

NASA – Total Solar Eclipse of 2015 Mar 20

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEgoogle/SEgoogle2001/SE2015Mar20Tgoogle.html>

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This interactive Google map shows the path of the Total Solar Eclipse of 2015 Mar 20. The northern and southern path limits are blue and the central line is red. The yellow lines crossing the path indicate the position of maximum eclipse at 10-minute intervals. The zoom bar (left edge) is used to change the magnification. The two map buttons (top right) let you switch between map view and a satellite view.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2015 MARCH 20 FRIDAY AIRBORNE-INTERCEPT CHARTER FLIGHT U.K.-FAROES-ECLIPSE-U.K.

...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

9:40 UT 2m46.3s of surface centerline totality

9:30 UT 2m41.5s

begin totality run 9:26:30 UT

mid-totality 9:41:30 UT

end totality run 9:46:30 UT

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

bearing 40°

bearing 240°

depart Vágar 8:55 UT

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

if Faroes weather is relatively good, some participants may decide to stay on the ground to observe the eclipse there, then return to U.K. on their own by regular commercial flight via Copenhagen

4am departure from U.K. airport and 12 noon return means this can be routinely doable in one single crew shift

9:50 UT 2m46.4s

Faroese have recently lengthened the FAE runway from 1250 meters to 1799 meters; are building a new terminal; have been upgrading navaids to state-of-the-art; and now have three Airbus A319's based at FAE which fly in and out daily even in low-visibility conditions; FAE airport CEO Jákup Sverri Kass, jsk@fae.fo, says that for instance a B737-800 can land at FAE and his company will help in whatever manner

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

as of March 20 at FAE there is already plenty of bright twilight by our projected 6am arrival time

before departure from U.K. we of course will have checked ahead as to landing conditions at FAE – if they happen to be so poor that, even despite the many recent improvements at FAE, landing there may be questionable, we'll delay our takeoff from U.K. to allow conditions at FAE time to improve – if they don't improve sufficiently to permit landing by 8am we'll change to a direct U.K.-eclipse-U.K. intercept flight plan

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Map Satellite

Eclipse predictions by Fred Espenak, NASA's GSFC Map data ©2014 GeoBasis-DE/BKG (©2009), Google

Airborne intercept graphics © 2014 August 3 John R. Beattie

Done