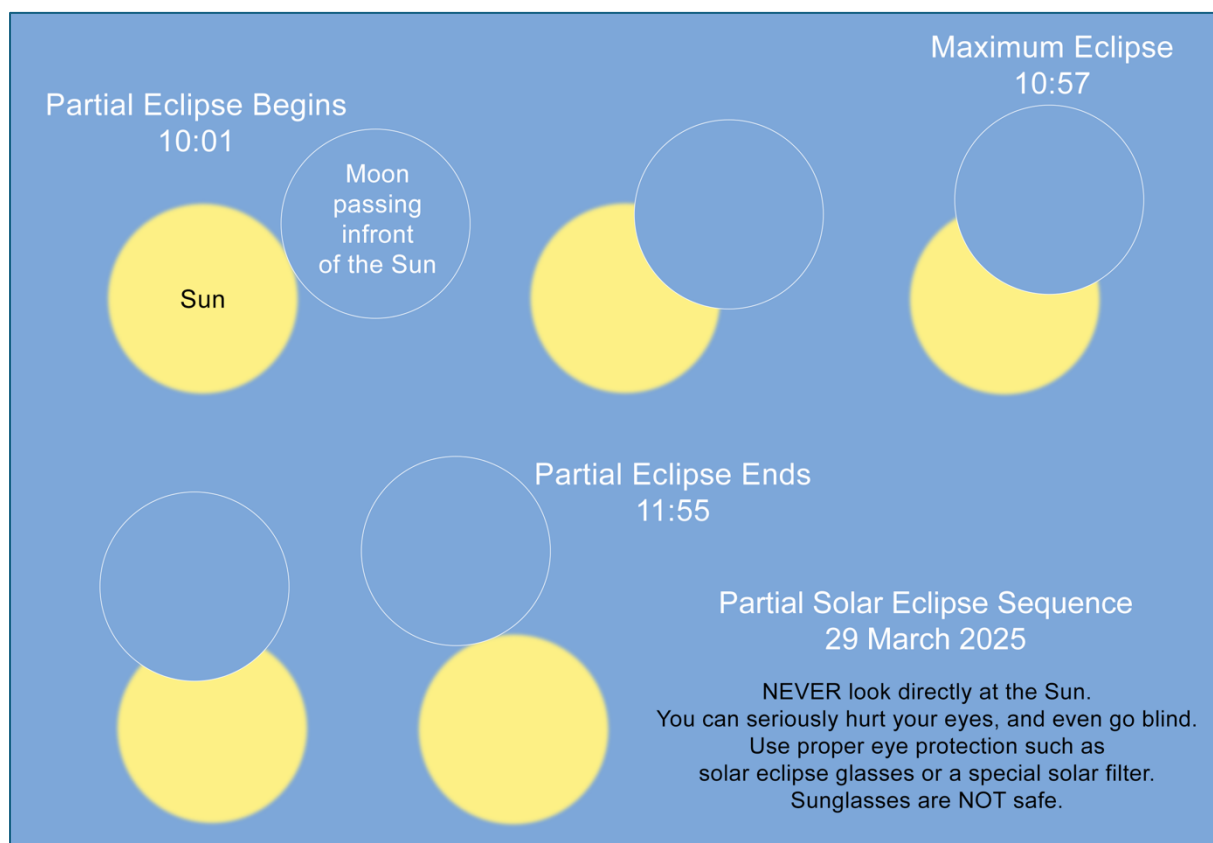


Partial Solar Eclipse 29 March 2025

During a solar eclipse the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, casting a shadow on the Earth that either fully, or partially blocks the Sun's light in a swathe across Earth.

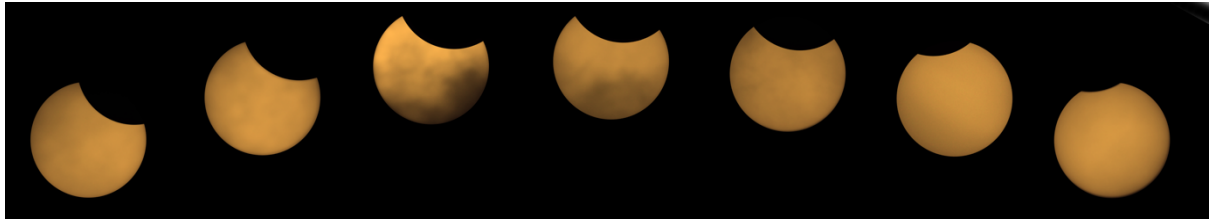
On 29 March a partial solar eclipse will be visible from Guernsey. The Sun will be in the south-east at the start and move towards the south when the partial eclipse ends. It will start at 10:01, when the Moon's shadow touches the Sun. The maximum visible from Guernsey will be at 10:57 when 31% of the Sun will be obscured, and the partial eclipse will end at 11:55.



Sequence for the partial solar eclipse as seen from Guernsey on 29 March 2025.

Solar eclipses are quite common, with 2 or 3 per year. However, the area on the ground covered by totality (a full eclipse) is only a few percent, so for a given location on Earth a total solar eclipse is rare and a once-in-a-lifetime event.

The Channel Islands last experienced a total solar eclipse in November 1999, where totality was visible from Alderney, but not quite Guernsey. Prior to that there was an annular eclipse in 1847 and a total eclipse in 1724. The next total solar eclipse will be 3 September 2081.



Sequence for partial solar eclipse seen from Guernsey on 10 June 2021, when the maximum obscured was 29%, which is similar to what will be seen on 29 March 2025. (Jean Dean)

Today we understand the size and relationships of the bodies in the Solar System and their orbits; and eclipses are viewed with interest and they serve to remind us of the fact that Earth belongs to a planetary system. However, ancient people saw the disappearing Sun as an omen. The word “eclipse” comes from a Greek word meaning “abandonment” and thus a disappearing Sun was a sign to ancient peoples that their gods were angry with them and were abandoning Earth to untold misery. In China people thought the Sun was being devoured by a dragon; they would bang drums and make loud noises to scare off the beast and bring back daylight. In South America, the Inca saw a solar eclipse as a sign of the sun god’s displeasure; leaders would try to divine the source of his wrath and appease him with an appropriate sacrifice. Since the Sun invariably returned such measures were probably deemed successful!

Warning: Never look directly at the Sun. You can seriously damage your eyes and even go blind. Use proper eye protection such as solar eclipse glasses or a special solar filter. Sunglasses are NOT safe. Never use optical instruments to view the Sun without proper solar filters.

If you wish to make a solar viewer here is NASA link showing simple projects for children to safely view the Sun: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/resources/project/how-to-make-a-pinhole-camera/> Always supervise children when solar observing.

If you wish to photograph the Sun you must use an appropriate solar filter/film such as Baader AstroSolar Safety Film, it is recommended that you buy Optical Density 5.0 as this only lets through 1/100,000 of incident light and is safe for both visual and photographic use. Make sure the solar filter/film is safely fitted to the camera/optics. It can be obtained from any reputable telescope shop in the UK.

Totality as seen from Guernsey, Wyoming, USA in 2017 (David Le Conte). The next total eclipse visible in Guernsey will be in 2081.

