



# Total Solar Eclipse of 2026 in Spain

with Michael Shara

including visits to Madrid, Segovia, Burgos, and Bilbao

August 7–15, 2026

## Join us in northern Spain in 2026

to experience a Total Solar Eclipse as it sweeps across the Iberian Peninsula. Our exclusive viewing location aligns closely with the eclipse's path of totality, plunging us into total eclipse darkness for one minute and thirteen seconds. What's more, with 2026 marking the peak solar activity in the Sun's eleven year cycle, the extent of the elusive solar corona may be at its stunning best.

As this Total Solar Eclipse is happening just one hour before sunset, the Moon's shadow will overtake us from horizon-to-horizon with breathtaking speed, travelling faster than 4,000 miles-per-hour. Our eclipse experience will end with a marvelous sunset view of the Moon's "last bite" of the Sun, hovering just over the local horizon.



## DAY-BY-DAY

August 7–8	Home / Madrid, Spain
August 9	Madrid
August 10	Madrid
August 11	Madrid / Segovia / Zamora
August 12	Zamora / Eclipse Day!
August 13	Zamora / Burgos / Bilbao
August 14	Bilbao
August 15	Bilbao / Home

**Please note:** Our viewing location was chosen because of the high probability of clear skies on eclipse day, but weather and cloud conditions for viewing the eclipse can change and are not guaranteed.

A deposit of \$2,000 per person is required to reserve a place on this program. See page 3 for further details.

Please contact Criterion Travel with trip inquiries or to make a reservation (see contact info below). Their travel consultants are eager to take your call and answer your questions!

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness the August 12, 2026 Total Solar Eclipse from our strategically situated vantage point at the Tiedra Astronomy Center, directly in the path of totality where we can experience totality for one minute and thirteen seconds.
- Explore the beauty of historic towns, enjoy early entry for a guided tour of the Prado Museum, and see the iconic Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.
- Enjoy memorable meals showcasing the rich tapestry of regional cuisine, from tapas in Madrid to lunch at a *caserio* in Bilbao, as well as unique local wines while staying in the Zamora wine region.

## ECLIPSE EXPERT/LECTURER



Michael Shara is Curator of Astrophysics at the American Museum of Natural History, and Adjunct Professor of Astronomy at Columbia University. He received a Ph.D. in astrophysics at Tel-Aviv University in 1978 and held posts at the Université de Montreal and a faculty position at Arizona State University before moving to the Space Telescope Science Institute in 1982. He moved to the American Museum of Natural History in 1999 to head the new Department of Astrophysics.



## ITINERARY

FRIDAY–SATURDAY, AUGUST 7–8

### Home > Madrid, Spain

Depart home and arrive on August 8th in Madrid, the energetic capital city and cultural center of Spain. Transfer to the centrally located hotel, just a block from the lovely Retiro Park, and enjoy a welcome reception with fellow travelers this evening.

*Hotel Wellington (R)*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

### Madrid

Following a short orientation and initial lecture by Michael Shara, spend the morning on a tour of Madrid's elegant squares and tree-lined boulevards, including the stately Plaza Mayor, the city's main square, lined with bustling shops and restaurants. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant that showcases the best of Spain's popular *tapas* dishes. The afternoon and evening are free to explore the city independently.

*Hotel Wellington (B,L)*

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

### Madrid

After breakfast, view the vast collections of the world-renowned Prado Museum, specializing in Spanish and other European artists from the 12th to the early 20th centuries, with a private art historian as our guide. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure to continue to explore the museum, enjoy a stroll in the nearby Retiro

Park, or find your own adventure in the city.

Gather again this evening for a rousing dinner and Flamenco dance performance.

*Hotel Wellington (B,D)*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

### Madrid > Segovia > Zamora

Depart Madrid for the lovely Zamora wine region, stopping in Segovia for lunch and a tour of the architecturally rich old town, including its medieval city walls, hilltop Gothic cathedral, turreted, fairy tale-like castle, and the iconic Roman aqueduct that bisects the city. Continue to the Zamora countryside and enjoy some of the hotel/winery/spa's many amenities before dinner.

*Valbusenda Hotel Bodega & Spa (B,L,D)*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

### Zamora / Eclipse Day

Spend the morning enjoying the hotel property before departing for our viewing location, stopping for lunch at a nearby winery. Arrive at the Tiedra Astronomy Center early in the afternoon, enough time to take in a planetarium show and wine/appetizers before the main event this evening, culminating with one minute and thirteen seconds of eclipse darkness as the sun nears the horizon and a chance to witness a particularly active solar corona (weather and cloud conditions permitting). After the eclipse and dinner, take advantage of the Center's telescopes and other equipment for a

celebratory evening of stargazing and hunting for the annual Perseid meteor shower.

