



# Eclipse Information Guide

The City of Boerne and Kendall County



# Be Ready, Be Patient, Be Safe...Enjoy!

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For Additional Safety Information or Questions Contact the Solar Eclipse  
Safety Team Leadership

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## Eclipse Facts

The City of Boerne is in the path of a solar eclipses sure to bring awe and wonder to the Texas Hill Country, along with tens of thousands of visitors eager to witness the natural phenomena. The April eclipse will be the second such event in less than a year, but based on past eclipses that have traversed the continental U.S. we expect the April event to have a large impact on Boerne and Kendall County.

### Total Solar Eclipse - Monday, April 8, 2024

Anyone within the path of totality can see the total solar eclipse. This path, where the moon will completely cover the sun and the sun's tenuous atmosphere - the corona - can be seen. Observers outside this path will still see a partial solar eclipse where the moon covers part of the sun's disk. Boerne is in the path of totality for the total solar eclipse, meaning the moon will completely block out the sun for 4 minutes and 23 seconds beginning at 1:32 p.m.

- Partial Eclipse Begins: 12:14 p.m.
- Totality Begins: 1:32 - 1:36 p.m.
- Partial Eclipse End: 2:55 p.m.

## What Is It?

This celestial event occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth and blocks all or part of the sun for up to about three hours, from beginning to end, as viewed from a given location.

## Who Can See It?

Lots of people! Everyone in the contiguous United States, in fact, everyone in North America plus parts of South America, Africa, and Europe will see at least a partial solar eclipse, while the thin path of totality will pass through portions of several states.

## How Can You See It?

You never want to look directly at the sun without appropriate protection except during totality. That could severely hurt your eyes. However, there are many ways to safely view an eclipse of the sun including direct viewing – which requires some type of filtering device, and indirect viewing where you project an image of the sun onto a screen. Both methods should produce clear images of the partial phase of an eclipse. [Click here](#) for eclipse viewing techniques and safety.

## Tips for Residents

**Eclipse Begins** Monday, April 8, at 12:14 pm

**Anticipated Days:** Friday, 04/05 – Tuesday, 04/09

Here is the good news, if you live in Boerne, you have a front-row seat to this spectacular event. You don't have to pack up the car or kids, simply step out into your front yard and enjoy the day. And with some easy planning beforehand you and your family can experience the total solar eclipse with relatively little disruptions.

Traffic will be heavy and lines for local services such as restaurants, gas stations, grocery, and retail stores may be longer than usual; do what you can ahead of time before the anticipated impact days and allow for extra time to get where you need to go.

## Things to consider doing in advance:

- **Errands & Appointments:** Schedule your errands and appointments early, before Friday the 5th if possible. Check ahead if you have plans for Monday the 8th; some services may be closed or have limited hours during this time. By scheduling your errands early, you will beat the crowds and give our local stores and businesses time to restock before the eclipse visitors arrive; this includes grocery shopping, doctor/dentist/veterinary appointments, prescriptions, etc.
- **Supplies:** Overall, some supplies may be limited due to the high demand; which may mean the items you want are not available immediately before or after the total solar eclipse. If there is something important you want, get it early.
- **Gas:** If you normally fill up your gas tank Friday – Monday, be sure to do that task early, before Friday, April 5th.
- **Cash:** If you regularly use cash or want some on hand, consider visiting your local bank or ATM before April 5<sup>th</sup> as some ATMs that operate on WiFi might be unavailable due to the increased cellular traffic.

**911:** Know when it is appropriate to call 911 (true emergencies) and have the non-emergency phone number for your local Dispatch Center programmed into your phone ahead of time.

**Cellular Service:** With the increased number of visitors, local public safety officials anticipate cellular service may become impacted (primarily Monday the 8th) or have limited access during the days when there will be an increase in visitors. Consider these ideas to assist with communications during this time:

- Develop a communication plan with family and friends if you lose or have limited service.
- If you only have a mobile phone at home find out which of your neighbors have a landline number in case you need to call 911 for an emergency.

