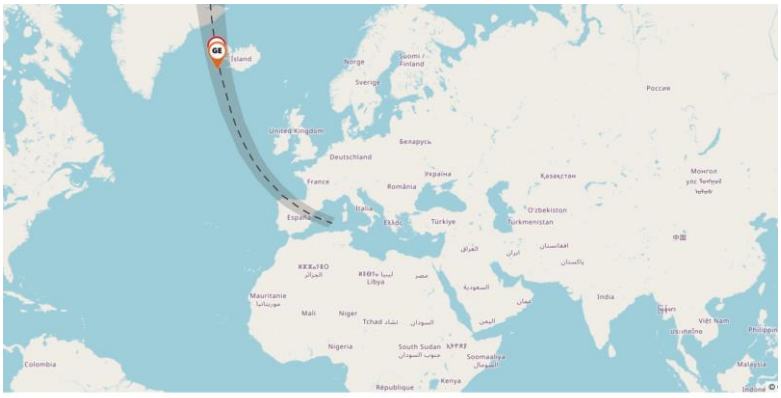
Viewing the 12th August near total Eclipse in our area

On the 12th of August a rare near total eclipse of the sun will be visible from this area. An eclipse of the sun occurs when the moon passes in front of the sun (https://ras.ac.uk/media/1578) temporarily blocking out light from sun. A full solar eclipse occurs where the moon completely blocks the sun's disc, which is very rare, the next one visible in Scotland is due on the 30th of September **2090**. While the eclipse due on the 12th of August is not a full eclipse, in this area around 90% of the sun's disc will be blocked by the moon.

The track of the total eclipse (meaning the sun is completely covered by the moon) starts over the Arctic and tracks down the eastern Atlantic seaboard and crosses Spain into the Mediterranean as shown below. Scotland is not far to the east and hence we can expect a near total eclipse.



Credit: National Solar Observatory, AURA and National Science Foundation. Using NASA eclipse path data generated by Fred Espenak, Besselian Elements for August 12, 2026 total solar eclipse. Specific eclipse data from the US Naval Observatory's Astronomical Applications Department.

In our area, the eclipse will start at 18:06 local time, reach its maximum (i.e. 90% of the sun covered) at 19:04, 7:04pm), and will end at 19:59. At its maximum the sun will appear similar to the simulation from the Greenwich Museum (https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/space-astronomy/how-see-12-august-2026-partial-solar-eclipse#whatwillhappen):



As the eclipse descends so will twilight, reaching darkest during the peak of the eclipse before steadily lightening, although sunset is at 2107.

The challenge for our area, other than the weather, is that the sun will be low in the sky when the eclipse occurs. As the eclipse reaches its maximum it will be 15 degree above the

horizon (not the mountains). The equates to about one and a half clenched fists height held horizontally at arms' length. The best views therefore will be where there is a clear view to the west or west north west with no obstructions of the horizon. In turn, this favours high ground or coastal areas.

You should never view the sun directly even during an eclipse. Eclipse glasses for viewing the eclipse are available online (cost ca. 5 pounds for 12) and it is recommended to use these. Instructions for making your own are available online but their safety cannot be guaranteed.

As the weather is not a certainty, it is possible to see the eclipse live online at:
https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/online/solar-eclipse-august-2026-uk-live-stream