*Valbusenda Hotel Bodega & Spa (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

### Zamora > Bilbao

Enjoy one more leisurely morning at the hotel & spa before departing for Bilbao. Stop along the way at Burgos, notable for its soaring Gothic cathedral (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and well-maintained medieval city center, a window into Spain of yesteryear. The evening is at leisure to explore central Bilbao or the scenic river walk.

*Meliá Bilbao (B,L)*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

### Bilbao

After a final lecture, tour the historic Seven Streets of Bilbao's *Casco Viejo* (old town), and enjoy lunch at a traditional Basque restaurant nearby. This afternoon, visit the world-famous Guggenheim Bilbao Museum, most famous for the iconic, shiny-metal, twisting and turning Frank Gehry-designed building that houses the art collection. Gather again this evening for a rousing farewell celebration and dinner.

*Meliá Bilbao (B,L,D)*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

### Bilbao > Home

Following breakfast, transfer to Bilbao airport for flights home.

*(B)*

## Total Solar Eclipse of 2026 in Spain

with Michael Shara

August 7–15, 2026

### PROGRAM RATES:

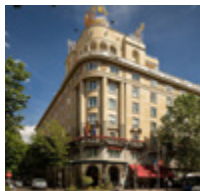
Per person, sharing accommodations .....	<b>\$9,990</b>
Single supplement .....	<b>\$2,000</b>

To reserve directly, visit: <https://dub.sh/2026-TSE-CT>

Or scan this code with your phone/tablet:

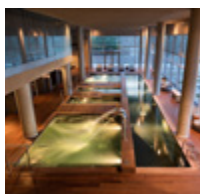


### ACCOMMODATIONS



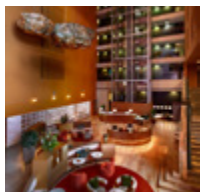
#### Hotel Wellington

Located in the heart of one of the most sought-after areas of Madrid, the 5-star Wellington Hotel & Spa Madrid is also one of the most historic hotels in the Spanish capital.



#### Valbusenda Hotel Bodega and Spa

This stylish, modern hotel boasts guestrooms and terraces with spectacular views of its own vineyards, a full-service spa with thermal pools, and a gourmet restaurant serving local and continental cuisine.



#### Meliá Bilbao

The ideally located and architecturally unique Meliá Bilbao features bright & airy public spaces, spacious rooms, and 5-star service in the midst of the Old Quarter and museum district.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations and meals as outlined in the itinerary, including seven 4- and 5-star hotel nights  
• All ground transportation within program itinerary • All excursions as specified in the itinerary • Educational program by Michael Shara and local experts • Entrance fees, hotel taxes, and gratuities to housekeeping, porters, escorts, drivers, and guides • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners • Water on motorcoaches • Group airport transfers on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program

#### PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare  
• Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Airline baggage charges • Travel and trip-cancellation insurance • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included

meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Telephone, fax, internet, laundry, room service, and other items of a personal nature

#### AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

#### GROUP SIZE

This exclusive program can accommodate up to 40 participants. The private eclipse viewing site will be shared with alumni and guests from Carleton College.

#### A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Program rates are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

**NOTE:** Weather and cloud conditions for viewing the eclipse can change and are not guaranteed.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

By submitting your deposit, you are bound to the terms and conditions delineated in this brochure. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation. Complete Terms and Conditions, including Statement of Responsibility, will be made available to you at time of registration, or can be sent to you in advance upon request.

#### RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve your space, please visit the link on the left side of this page. You may also call Criterion Travel at (888) 328-2089 or email [res@critteriontravel.com](mailto:res@critteriontravel.com). A deposit of \$2,000 per person is required upon registration. Interim payment due August 7, 2025 (one year prior to departure): \$4,000 per person. Final payment due April 9, 2026 (120 days prior to departure): Balance of trip cost. Deposits and subsequent payments may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card (credit card payments will incur a processing fee of 2%).

#### CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$2,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 14 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Interim payment of \$4,000 per person is 100% nonrefundable. Cancellations received after the interim payment on August 7, 2026: all payments

are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. NOTE: Criterion Travel, the tour operator, does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

#### HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

#### ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel (the tour operator). Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, the tour operator reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant. In the unlikely event that this program cannot be operated for any reason, the refund of all payments received shall release Criterion Travel from any liability. The eclipse expert/lecturer named in this trip information is confirmed at the time of publication. If the eclipse expert/lecturer must cancel, we will attempt to provide, but cannot guarantee, a suitable replacement.

California Seller of  
Travel Program  
CST #2088800-40