



HOME I ♥ SHANGHAI FOOD & DRINK LIFE & STYLE ARTS COMMUNITY SPORT LISTINGS EVENTS JOBS SHOP

Search content...

SUBMIT

CLASSIFIEDS

OTHER CITIES

## Total Solar Eclipse 2009: the guide

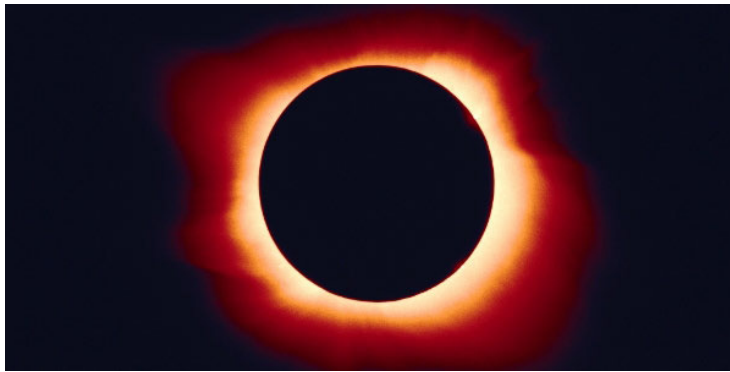
I Love Shanghai

Written by Helen

Monday, 29 June 2009 10:29

**Urbanatomy's guide to the greatest astronomical event of the century!**

The heavens are about to grace Shanghai with the most sensational astronomical event of the century. On July 22, between 8.30am and 11.30am, a total solar eclipse will last almost a whopping six minutes, the longest this entire century. So here's your guide to where to watch it, what to expect, and of course, the science bit...



### Know your science

**Facts and figures: everything you'll ever need to know about eclipses**

- A total solar eclipse happens when the moon moves between the sun and the Earth so that, for a brief time, the light of the sun appears completely blocked.
- The moon casts a cone of shadow over the earth called an umbra, where no sunlight reaches and a lighter region, the penumbra, where only some of the sunlight is blocked.
- It is an astronomical coincidence that the moon is 400 times smaller than the sun, and the sun is 400 times farther away from the Earth than the moon. So when viewed from Earth during the eclipse, they appear to be exactly the same size.
- During the Shanghai eclipse on July 22, the temperature in Shanghai will plummet by approximately ten degrees.
- The path of the eclipse will travel through India and cross through Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and China, Japan's Ryukyu Islands and then curve southeast through the Pacific Ocean where the maximum duration will reach 6 minutes and 39 seconds.
- It is estimated that a given spot on the Earth will be on the path of an eclipse only about once every 370 years

### The Sunchaser

Xavier Jubier is a professional eclipse chaser



#### How many eclipses have you seen?

Nine total eclipses and five annular eclipses.

#### Cosmic! Why are you so drawn to eclipses?

Because of the sheer beauty of the phenomenon and the emotion you get from it. You already feel the excitement in the days before the eclipse, and a few hours before your behavior starts to change. The more the eclipse approaches the more the adrenaline pumps through your body. You'll see many women crying. Once you have experienced it you need to see the next one; it's a kind of addiction. In my opinion there is no other natural phenomenon like it. The fact that it is so brief,

from a few seconds to seven minutes, and that you have to be at the right location plays a vital role. Simply put, it's like asking a woman if there is anything greater than giving birth.

#### Describe the most sensational eclipse you've seen.

The total solar eclipse on November 23 2003, during the midnight sun in Antarctica. A TSE during the midnight sun won't happen again in the next hundred thousand years. We were in a party of about 80 people to see that one from the

### Where to watch in Shanghai

**JW Marriott**, Tomorrow Square will provide guests with protective sunglasses, and are offering various eclipse viewing packages with a champagne breakfast

*JW Marriott, 399 Nanjing Xi Lu, 5359 4969.*

**Vue Bar, Hyatt on The Bund** is also hosting a Total Solar Eclipse Breakfast.

*Hyatt on the Bund, 199 Huangpu Lu, 3387 8818*

Both **Shangri-La** and **Grand Hyatt** are offering overnight packages with a trip to Yangshan Island.

*Grand Hyatt, 88 Century Avenue, 5049 1234*

**Shangri-La** are also hosting the 2nd International Solar Eclipse Summit on the 21st.

Exhibitions and presentations from eclipse experts will be suited to both enthusiasts and those with little astronomy background.

*Shangri-La, 33 Fucheng Lu, 2828 6318*

The best freebie spot will be on **Sheshan Hill**, where Shanghai Astronomical Observatory is building an observatory site for 2,000 people.

**Shanghai Astronomical Observatory**, 80

*Nandan Lu, 6438 6191*

**Century Park**, Pudong, will probably be the best pollution-free ground level spot to view the eclipse.

*Century Park, 1001 Jinxiu Lu*

A Total Eclipse Brunch will be held on the terrace at **M on the Bund** also, eclipse sunglasses provided

*M on the Bund, 7/F, No. 5 The Bund (at Guangdong Lu), 6350-9988*

If you or any of your friends live in high-rise apartments, we suggest going up to the top floor, twiddling with the janitor's lock and getting on the roof for a bit of Aztec morning sunshine.

中国上海报刊网  
www.51bk.com



ice, while other groups watched from two planes.

**Got any crazy eclipse experiences?**

The planning for the Annular Solar Eclipse on February 7 2008 in Antarctica took over three years and we were over 2,000kms away from the nearest research station. No rescue mission was possible, so we were on our own. I would love to make it for the 2076 total at the exact same location, but even if I'm still alive it won't be possible.

**Venture to the Island!**

If you want to squeeze every last drop of galactic goodness out of this event, your top bet is to head to Yangshan Island, which is the best viewing spot for the eclipse anywhere in Asia. About 2-hours drive from Shanghai, Eclipse City Ltd are building a camp there, where you can watch the magic from sea level or observation platforms. They provide transportation, breakfast, multilingual guides and an Eclipse City Survival Kit which includes eclipse shades and a viewing stool.



**Eclipse city** Eclipse City are offering that's Shanghai readers free access to the Intersoles 2 exhibition, certified eclipse shades and an RMB200 discount when booking tickets to the island with them.

Ticket prices start from RMB1,700. For bookings and enquiries call Mr Liu Si on 13816034084.

**China's eclipses**

**Past, present and future portents of doom?**

Records of eclipses in China date back to ancient times. Allegedly, in 2134BC, Emperor Chung K'ang had two of his court astrologers beheaded for not accurately predicting an eclipse.

Peasants in ancient China would bang drums to scare off the dragon they believed was taking a bite out of the moon.

Last year's eclipse was seen by some as an indicator of bad luck, especially as China had already suffered the devastating Sichuan earthquake, but others preferred to view it as a symbol of bad luck coming to an end.

[Email This](#) [Bookmark](#) [Set as favorite](#)

**Comments (0)**

[Subscribe to this comment's feed](#)

**Write comment**

Name

Comment

[smaller](#) | [bigger](#)

Subscribe via email (Registered users only)

I have read and agree to the [Terms of Usage](#).

security image ...

O V X X \$

Write the displayed characters

[Contact us](#) [Writer's guide](#) [Advertise with Us](#)

Copyright © 2008 Urbanatomy.COM. All Rights Reserved.

沪ICP备08007913号

