

Total Solar Eclipse 2028: Where and How to See the Total Solar Eclipse in New Zealand

This guide focuses specifically on the Total Solar Eclipse visible in New Zealand on 22 July 2028. Other astronomical and natural phenomena in New Zealand are covered in separate guides.

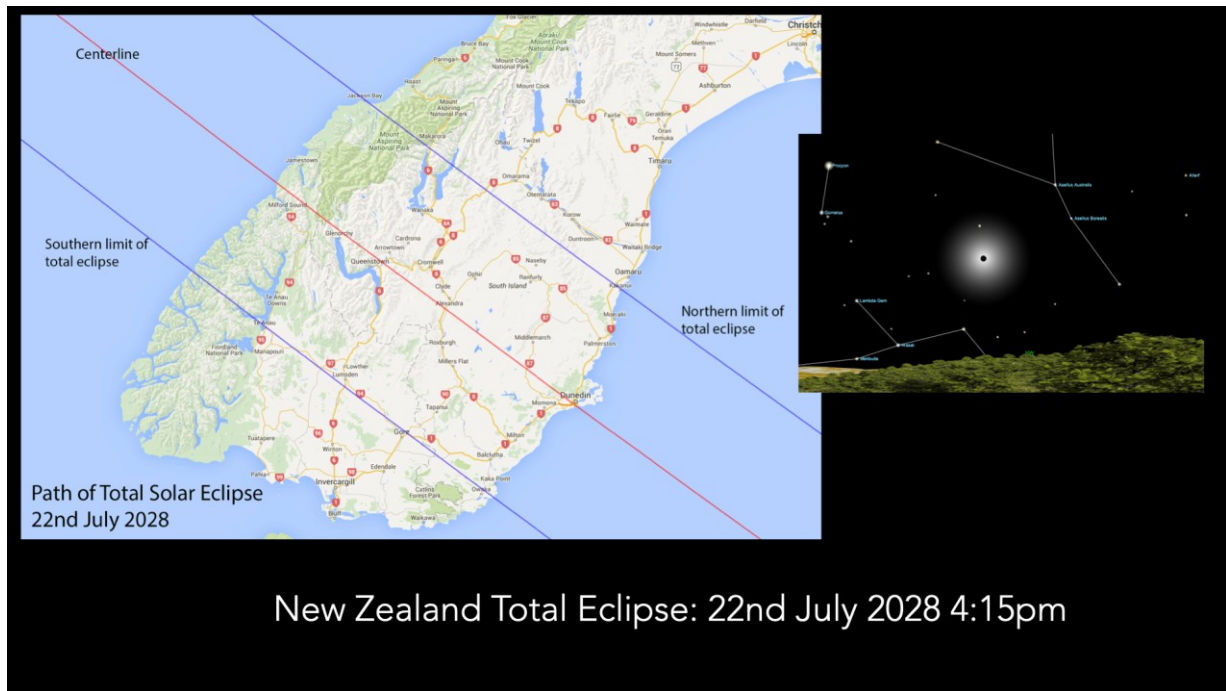


Photo: New Zealand Total Solar Eclipse 2028; Credit: Dr Ian Griffin

Total Solar Eclipse 2028 in New Zealand: At a Glance

- **Phenomenon:** Total solar eclipse — when the Moon completely covers the Sun, revealing the solar corona
- **Date and time:** 22 July 2028, approximately 4:15 pm NZST
- **Best locations:** Parts of the South Island within the path of totality, including Ōtepoti Dunedin and surrounding regions
- **Why New Zealand:** This will be New Zealand's first total solar eclipse visible from the country in decades, offering rare late-afternoon viewing conditions with dramatic landscapes

What is a total solar eclipse

A total solar eclipse is a rare celestial alignment where the Moon completely covers the Sun, revealing the delicate solar corona. As daylight fades to twilight, temperatures drop, stars emerge, and the landscape transforms - an awe-inspiring, once in a generation spectacle.

Why the 2028 Total Solar Eclipse Is a Must-See Event

On 22 July 2028 at approximately 4:15 pm NZST, New Zealand will experience its first total solar eclipse visible from the country in decades. The narrow path of totality crosses parts of the South Island; the rest of Aotearoa will witness a significant partial eclipse.

Eclipse chasing is a fast-growing global niche, with travellers planning years in advance. Expect strong demand from astrophotographers, scientists, and experience driven visitors. Arriving earlier in July lets travellers also experience Matariki (the Māori New Year) on 14 July 2028, deepening the cultural connection to Aotearoa's night sky traditions.

When the Total Solar Eclipse Occurs in New Zealand

- Date: 22 July 2028
- Time: Approximately 4:15pm NZST

Where to Watch the Total Solar Eclipse in New Zealand

Path of totality in the South Island

Ōtepoti Dunedin, Otago

On the line of totality with multiple vantage points, strong research “— such as Kerosene Creek, Spa Park, Lake Tarawera and Mōrere hot springs — offer warm natural streams and lakeside hot spots perfect for a soak, though they don't feature dig-in-the-sand pools.

Other Night-Time Natural Phenomena to Experience in New Zealand

Glowworms (Nationwide)

New Zealand's native glowworms illuminate caves, forests, and riverbanks with constellations of blue-white light. Famous year-round spots include Waitomo Caves, Waipu Caves, and glowworm grottos throughout the Waitākere Ranges and Fiordland.