

# The Great American Eclipse 2017

The total eclipse of August 2017, was the first to sweep across the continental United States since 1918. The name of this celestial event became known as, “The Great American Eclipse.” A total eclipse can be seen when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, fully blocking the visible sun from view, casting a shadow on the planet Earth. In anticipation of this spectacular event towns in the path prepared for the pending massive influx of sightseers, opportunists printed viewer guides, sold safety glasses, clothing, and other souvenirs. To commemorate the August 21 eclipse the U.S. Postal Service released the Total Eclipse of the Sun stamps, and U.S. post offices in the path of the eclipse offered special postmarks.



First Day Cachet created by Guy Bell, “Covers by Guy”, #19 of 64 made

## Plan

1. USPS *Total Eclipse of the Sun* Stamp
2. What is a Solar Eclipse?
3. Anticipation of the Great American Eclipse
4. Path of Totality
5. Into the Future