

# Bryson City Eclipse FAQ

## When is the eclipse?

- On Monday, August 21, 2017 the partial eclipse will begin at 1:06 PM, as the moon begins moving across the face of the sun. Bryson City will slowly drift into darkness.
- The total eclipse begins at 2:35 PM and will last 1 minute, 57 seconds. This is the ONLY time you can view the eclipse without protective glasses.
- At 2:37, the partial eclipse will resume as the moon continues moving across the face of the sun. Bryson City will slowly get lighter until the eclipse has passed at 4 PM.

## Do I need those special eclipse glasses?

- Special eclipse-viewing glasses MUST be worn when looking at the sun, even when the eclipse is near totality.
- Do NOT use sun glasses. Do NOT use exposed x-ray film. Do NOT use anything other than the approved eye-wear.
- Looking directly at the sun with the naked eye will cause irreversible eye damage possibly resulting in blindness. Sun glasses offer no protection from the sun's harmful UV rays.
- Special eclipse-viewing glasses will be available at the visitors center while supplies last.

## What if I don't have special eclipse glasses?

- Cut a small hole in a piece of paper or cardboard, hold it a few feet above the ground and look down. The sun shining through the hole will project an accurate image of the eclipse onto the ground.
- If you're near a tree, look down at the shadows during the partial eclipse. The sunlight shining through the space between leaves will project hundreds of crescent images onto the ground.

## Where are the eclipse viewing areas?

- **You can view the eclipse from any open area in Swain County.** The sun will be high in the sky at eclipse time. However, Bryson City has identified two 'official' viewing areas.
- **Swain County Event Park**, 1130 Hyatt Creek Road (exit 69 off US 74, one mile on the right; or take US 19 toward Cherokee and turn south onto Hyatt Creek Road at East Elementary).

Parking fee (\$10, \$20 or \$40 depending on size of car/van/bus), includes viewing glasses for everyone in the vehicle. Entertainment and portable toilets.

- **Railroad Depot**, 226 Everett Street, downtown Bryson City. (exit 67 off US 74; Veterans Blvd to Main Street; turn right; go one block, turn left on Everett Street; two blocks on right). Entertainment and restrooms.
- **Darnell Farms** (US 19 east of Bryson City) will also have a large viewing area with parking, food vendors and viewing glasses.

## How should I prepare?

- Bring a folding chair and a blanket or light jacket as the temperature will drop around 20 degrees during the eclipse.
- Bring sunscreen and head covering, You'll be outside more than three hours.
- Bring food or snacks and plenty of water. Depending on the size of crowds, concessions may be over-taxed.
- If possible, bring your own protective eclipse glasses. A limited quantity will be available at the visitor center, but demand could possibly exceed supplies. Glasses are inexpensive and can be purchased through Amazon.com.

## Should I bring a camera?

- Unless you are a well-prepared serious amateur or professional photographer, we recommend leaving your camera behind.
- This eclipse is a magical, extremely brief once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon that should be fully experienced. Don't miss a second trying to take a disappointing photo (to illustrate, take a night-time photo of the full moon overhead).

## What kind of crowds are expected?

- Most lodging rooms, cabins and campsites are already booked for the weekend.
- We have no way of knowing how many will drive to Bryson City on Monday. We expect the number to be huge, exceeding the town's capacity.
- Our best advice is to arrive as early as possible and find a parking place.
- The Swain County Event Park, with several hundred parking places, will open at 10 AM on Monday. See 'viewing areas'

## What if we get stuck in traffic?

- You should prepare the same as you would for winter blizzard conditions. Make sure your gas tank is full before leaving home; and have enough food and water in your vehicle for the entire day.
- According to the highway patrol, it will be OK to pull over to the right side of the road or highway, as long as you do not block a traffic lane. However, you may not park in the highway median.

## Are there any alternate routes?

- The only alternative to US-74 (the 4-lane Smoky Mountains Expressway) is the 2-lane US-19 between Cherokee and Bryson City. There are three exits on US-74 —
- Exit 72 (Whittier) After exiting, continue north on US-19-alternate to the intersection with US-19. Turn left and proceed west.

