

Prologue

Total Eclipse of the Sun! Why now? Why this one?

Whether you saw the “big show” in 2017 or not, you now have another chance! Yes, you may have seen pictures, but pictures do not tell the full story.

And does it seem as if the eclipse of 2017 was not that long ago? Well, it has been seven years, long enough to take a child from 10 to 17 or a newly minted adult from 21 to 28.

While that may or may not surprise you, consider this. **After 2024, the next Total Solar Eclipse to pass across the US will be in 2045!** Now do that math *again!* A child of seven in 2024 will be 28 and that adult of 21 will be 42! Seems like nearly a lifetime! ;-)

So here we go! A total eclipse occurs *somewhere* on Earth about every two years. But all too often, much of the eclipse path is over the oceans or in countries where travel is difficult or impossible because of war, weather or poor roads.

If you are thinking, “What’s so great about a total eclipse?” or “Why do I need to go where the eclipse is *total?*” then I would ask you to name some place in the world that you think is a spectacular sight. You might say, “The Grand Canyon.”

Now imagine that the Grand Canyon is only visible every two years, and only for 2 or 3 minutes each time. Would you try to be there to see it? Would pictures of it be the same as being there in person? Think about all the virtual things we do now!

“What a great tragedy that we so often trade vicarious experiences for the chance to pursue real ones.” – Richard K. Nelson in “Raven’s Witness”.

Seeing a total solar eclipse is an unforgettable experience and it’s all about being in the right place at the right time!