

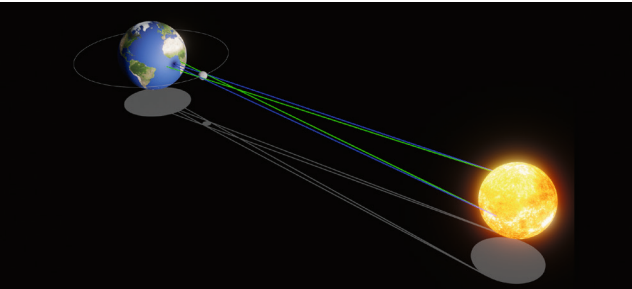


Haus der Astronomie

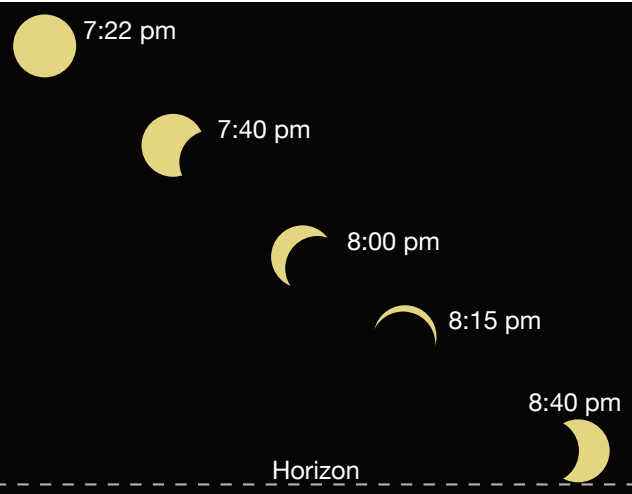
OBSERVING THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

on 12. August 2026

ECLIPSE TIMELINE



A schematic diagram showing the positions of the Earth, Sun and Moon during a total solar eclipse. The sizes and distances do not correspond to actual proportions.



At the start of the solar eclipse, the Sun is about a hand's breadth (stretch out your arm!) above the horizon.

Eclipse phase	Time in Heidelberg: 12 August 2026
Start	7:22 pm
Maximum	8:15 pm
End	9:05* pm

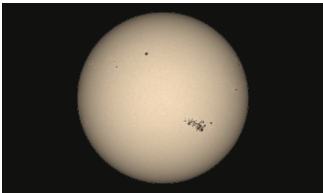
* after sunset (08:51 pm)



THE SOLAR ECLIPSE GLASSES

Never look directly at the sun without special protective glasses. Looking at it without protection can cause serious and permanent damage to your eyes. The only safe way to view the eclipse is with specialised eclipse glasses. These glasses have an extremely strong filter: when you put them on, you can no longer see your surroundings at all – only the Sun is visible through them. Under no circumstances should you use homemade alternatives.

WHAT CAN I SEE THROUGH THE SOLAR ECLIPSE GLASSES?



Photosphere

The visible surface of the Sun. You may be able to make out dark sunspots.



The Moon blocks out the Sun

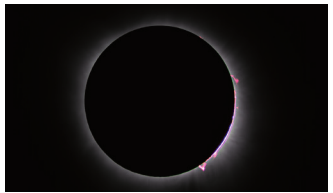
The Sun and the Moon appear (almost) the same size in the sky.

WHAT WOULD I SEE DURING TOTALITY? (not visible from Germany)



Corona

The outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere. You can only see it when the Moon completely covers the Sun.



Protuberances

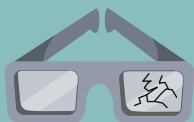
Large arcs of hot solar material that extend beyond the Sun's surface.



TIPS FOR THE OBSERVATION



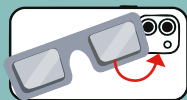
During the eclipse on 12 August 2026, the Sun will already be very low in the sky (at its maximum directly above the horizon). You will need an unobstructed view towards the west. There should be no trees, houses or hills in the way. A raised vantage point may help.



Check your solar eclipse glasses for scratches or other damage before each use. Dispose of them if you find any.



If you wear glasses, wear the solar eclipse glasses over your glasses.



You can hold the glasses in front of a mobile phone camera to take photos of the solar eclipse.

Please note: the camera lenses must be completely covered by the glasses!



Put the glasses away safely once you've finished observing. Then you can use them again for the next solar eclipse on 2 August 2027.



IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



The shiny, silvery filter material must not be touched with your fingers or cleaned. Doing so will damage the filter material.



The glasses must not be used in conjunction with telescopes, binoculars or other light-gathering optical devices. If they are used in front of a camera, the camera lens must be completely covered by the glasses.



Younger children should not use solar eclipse glasses without supervision.



During an eclipse, it is generally safe to be outdoors. The safety guidelines only apply when looking directly at the Sun.



SAFE PLACING AND REMOVAL



PUTTING THEM ON

Turn your head away from the Sun. Put on your solar eclipse glasses. Only look at the Sun once you've put on your eclipse glasses, and enjoy the view.



TAKING THEM OFF

Turn away from the Sun. Only then should you take off your eclipse glasses.

CONTACT

Haus der Astronomie

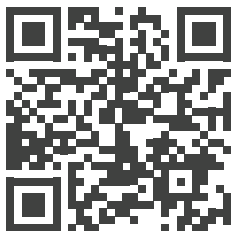
MPIA-Campus

Königstuhl 17

69117 Heidelberg

haus-der-astronomie.de

FURTHER LINKS



haus-der-astronomie.de/sofi2026

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