience is now over and we are all glad to have seen it.

Sue Dickens, England

Very disappointing. It was no more than a cloudy day!

John Inshaw, Scotland

The solar eclipse was fantastic as it provided me with an extended fag break!

Matthew Howell, England

Big excitement changed to Big disappointment as ooh it got a little bit darker and then ...well nothing happened ! Maybe in the wrong part of the country for this but it just seemed like a cloudy day !

Chris Welch, UK

I saw lots of clouds!

Rishi Krishna, England

Thought it would go a lot darker, but we got a good view of it near York. Like looking through tinted glass.

Nicki Hodgson, Yorkshire UK

Saw: Nothing, just a sparkly to an overcast bluish sky;
Feel: A chill in the air, more so - even though it's Scotland!
Hear: Lots of people standing about looking silly!!

Peter Ware, Edinburgh, Scotland

Even though I am in Manchester and only have part of the eclipse, I saw it through the hole in the paper, I still think it is really MAGNIFICENT to see!!!

Henk Penning, UK

What a sight despite the cloud cover you could still it, I'm at work and everyone in the building came out to see it.

Darrin Garnham, Guernsey Channel Islands

I saw nothing except for black clouds which everyone else said was the moon, I don't believe it was.

Lesley Hancocks

It was amazing to see the whole of our company outside

watching the most amazing sight this century in our skies. It has made my 40th birthday the best!!!

Sue Clarke

"Day becomes night"? More like "day becomes gloomy". Er.. that's it? What an anti-climax.

Martin Devlin, UK

Not very much happened. We watched through a hole in paper projected onto another sheet. Some neighbouring office workers watched through special spectacles. It was a very unspectacular event. Perhaps it will be more spectacular on television. The general feeling seemed to be "was that it?"

Linda Robinson, England

In Teesside we had a spectacular view with almost 80% coverage of the sun in perfect clear conditions

Louis Cifer, England

Fantastic! Fairly clear skies in West Yorks and a couple of CD's helped me see it clearly-shame it was only partial though-it didn't go half as dark as I expected!

Rich, England, West Yorks

The whole event was spectacular i didn't have any protection for my eye's, although I didn't look at it for long spells, I'll never forget it. Excellent.

John Clancy, Ireland

My name is Zain, from Dubai, United Arab Emirates . For the past 20 years I am your listener. Today, on the day of this century's last solar eclipse I got Internet connection. On this occasion I would like to let you know that I used the floppy diskette film to watch the hot sun and it is very clearly visible the orange-red sun surface without any strain for our priceless eyes Here the eclipse is by around 15:00 hrs Local time

Zain and Rasheed, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

I have been watching this rather incredible event on and off now for 15 minutes Here in Cagliari, the sky is clear and without a single cloud to be found anywhere. The sun is being covered rather quickly and the total eclipse should be a rather dramatic sight for ones eyes. Along with protected lenses, w are also using your recommended "cardboard box eclipse viewer".

Nova Simpson, Italy

A disappointment. It didn't even go dark.

Dawn Utley, UK

Working at school, but stopped to watch the eclipse. Freezing cold, but simply amazing!!

Daniel Harrison, England

It all went dark - it was fantastic! So exciting. I left work early as I thought it was home time, it's not only cats & dogs that get confused!

Markie, Northern Ireland

Loads of clouds...

Matthew Flint, UK (Harrogate)

Aberdeen 11am Cloudy but we've just had 5 mins watching the sun being blotted out by the moon. At least we've seen it here

M Bayman, Scotland

Got a wonderful view now in Carmarthenshire, feel very pleased.

Shan Jones, Wales

Hello Talking point, Here at our office even through it is cloudy we have been able to get our first glimpse of the eclipse. We have the glasses and paper with pin holes, which works extremely well. What an exciting experience. Well better get back to work. Just thought we would drop you a line to let you know our experience. Best regards

Jackie Blake, High Wycombe, UK

The weather's being kind to us here in Stafford. There is some light cloud in the sky but it isn't obscuring the sun. Using the viewers, a chunk of the sun has now disappeared and it's getting visibly darker. The moon is about 30% over the sun. It's quite eerie - I feel as though it's getting late and that I should be at home!

Simon Skelton, UK

As I am in U.S., I have to get what I can from television & computer. An option I have not had in the past. This is to me one, of the more positive assets of the internet.

James N Sproule, USA

We are just sitting here in my office and have set up the pin method to view the eclipse, so far the sun is shining directly down and we can see this event happening. Hoping for another 20 - 30 minutes of cloud less sunshine!!!

Stephen J. Sharkey, Ireland

In Horsted Keynes near Haywards Heath, Sussex, we have a clear blue sky and can see the partial image very clearly !

Chris Philpot Age 9

It's amazing. It's now 10.15 and already the sun looks like a ritz cracker with a little nibble taken out of it!

Colin Williams, UK

The last place that I would be during the Solar Eclipse would be in Cornwall. What scares me is that some-one might inadvertently look up even for a few seconds and damage their eyesight forever. The eclipse can be seen on television and on the Internet. Please be content with that.

Susannah, Australia

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