If your destination is the Swain County Event Park, turn left on Hyatt Creek Road across from East Elementary School. Look for the Park on your left.

If your destination is Bryson City, continue west on US-19.

- Exit 69 (Hyatt Creek Road) This is the exit for the Swain County Event Park. If your destination is Bryson City, continue north past the event park and turn left (west) on US 19.
- Exit 67 is the Bryson City exit
- Exit 64 (Alarka). For those coming from the west on US-74/19, take the Alarka exit, turn left, cross the bridge, then turn right on US-19 to Bryson City.

## Where can I purchase a Bryson City commemorative eclipse T-shirt?

- T-shirts and protective glasses will be available at the visitor center in the old courthouse.

## What special events or entertainment is planned?

- Turn this page over for a complete schedule of events.

# Bryson City Eclipse Schedule of Events

For more detailed information, visit

**[GreatSmokies.com/eclipse](http://GreatSmokies.com/eclipse)**

## INFORMATION

The Visitor Center in the old courthouse is 'eclipse central'. Drop by for information and to purchase eclipse glasses and T-shirts (while supplies last). Open daily.

### ALL WEEKEND LONG

**FRIDAY, August 18 – MONDAY, August 21, 2017**

**Take the 'Eclipse Crawl'** — Visit participating merchants with eclipse-themed food and drink offerings.

### FRIDAY, August 18, 2017

**7 - 9 pm.** Free, live music at Riverfront Park, 101 Mitchell St. across from train parking and turntable.

### SATURDAY, August 19, 2017

**10 am - 4 pm.** Enjoy a free, full-dome planetarium experience at the Fire Department on Main Street. Courtesy of the Marianna Black Library. Donations accepted.

**10 am - 10 pm.** Swain County Agricultural Fair – Darnell Farms (US 19 east of Bryson City).

**7 - 9 pm.** Free, live music at Riverfront Park, 101 Mitchell St. across from train parking.

### SUNDAY, August 20, 2017

**10 am - 10 pm.** Appalachian Festival – Darnell Farms (US 19 east of Bryson City).

**Noon - 4 pm.** Enjoy a free, full-dome planetarium experience at the Fire Department on Main Street. Courtesy of the Marianna Black Library. Donations accepted.

**1 - 5 pm.** Sand & Sauce 2017 – Live music, games, water inflatables, volleyball tournament, cornhole tournament, pig roast, BBQ sauce contest. The Grove Church, 1127 Franklin Grove Church Road.

**7 - 9 pm.** Free, live music at Riverfront Park, 101 Mitchell St. across from train parking and turntable.

### MONDAY Eclipse Day, August 21, 2017

**11 am - 3 pm.** Riverfront Park. Music by Frank Lee. Viewing nearby.

**11 am - 3 pm.** Bryson City offers a number of excellent open viewing locations, including:

- **RR DEPOT** - Block party with live music featuring Grandpa's Cough Medicine, blazing bluegrass tempos (11 - 1 pm) and The Company Stores, modern Appalachian rock and blues band (1 - 3 pm).
- **SWAIN COUNTY EVENT PARK** (live music, food trucks, portable toilets). Musicians: Andrew Scotchie & The River Rats (rock/blues/funk), and Leeda 'Lyric' Jones (5-piece rock/funk/soul band). 1130 Hyatt Creek Road (exit 69 off US 74; or take US 19 toward Cherokee and turn right onto Hyatt Creek Road at East Elementary). Parking fee (\$10, \$20 or \$40 depends on size of car/van/bus), includes viewing glasses for everyone in the vehicle.
- **Darnell Farms** (US 19 east of Bryson City) will also have a large viewing area with parking, food vendors and viewing glasses.

### Swain County Chamber of Commerce

210 Main Street

Bryson City, North Carolina 28713

**800-867-9246**

Local 828-488--3681