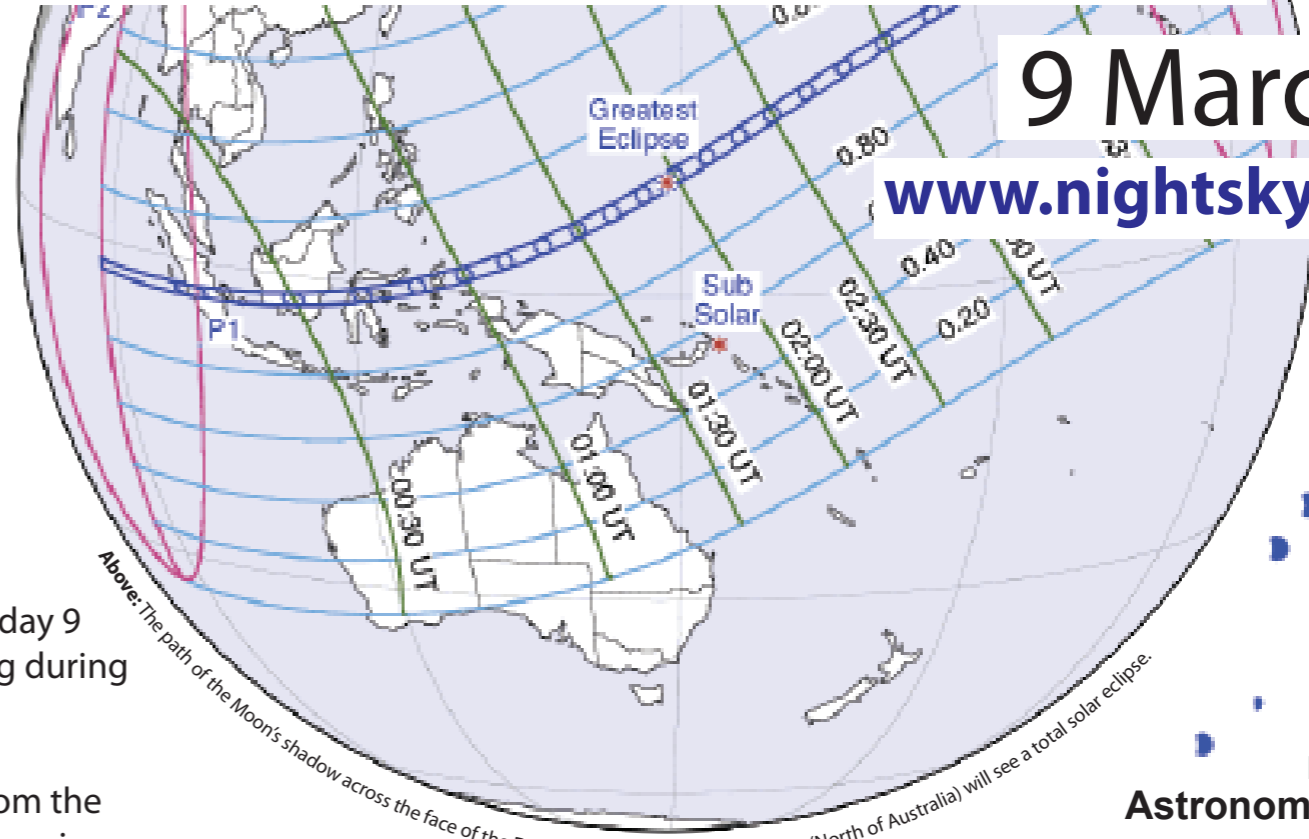


# Partial Solar Eclipse

9 March 2016

[www.nightskyonline.info](http://www.nightskyonline.info)



Above: The path of the Moon's shadow across the face of the Earth. Observers on the central line (North of Australia) will see a total solar eclipse.

Paul Floyd's  
**Astronomy & Space Website**



A partial solar eclipse will be visible from Northern Australia on the morning of Wednesday 9 March 2016. This will be the first solar eclipse for 2016. The second solar eclipse occurring during 2016 will not be visible from Australia.

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon briefly moves between the Sun and the Earth. From the perspective of an Earth bound observer, part or all of the Sun is temporarily blocked from view. An observer located in space will see that the Moon's shadow falls onto and is carried across the Earth's surface before moving off into space again.

A solar eclipse can only occur when the Moon, Earth and Sun temporarily align. This almost happens every month and coincides with the time of New Moon. However, a solar eclipse does not occur each month because the orbit of the Moon is tilted approximately 5 degrees relative to the plane in which the Earth orbits the Sun. This means that the Moon usually passes above or below the Sun's disc (as seen from the Earth) and there is no solar eclipse.



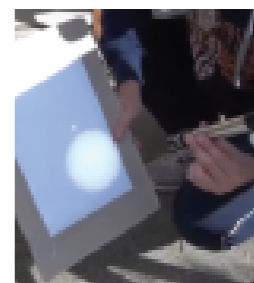
**Caution!!! Do not look directly at the Sun without solar viewing glasses or filters sold by specialist astronomical telescope shops. Doing so will result in permanent eye damage or blindness.** If in doubt observe the partial solar eclipse using indirect projection methods or attend a local astronomical society observing session.



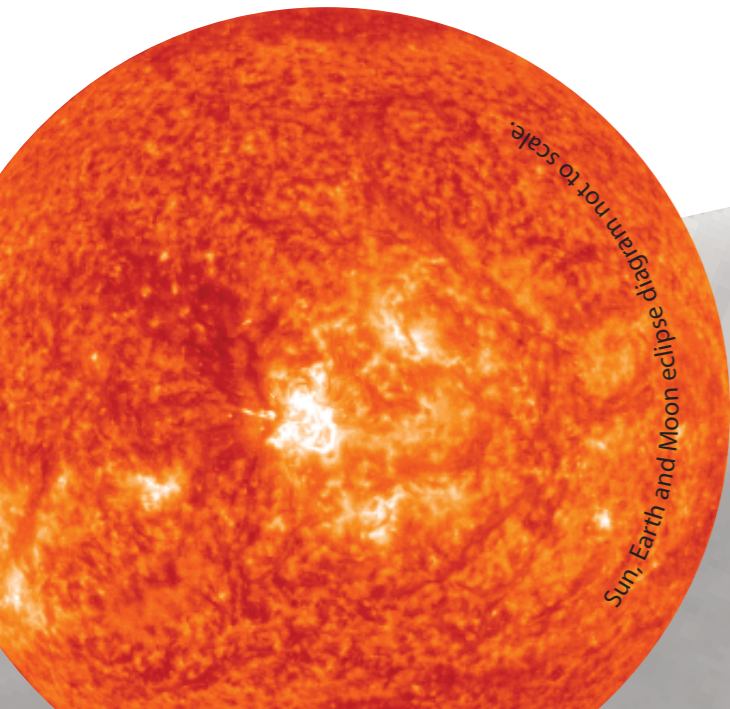
**Above:** Projecting multiple images of the partially eclipsed Sun using a piece of aluminium foil pierced multiple times. I used a picture of my website logo as a template.



**Above:** Projecting an image of the Sun using a pair of binoculars (above left) and an inexpensive telescope (above right). Note that I have created a sunshade by sticking a piece of scrap cardboard onto both optical devices. Do not look through the binoculars or telescope to find the Sun.



**Above:** The author observing the Sun through a pair of specialist solar viewing glasses.



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