Eclipses and the Story of Place

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GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

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10 best places to see this summer's solar eclipse

Larry Bleiberg, Special for USA TODAY

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John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Ore.

The National Park Service is already planning for crowds in what's usually a quiet corner of Oregon. The monument's three units, known for an abundance of plant and animal fossils, will all plunge into darkness for up to two minutes. "It's a wonderful setting with a great chance of clear skies," Moromisato says. The monument bookstore will carry eclipse-viewing glasses and filters, but suggests visitors bring their own in case they sell out. nps.gov/joda

The 'Big One' is coming in 2017: A total solar eclipse

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, Idaho

Moromisato says there's a certain symmetry to watching an eclipse involving the moon on a landscape named after the moon. "It's an otherworldly place right at the edge of the path." Total darkness will last about a minute. nps.gov/crmo

Grand Teton National Park, Wyo.

The famed Rockies park sits in the middle of the eclipse path and will experience up to two minutes and 20 seconds of darkness. Moromisato says rangers will likely provide programming for the event. "It's another great reason to see it in a national park as opposed to the middle of a highway somewhere." nps.gov/arte

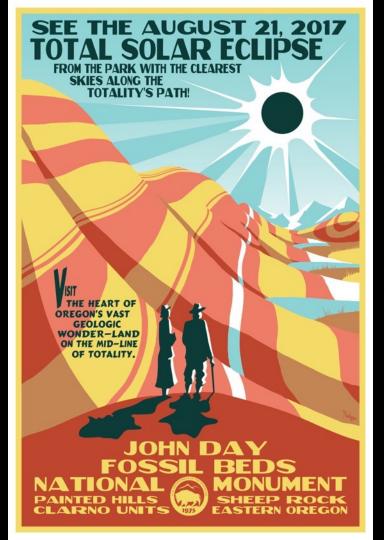
Homestead National Monument of America, Neb.

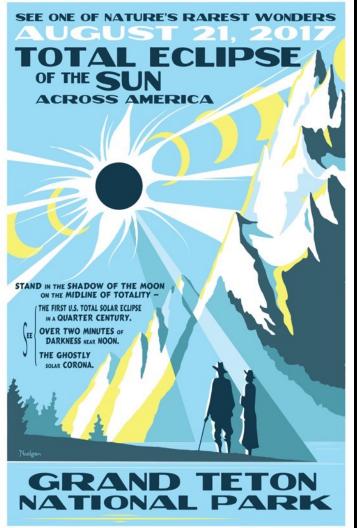
This park plans a full weekend celebration leading up to the Monday eclipse, promising "Darkness over the Prairie." Events including a photography workshop, music and stargazing. The park gift shop's already selling a range of souvenir merchandise. nps.gov/home

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tenn. and N.C.

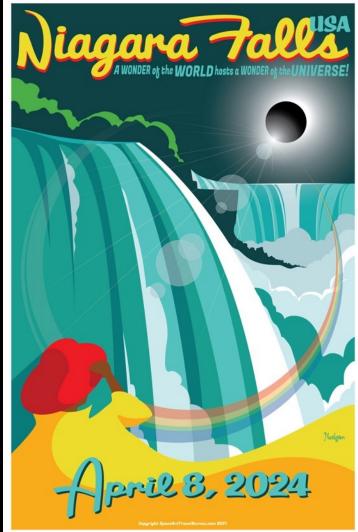
The western section of the nation's most visited national park will experience up to two minutes and 20 seconds of totality. The park has organized three viewing areas, including Cades Cove, Oconaluftee and Clingmans Dome. Viewing from the latter, the highest peak in the park, will be by ticket only, "You'll have the full view around you and will be able to see the shadow of the moon below," Moromisato says. nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/2017-solar-eclipse.htm

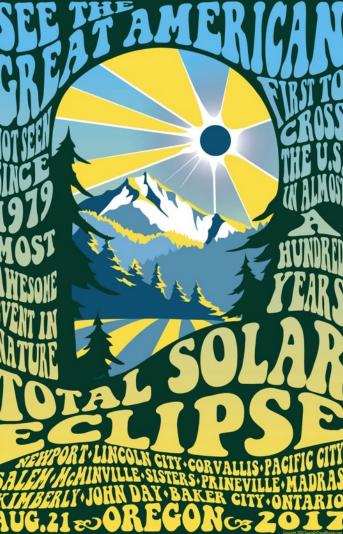
Great Smoky Mountains National Park hosting eclipse-watching event Aug. 21.



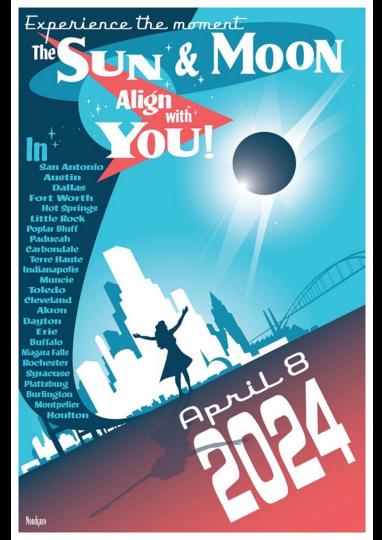














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