**Public Water Systems:** Consider postponing watering your lawn or using “extra” water during the anticipated impact days to take a little pressure off of the public water systems during that time.

**Reminder from Public Health:** A food preparation license is required if you plan to prepare and sell perishable food items from your home or business to others; contact Kendall County Community Development – Environmental Health Department

**Individual/Family Emergency Plans:** Consider the eclipse event a drill to check your emergency kits and emergency plans. If you do not have a kit or have not talked about your emergency plans, now is a great time to do so. Kendall County Sheriff's Office website has information to help in your planning efforts; make sure family members and friends know your plans.

## Tips for Visitors

**Eclipse Begins** Monday, April 8, at 12:14 pm

**Anticipated Days:** Friday, 04/05 – Tuesday, 04/09

Kendall County's population of approximately 45,000 is expected to see a substantial increase starting April 5<sup>th</sup> before and during the impact period with most visitors utilizing I-10 or Highway 46 to enter the county. It is best to arrive early, come prepared, and have reasonable expectations, given the situation. Once the eclipse begins, you will forget all about the crowds and any small inconveniences it took for you to experience this wondrous event!

The Texas Hill Country is beautiful but keep local hazards in mind and always know your surroundings.

### While Visiting During The Eclipse:

- Do not think, "We'll just pick up what we need when we get there." Supplies, cash, fuel, and restaurant meals may have limited services or have long lines due to high demand.
- Think about your personal safety and security:
  - Have a good communication plan with your family members. Cell service may be limited due to the increased volume. Have an out-of-area friend or family member you can check in with if you get separated. Pick a landmark where you can reunite if you get separated in a crowd.
  - Do not leave valuables in your vehicles. Think through your security plan and how to keep important items secure, i.e., cell phones, telescopes, binoculars, wallets, etc.
- Make sure your vehicle/RV has been serviced and you are all fueled up and ready to go (gas, propane, etc.)
- Help us keep our communities and public areas clean and safe and do not litter. Follow the rule "Pack it in, Pack it out!"

### What to Bring With You:

- Eclipse Viewing Glasses
- Water (plenty of it)
- First Aid Kit
- Necessary medications for you and your pets
- Cash (ATMs may be limited during this time)
- Sun protection: Sunscreen, Sunglasses, Hat/visor
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Folding chair
- Snacks/food for the hours, days you plan to be with us
- Prepaid phone card – if you need to call long distance and cellular service is not available
- Maps of area if you need directions (print your directions and bring them with you); your cellular service may be limited during heaviest impact times

## Tips for Businesses

**Eclipse Begins** Monday, April 8, at 12:14 pm

**Anticipated Days:** Friday, 04/05 – Tuesday, 04/09

Kendall County expects as much as a 25% increase in visitors over a normal summer holiday weekend. This could be a great opportunity for business, but you will need to be prepared. Grocery stores, gas stations, hotels, restaurants, transportation services, coffee shops, retail stores, urgent care/walk-in clinics, and many other establishments will experience a jump in business.

### What You Can Do To Prepare Your Business:

- **Back-up Plans:** Prepare for an increase in customers; have needed supplies on hand and have them delivered early; consider extending hours of operation to meet customer needs and have back-up plans if staff is delayed due to traffic.
- **Employee Preparedness:** Encourage employees to have a full tank of gas; have their own resources ready at home; day care needs are met, etc. by April 5th. Gas stations may be very busy or may be waiting on resupply. Make sure your staff can get to work, so give them reminders to plan ahead and share the “Tips for Residents” in this guide.
- **Cash/Financial Transactions:**
  - Be prepared for more cash transactions; consider having extra tills set up to accommodate more cash transactions. You may have larger than normal deposits over the weekend. Check ahead of time if your bank will be open on Monday, April 8th.
  - **How does your credit/debit card machine access the internet?** If you use cell service/cell wireless service for your transactions, be prepared with a backup plan. We anticipate a high demand for cellular service during the impact period, especially Monday, the 8th. You may find you are not able to make transactions; have a backup plan to meet your customers’ needs.
- **Communications:** Anticipate possible cellular connectivity issues due to the increased demand. Visitors may have urgent requests to use your landline business phone if cell service is limited; decide how you want to handle these requests and make sure employees know what to do. If it is a 911 emergency and you have a landline...be ready to help!!
- **Regularly Scheduled Deliveries:** Evaluate when you receive your regular deliveries. We highly encourage businesses to Consider rescheduling for Tuesday, April 9 or order extra the week before.
- **Restrooms:** Be aware many visitors will be camping in authorized and potentially unauthorized locations; expect customers who may be primarily interested in using business restrooms. Public restrooms will be in short supply and port-a-potties in limited locations may be at capacity until service providers can empty them.
- **Weather and Your Business:** If conditions are foggy, visitors with hotel reservations will most likely not change their plans, but the “day trippers” may move to more optimal viewing; there is no way to predict this but monitoring the weather the week to 10 days prior to 04/08/24 could be very useful for your business.

