



Annular Eclipse

**- from Rajasthan to Kerala -
The Best of India**

15. January 2010

10 Minutes

The Longest Annular Eclipse in the Third Millennium

Book Now

(9 days from Euro 1699,-)

On **15th January 2010**, we will witness an annular solar eclipse. The path of the moon's antumbral shadow starts in Central Africa, continuing its long journey - almost circumnavigating half our planet - over East Africa and the Indian Ocean, where annularity will be longest with just over 11 minutes duration. It continues to South Asia, slightly touching the southern edge of India and the northern edges of Sri Lanka, Burma (Myanmar) and ending in southern China.

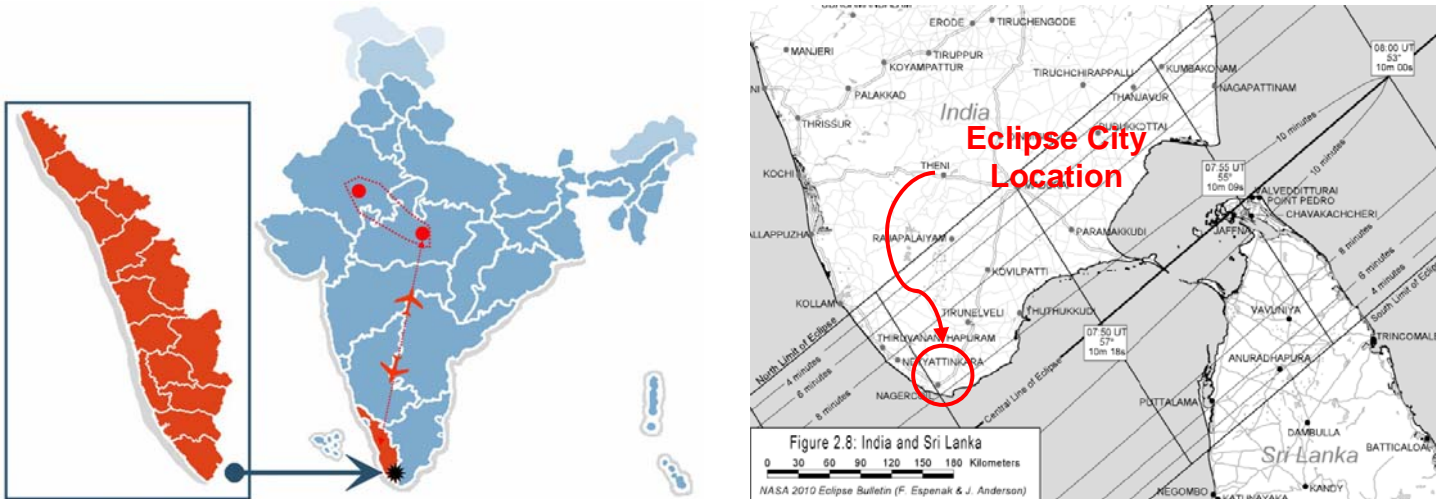
It will be the longest annular eclipse in the third millennium. It will not be possible before the year 3043 to witness a longer one. The long duration implies that the moon appears considerably smaller than the sun. Indeed, the lunar diameter is only 0,912 of the sun's disk, obscuring just 0,832 of the sun's surface area¹.

Book now. It is India's best traveling season. Besides observing the eclipse, India offers a lot of cultural diversity and richness, adventure and excitement. We will be traveling from the north, i.e. Delhi to Agra to Rajasthan (The Country of Kings) to the south of India, Kerala, thus "The Best of India". Eclipse observation will be at the southern tip of India.

Welcome again to Eclipse-City

Managing Director
Eclipse-City Ltd.
Where the moon mates the sun

¹ F. Espenak and J. Anderson, NASA/TP-2008-214171, Nov. 2008, page 7.



We will observe the eclipse between Mount Kenya and Nakuru Lake. If you want to join us on this event, this will be your program:

- Friday, Jan. 8th: Arrive Delhi late in the evening on your own. On arrival you will be met by our representative for transfer to hotel. Overnight at the hotel.
- Saturday, Jan. 9th: After breakfast at the hotel you will be taken to visit Old Delhi. Former centre of Mughal Power, Old Delhi offers ancient monuments, narrow streets and bustling bazaars. Drive past the Red Fort, built in 1648 and board the 'rickshaw ride' for a unique experience from the Red Fort, through "Chandni Chowk" or Silver Street, experiencing the sights and sounds of this very busy avenue heading west from the Fort. Later visit the Jama Masjid, the greatest mosque in India and completed in 1658 by Shah Jahan who also built the Taj Mahal, and the Raj Ghat, the simple memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

In the afternoon you will be taken to visit New Delhi, drive past the stately government buildings of the British era designed by Lutyens, including the India Gate & the Presidential Palace. Continue onto the beautiful Humayun's tomb of the Mughal era & predecessor of the world famous Taj Mahal. End the tour at the towering minaret of Qutub Minar. Overnight at the hotel.

