

Canada's Niagara region declares a state of emergency to prepare for an influx of eclipse viewers

March 30 2024



Tourists on the American side of Niagara Falls take photos in Niagara Falls, N.Y. on Friday, March 29, 2024. Ontario's Niagara Region has declared a state of emergency as it readies to welcome up to a million visitors for the solar eclipse on April 8. Credit: Carlos Osorio/The Canadian Press via AP

Ontario's Niagara Region has declared a state of emergency as it prepares to welcome up to a million visitors for the solar eclipse in early April.

The total solar eclipse on April 8 will be the first to touch the province since 1979, and Niagara Falls was declared by National Geographic to be one of the best places to see it.

The city is in the path of totality, where the moon will entirely block the sun's rays for a few minutes. Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said earlier in March that he expects the most visitors his city has ever seen in a single day.

The regional municipality of Niagara is proactively invoking a state of emergency to prepare for the event. The declaration announced Thursday sets in motion some additional planning tools to prepare for the day, which could involve major traffic jams, heavier demands on emergency services and cell phone network overloads.

The [eclipse will reach Mexico's Pacific coast](#) in the morning, cut diagonally across the United States from Texas to Maine, and exit in eastern Canada by late afternoon. Most of the rest of the continent will see a partial eclipse.



A view of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, is shown on Friday, March 29, 2024 seen from Niagara Falls, N.Y. Ontario's Niagara Region has declared a state of emergency as it readies to welcome up to a million visitors for the solar eclipse on April 8. Credit: Carlos Osorio/The Canadian Press via AP



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