## Safety- 911, When and How to Call for Emergency Response

Call 911 when life or property is in danger, or you could become endangered if the situation continues. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from police, fire, or ambulance.

	Emergency Call 911 (Dispatch)	Non-Emergency Call Non-Emergency #	Other Agency Resources
Examples	<b>Any immediate danger to life, limb, or property</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House or building fires</li> <li>• Medical emergencies, i.e., chest pains, trauma injuries</li> <li>• Someone is threatening/attacking you</li> <li>• Crime in progress</li> <li>• Aggressive dog attack</li> <li>• You have heard gunshots in your area</li> <li>• Vehicle accidents</li> <li>• Impaired/unsafe driver</li> </ul>	<b>Non-Emergency Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns or to report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unpermitted neighborhood burning – yard debris, etc.</li> <li>• Lost or loose animals in your neighborhood</li> <li>• Noise disturbances</li> <li>• Vehicle break-ins</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>No Crime or Emergency Involved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-emergency ambulance transfers</li> <li>• Copies of police/fire reports</li> <li>• Power outages</li> <li>• Driving directions or road closures (drivetexas.org)</li> </ul>
When calling... from landline or cell phone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak clearly, and be calm – when a caller is upset, it is hard to understand what they are saying or to get vital information quickly.</li> <li>• State which emergency service is needed and why (e.g. Fire, Police, Ambulance).</li> <li>• State your exact physical address (where you are at the time of the emergency).</li> <li>• Mobile (cell) Phone Calls: If you do not know the exact address look for landmarks, i.e., mile markers, addresses on mailboxes, street signs, highway signs, nearby parks, businesses, etc.</li> <li>• Stay on the line until your Call Taker tells you to disconnect. If calling from a mobile (cell) phone and you are driving, pull to the side of the road and stop before calling.</li> </ul>		
If you can't speak or hear when calling 911	<p>After dialing, leave the phone off the hook and make a noise to let the Call Taker (Dispatcher) know you have an emergency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calling from a landline (hard-wired phone): Your address will appear on the call taker's screen.</li> <li>• Calling from a mobile/cell phone: The Call Taker may get latitude/longitude close to your location.</li> <li>• Text-to- 911: Give clear identifiers to where you are located and what your emergency is.</li> </ul>		
Public Safety Tips...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure your address is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Visible on the outside of your house or on the roadway, especially at night.</li> <li>o Posted in your home for guests or babysitters to use if they are calling from a mobile phone.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Teach children when to call 911, when not to, and their home address; be sure a phone is within reach, and they know where to find it.</li> <li>• Keep mobile phones secure so they don't accidentally call 911; but if that happens do not hang up, stay on the line and explain the situation to the Call Taker.</li> </ul>		
Other Information:	<p><b>Disclaimer:</b> This list is not all-inclusive and should be seen as only as a representation of call types/circumstances.</p> <p><b>Non-Emergency Dispatch Center Phone Numbers (Kendall County)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kendall County – (830) 249-8646</li> <li>• City of Boerne – (830) 249-8645</li> </ul> <p><b>State Highway Information - TXDOT:</b> <a href="https://its.txdot.gov">https://its.txdot.gov</a></p> <p>Texas Department of Public Safety: <a href="http://drivetexas.org">drivetexas.org</a></p>		

## Safety- Eye Protection (Eclipse Viewing)

Looking directly at the Sun is unsafe except during the brief total phase of a solar eclipse (“totality”) when the Moon entirely blocks the Sun’s bright face while in the narrow path of totality.

