



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2015 MARCH 20 FRIDAY BMI REGIONAL AIRBORNE-INTERCEPT CHARTER FLIGHT ABERDEEN-FAROEES-ECLIPSE-FAROEES-ABERDEEN

eclipse intercept flight will be 8:55-9:40/9:43-10:10
Vágur to airborne totality observation back to Vágur
...rarest spectacle..."closest we can come to space travel"...

speed of the aircraft, as it moves in the same direction the shadow is moving, will make totality last longer so we anticipate 3 minutes 30 seconds of totality beginning 9:39:45 UT ending 9:43:15 UT

departure from Vágur at bearing of 240° is on a hairpin "buffer" leg in case of departure delay...if delay is 5 minutes bearing will be 244°, 10 minutes, 248°, 15 minutes, 252°, or 20 minutes, 256°, as shown here with dotted lines...correspondingly shortening the buffer leg to still hit intercept time and locus as planned

moon's shadow will overtake us from southwest with eclipsed sun to the southeast, straight out the right-side windows of the aircraft

begin totality run 9:26:30 UT

end totality run 9:46:30 UT

mid-totality 9:41:30 UT

arrive back at Vágur 10:10 UT

depart Vágur 8:55 UT

THIRD/FINAL LEG depart Vágur ~ noon arrive back at Aberdeen ~ 1pm

FIRST LEG depart Aberdeen ~ 5am arrive Vágur, the Faroe Islands airport ~ 6am

centerline at 35,000+ feet will be offset to southeast of surface centerline because sun will be to southeast at 18+ degrees elevation

our projected flight plan as shown here is subject to approval by Air Traffic Control who will be coordinating several flights along the eclipse path - if we can fly totality on centerline at 35,000+ feet our estimated duration will be 3 minutes 40 seconds - whereas if ATC tells us to fly parallel to centerline somewhat offset from centerline so as to accommodate traffic of the other aircrafts, estimated duration will be slightly decreased but still should not be less than 3 minutes 30 seconds - unless headwinds of course

as of March 20 daylight savings time has not yet begun so local time is same as UT in Scotland and Faroes and for the eclipse flight