- Sunday, Jan. 10th: Morning drive to Agra (203 Kms). Upon arrival in Agra – check into the hotel.
- Visit the famous Taj Mahal – the most famous Mughal monument was constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal "the lady of the Taj". It has been described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love, for the emperor was heartbroken when Mumtaz died after 17 years of marriage, whilst giving birth to her 14th child.
- Later visit the Red Fort – lies on the bend of the river Yamuna, almost in the heart of the town. It was built by Akbar as his citadel over the years 1563-73 in the finest architectural style. It has imposing gates and walls of red sandstone and a moat. Overnight at the hotel.

- Monday, Jan. 11th: After breakfast at the hotel drive to Jaipur (221 km), en route visit Fatehpur Sikri.
- 37 km south west of Agra this beautiful city with beautiful palaces, well planned markets and residential areas was founded by Akbar as his homage to Muslim Sufi Saint Mohammed Salim Chishti. The construction started in 1571 and took 15 years to complete. The city was later abandoned due to scarcity of water.

Fatehpur Sikri is now a World Heritage site. The Panch Mahal, or Palace of Five Storeys, and the Buland Darwaza, are among the finest specimens of Mughal architecture. It is also arguably the greatest accomplishment of Mughal architecture, surpassed only in reputation but not in its beauty and the awe it inspires by the Taj Mahal.

Continue your drive to Jaipur; upon arrival check-in at the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

Tuesday, Jan. 12th: After breakfast enjoy a morning tour of the impressive Amber Fort situated on a ridge just outside Jaipur City. At the foot of the hill, you will mount your caparisoned elephant for the slow but steady climb up to the main gate, making your entrance in the time honored fashion. The Fort, completed in the early 18th century, took over 100 years to build and now, although deserted, offers a fascinating insight into the lifestyle of the ruling families.

In the afternoon enjoy a tour of the City - "The Pink City" is spectacularly set within surrounding rugged hills, dotted with ancient ruined fortresses. Your tour will include the imposing City Palace, still home to the Maharaja although several of the rooms are now open to the public. Many antiques and artifacts belonging to the ruling family are housed here, including a collection of weaponry. You will also visit the Hawa Mahal "Palace of the Winds", and the open-air Jantar Mantar Observatory to see the vast astronomical instruments. Enjoy a stroll through the colorful bazaar before returning to your hotel. Overnight at the hotel

Wednesday, Jan. 13th: Morning is at your leisure. Later drive to Delhi (250 km) airport to connect your flight to Kovalam

Depart: Delhi	at: 17:30 hrs	by: IC 465
Arrive: Trivandrum	at: 21:55 hrs	

Upon arrival in Trivandrum, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Kovalam. Overnight at the hotel.

Thursday, Jan. 14th: Day is at your leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Friday, Jan. 15th: Early this morning you will be transferred to Kanyakumari - Cape Comorin (80 km) to witness 10 minutes of annularity.

Later in the day, return to Kovalam. Overnight at the hotel.

Saturday, Jan. 16th: Chill out at Kovalam. Late transfer to New Delhi where you connect to your home country. Most international flights connect at or after midnight. You will arrive back at your home destination on Sunday.

Prices²

Basic program: 1.699,- Euro / per person in double room (699,- Euro single supplement)

Services included:

Accommodation on twin/double sharing basis for **EIGHT nights** at the following hotels:

City	Hotel name	Number nights	Room category
Delhi	Hotel Crowne Plaza	2	Deluxe room
Agra	Hotel ITC Mughal	1	Chamber of Emperor
Jaipur	Hotel Sheraton Rajputana	2	Chamber of Emperor
Kovalam	Hotel Taj Green Cove	3	Superior Garden View

- Based on room with breakfast, lunch & dinner.
- Transfers and sightseeing by air-conditioned deluxe coach as per the itinerary.
- Road tax, parking fees and driver's overnight wages.
- Entrances at monuments at all cities as per the itinerary.
- Rickshaw ride in Delhi and Elephant ride on Amber in Jaipur.
- Domestic flights in economy class
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the sightseeing tours.
- Eclipse-City Survival Kit³,
- Eclipse-City guide speaker German – English – French – Spanish

Services not included

- Cancellation insurance, Intercontinental flights, alcoholic beverages, Articles of personal use, own insurances (e.g. medical, travel...), visa fees, all other items not included

Corporate or group requests welcome

Our published terms & conditions apply. Please check our website on a regular basis.

Note: Eclipse-City reserves the right to change the program if this is required, especially due to local unexpected circumstances. Though weather forecast in the region are expected to be of fair eclipse observing quality, Eclipse-City can not be made liable for any – though unlikely – weather changes in the region.

Book your program

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² Deposit 50%, Balance 100% by 31.10.2009 – Cancellation Fee: 0% through 31.7.2009; 50% through 31.10.2009; 90% from 1.11.2009

³ Eclipse-City Survival Kit: Bag/backpack, T-shirt, hat/cap, little towel, stool, certified eclipse shades, information material