**What You Can Do:** The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” or hand-held solar viewers. ***Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the Sun.***



An alternative method for safe viewing of the partially eclipsed Sun is pinhole projection. For example, cross the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the outstretched, slightly open fingers of the other. With your back to the Sun, look at your hands’ shadow on the ground. The little spaces between your fingers will project a grid of small images on the ground, showing the Sun as a crescent during the partial phases of the eclipse. (More details: [NASA/Safety](https://www.nasa.gov/safety))

### Things You Should Not Do:

- Look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical devices.
- Look at the Sun through a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device with your eclipse glasses or hand-held solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eye(s), causing serious injury.
- Remove your solar filter before the Moon completely covers the Sun’s bright face and it is entirely dark. DO: Experience totality, then, as soon as the bright Sun begins to reappear, replace your solar viewer to glance at the remaining partial phases.



## Safety-Transportation, Travel, and Parking

The eclipse event will take place during the height of the county's peak tourism months. While the number of eclipse visitors is hard to approximate, both residents and visitors should expect increased activity on roadways, neighborhoods, public facilities, restaurants, and parks. Hotels, vacation rental dwellings, campgrounds, and group facilities will all be at peak capacity.

Texas Department of Transportation is planning ahead to keep Texas moving, and we encourage you to do the same. An estimated 1+ million visitors are coming to Texas to view this celestial spectacle. That many people will have a huge impact on highways, gasoline supplies, and other basic needs. What you do to plan ahead will make or break your eclipse-viewing experience.

### What You Can Do:

- **Expect delays.** Traffic backups are inevitable. Preparation ensures a good time for visitors and residents alike.
- **Expect traffic changes.** Normal travel paths may be disrupted. Communities may close streets to through traffic or ban left or right turns to keep traffic moving, especially around venues with many visitors.
- **Be prepared.** If traveling, plan for your basic needs such as food, water, gas for the car, and bathroom breaks in case you're stuck in traffic. If friends or family are coming to visit, warn them to #DriveHealthy: Arrive early, stay put during the eclipse, and leave late afterward, in case everyone else jumps on our highways all at once. Remember, all travelers have a shared responsibility to stay safe.
- **Do what you can to help.** Can you work from home or flex your work schedule when your local roads are full? Avoid roads being used to get people in or out of a local event. Ride your bicycle, when possible, to avoid congestion!
- **Look out for each other.** This is a rare opportunity, but it brings potential hazards. We all must do our part to be prepared. You may see travelers unfamiliar with the area. Be friendly, helpful, and patient!
- **Be mindful of Texas "move over" law.** This law requires drivers to move over a lane or slow to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching emergency vehicles, law enforcement, tow trucks, utility service vehicles, TxDOT vehicles or other highway construction or maintenance vehicles using visual signals or flashing lights activated on the roadside.
- **Motor Vehicle Accidents:** If you have a fender bender, don't call 911 unless there are injuries, dangers, or leaking fluid. Then, move your vehicles safely to the side of the road and exchange insurance information.
- **TxDOT: Know Before You Go!** [www.drivetexas.org](http://www.drivetexas.org)

## Info- Garbage, Solid Waste, and Sanitation

The community comes together to enjoy events, but in the process, a tremendous amount of waste is generated, much of it recyclable. The single most effective tool in reducing waste at special events is planning ahead.

