

# Fans to catch flight for prime view of total solar eclipse

March 8 2016, by Rachel D'oro

---

Skygazers from around the country are catching a flight from Alaska to Hawaii on Tuesday for prime viewing of a total solar eclipse that will unfold over parts of Indonesia and the Indian and Pacific oceans.

A dozen [eclipse](#) enthusiasts are among the passengers on the plane set to leave Anchorage for Honolulu. The rare event comes when the moon is close enough to Earth to completely block out the sun.

Joseph Rao, an associate astronomer at the American Museum of Natural History's Hayden Planetarium, called Alaska Airlines last fall, explaining that the [flight](#) would be in the right place for the eclipse, airline representatives say.

The route was expected to encounter the darkest shadow of the moon as it passed over Earth.

Problem was, the plane would be passing by too early.

Alaska Airlines said it rescheduled the flight to depart 25 minutes later, leading Rao and a dozen other astronomy aficionados to book seats for the big show at 36,000 feet.

The eclipse is expected to last just under two minutes. The last [total solar eclipse](#) was in March 2015, and the one before that was in 2012.

One of those scheduled to take the flight is Dan McGlaun, who plans to

bring pairs of special filter classes to distribute to other passengers.

Also aboard will be Craig Small, a semiretired Hayden Planetarium astronomer viewing his 31st [total eclipse](#).

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Fans to catch flight for prime view of total solar eclipse (2016, March 8) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-03-fans-flight-prime-view-total.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.