

🌑 Newsletter 2: The Magic of a Total Solar Eclipse

A total solar eclipse isn't just *pretty cool* — it's unforgettable when you're in the right place at the right time. In this first part, you'll see where to go and why it's worth chasing that moment.

☀️ The Right Place for a Total Solar Eclipse

Everyone knows what a solar eclipse is: “*The Moon moves in front of the Sun. Yeah, pretty cool.*” Whoever says that is probably talking about a partial solar eclipse. Indeed, pretty cool. The Sun shines a bit less brightly. And with eclipse glasses you can see that a chunk of the Sun is missing. If that chunk is very large, it will be twilight for a moment and special things will happen around us. But even the tiniest sliver of Sun spoils the spectacular effect.



Next to this you see where you need to be on August 12, 2026, for an unforgettable experience: in the morning in Iceland or Greenland and in the late afternoon in Spain. **All spectacular.** Near Mallorca you can see the Sun set eclipsed. In the Netherlands as much as five-sixths of the Sun will be covered: category “*pretty cool.*”

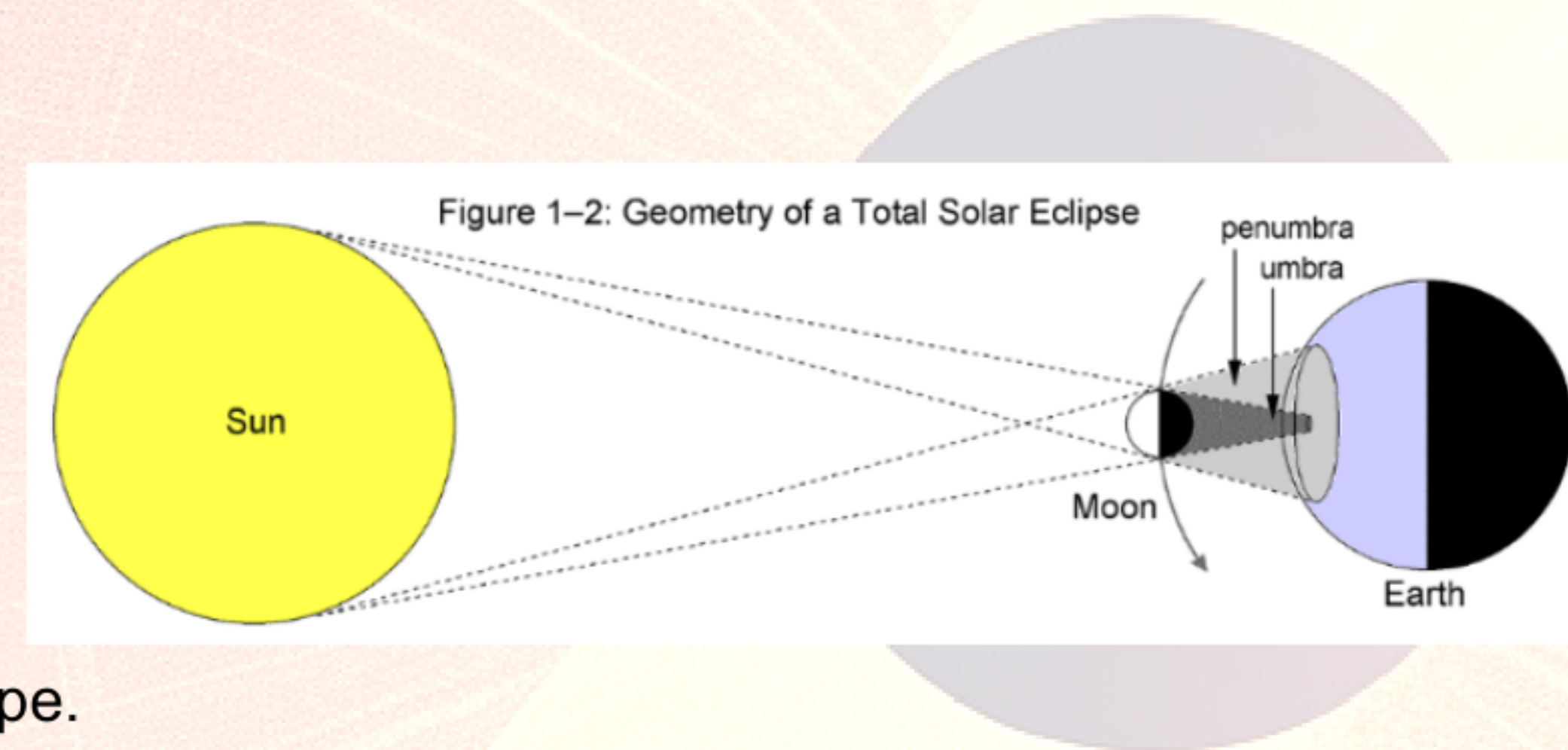


☀️ Total Solar Eclipses Are Rare

On average, a total solar eclipse can be seen somewhere on Earth a little less than once a year. That's not too bad, but to be in the right spot you need to be willing to travel. **If you stay at home, you have less than a 25% chance of experiencing a total solar eclipse in your lifetime.**

☀️ A Narrow Shadow Path

The path across the Earth where the Sun is completely covered is narrow, often around 100 kilometers wide. That's because the Moon and the Sun happen to be almost exactly the same size in the sky. The tip of the shadow cone just barely touches the Earth's surface. Or just misses it – then we get an annular eclipse of the “pretty cool” type.



☀️ Not Too Far from the Center Line

“Our” total solar eclipse covers a large part of northern Spain. But we don't want to be on the edge of the Moon's shadow, where the darkness lasts only a few seconds, like in Bilbao or Valencia. We don't want to be too far from the heart of the shadow.

We want to be **right on the center line**, where the eclipse lasts the longest, like in Oviedo, Lerma, or Soria. There we'll have over a minute and a half of a totally eclipsed Sun. Because the Sun is low and the land is mountainous, we also have to make sure we're not facing a mountain. Where exactly we'll settle down we don't know yet, but for now we're assuming somewhere near Saldana.



☀️ The Big Day: August 12, 2026, Saldana

In an ideal situation where we're staying close to the center line, the weather is nice, and the view is perfect, we have all the time we need. Only after 7:30 p.m. will the Moon take its first bite out of the Sun and the “pretty cool” phase begins. However, there's always the chance that the weather isn't perfect or that there are better accessible places to watch the eclipse, like a high hill.

Fortunately, we've already scouted the area and can decide well into the afternoon what the best option is. Most of us don't need much luggage: a folding chair (the Sun is low), eclipse glasses, a colander, and if possible a small pair of binoculars for when the Sun is totally covered. Of course, that doesn't apply to the astrophotographers with their tripods and cameras.

We hope this gives you a taste of what's to come. Let's share this total moment and its magic together. Feel free to reach out if you have questions or ideas.

Marjan, René & Timi

Together we eclipse time, light, and distance.