- **Leave No Trace:** When traveling around Texas, it is important to practice “Leave No Trace” ethics, which includes leaving sites as you found them, disposing of waste responsibly, respecting wildlife, and being considerate of other visitors.
- **Do not litter:** This includes leaving trash or debris on either public or private property as well as throwing any garbage from a vehicle. Offensive littering is a Class C misdemeanor.
- **Avoid Excessive Waste:** Consider packing large water containers and refilling them with tap water.
- **Be Prepared:** Due to the increased number of visitors and anticipated traffic congestions, it is a good idea to keep public restroom locations in mind, identify where port-a-potties are stationed, how long it will take you to reach them, and/or bring an emergency sanitation kit with you.

## Info- Medical Services and First Aid

### First Aid:

Knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a difference in an emergency or helping yourself, your family, or your friends. You may consider taking a first aid class, but simply having the following things can help you stop bleeding, prevent infection and assist in decontamination. Having a basic first aid kit that includes some of the following items will better prepare you to help yourself or others if they are hurt.

- At least two pairs of patient care gloves (latex or sterile gloves)
  - Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes
  - Sterile dressings to stop bleeding
  - Cleansing agent/soap
  - Antibiotic towelettes
  - Antibiotic ointment
  - Burn ointment
  - Thermometer
  - Scissors
  - Tweezers
  - Eye wash solution to flush the eyes or as a general decontaminant
  - Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricants
  - Prescription medications you take every day such as insulin, heart medicine, and asthma inhalers.
  - Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies
  - Non-prescription drugs - aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid, and/or laxatives
- Source: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



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### Medical Services in Kendall County:

#### Hospitals:

[Methodist ER Boerne](#)- 134 Menger Springs Rd., (830) 331-3000,

#### Urgent Care/Walk-in Care Clinics:

[Main Street Urgent Care](#)- 1421 S. Main St., (830) 249-9995

[My Urgent Care Clinic](#)- 910 River Rd #101, (830) 331-2391

[Innovative Urgent Care & Family Health Clinic](#)- 128 W Bandera Rd Suite 1, (210) 455-6253

[Sigma Mental Health Urgent Care](#)- 1201 S Main St #101, (830) 816-5566

## Info- Rules and Etiquette

With so many people gathering to witness this event, here are some tips to make sure the eclipse event is fun and safe for everyone.

### Trespassing:

- Do not trespass on private land.
- Do not trespass on public lands that are closed to the event. Sensitive habitat areas and other public locations that could be damaged by visitors will be closed.

### Alcohol and Tobacco Use:

- Do not drive under the influence of alcohol.
- Smoking and vaping are prohibited in public places within the city limits of the City of Boerne. Smoking outdoors is permitted with the exception of City of Boerne municipal facilities where there are specific designated smoking areas that are identified with signage. Smoke only in approved locations and properly dispose of cigarettes and matches.
- Citizens and visitors are encouraged to research local ordinances pertaining to open alcohol container laws where they are recreating.

### Parking and Transportation:

- Parking will be very limited; be ready for long walks to where you are headed.
- When parking, do so legally. Do not park in bike lanes, do not block driveways or roadways; doing so could hamper public safety from reaching those who need help.

### Other:

- Do not litter. This includes leaving trash or debris on either public or private property as well as throwing any garbage from a vehicle. Offensive littering is a Class C misdemeanor.
- All dogs that reside (3+ months) in the City of Boerne must be licensed and vaccinated for rabies. Do not leave an animal locked in a car. All dogs regardless of residency are required to be restrained with a leash. Report any animal bite immediately!
- Do not ask to look through someone's telescope. If you want to look through a specially equipped telescope, consider arranging this in advance; those who have set up their telescopes will be very focused and may not wish to share their telescopes with others.
- Avoid external lighting, flashlights, camera flashes, sparklers, or other fireworks; any light that would detract from the phenomena.

## Quick Reference-Community Information and Links

### Website Links

**Eclipse Resources-** [boerneclipse.com](http://boerneclipse.com)

**City of Boerne-** [boerne-tx.gov](http://boerne-tx.gov)

**Visit Boerne & the Boerne Visitors Center-** [visitboerne.org](http://visitboerne.org)

**Greater Boerne Chamber of Commerce-** [boerne.org](http://boerne.org)

**Kendall County-** [co.kendall.tx.us](http://co.kendall.tx.us)