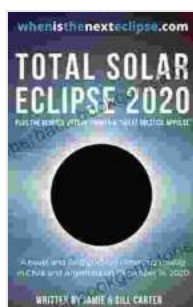


# Travel and Field Guide to Observing Totality in Chile and Argentina on December 14, 2020

On December 14, 2020, a total solar eclipse will make its way across the southern tip of South America, offering skywatchers in Chile and Argentina a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness this celestial spectacle. Totality, the moment when the Moon completely blocks the Sun, will be visible in a narrow path that will traverse over the Pacific Ocean and the southernmost regions of both Chile and Argentina.

This guide provides essential information on travel, observation sites, and other key details for planning your eclipse experience in these two countries.

## Chile



### Total Solar Eclipse 2024: A travel and field guide to observing totality in Chile and Argentina on December 14, 2024 (WhenIsTheNextEclipse.com) by Jamie Carter

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 7460 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 113 pages  
Lending : Enabled

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- **Santiago:** The capital of Chile and the primary gateway for international travelers.
- **Punta Arenas:** The southernmost city in Chile, located near the eclipse path.
- **Puerto Natales:** A town located in the heart of the eclipse path, offering easy access to prime viewing spots.

## Argentina

- **Buenos Aires:** The capital of Argentina and a major international hub.
- **Bahía Blanca:** A city located near the eclipse path, offering convenient access to observation sites.
- **Trelew:** A town located within the eclipse path, providing excellent viewing conditions.

## Getting to the Eclipse Path

Once in Chile or Argentina, there are several options for reaching the eclipse path:

- **Domestic flights:** Several domestic airlines offer flights to Punta Arenas (Chile) and Bahía Blanca (Argentina) from major cities.
- **Buses:** Long-distance buses connect major cities to towns and villages along the eclipse path.
- **Rental cars:** Renting a car is a flexible option that allows you to explore the region at your own pace.

The eclipse path will cut across a diverse landscape, from remote coastal areas to rugged mountains. Here are some recommended observation sites in both Chile and Argentina:

## Chile

- **Punta Arenas:** The city itself will experience partial eclipse, but nearby sites such as Isla Magdalena offer excellent viewing opportunities.
- **Puerto Natales:** The town and surrounding area will be within the path of totality, with the Torres del Paine National Park offering breathtaking views.
- **Laguna Salada:** A salt lake located in the Atacama Desert, providing a unique and isolated setting for eclipse observation.

## Argentina

- **Bahía Blanca:** The city itself will experience partial eclipse, but nearby sites such as Monte Hermoso offer excellent viewing conditions.
- **Trelew:** The town and surrounding area will be within the path of totality, offering a wide range of observation spots.
- **El Cóndor:** A small town located on the coast, providing panoramic views of the eclipse.

## Accommodation

Accommodation options along the eclipse path range from basic campsites to luxury hotels. It is advisable to book your accommodations well in advance, as availability becomes limited closer to the event.

## **Food and Supplies**

There are various restaurants and supermarkets in the towns and cities along the eclipse path. However, it is recommended to bring some extra food and supplies, especially if you plan to camp or stay in remote areas.

## **Weather**

December is generally a warm and dry season in southern Chile and Argentina. However, it is important to be prepared for variable weather conditions, including wind, rain, and cold temperatures.

## **Photography Gear**

If you plan to photograph the eclipse, bring appropriate lenses (wide-angle and telephoto), tripods, and solar filters.

## **Safety**

- Follow all safety guidelines and instructions provided by local authorities.
- Use solar eclipse glasses or certified solar filters to protect your eyes during all phases of the eclipse.
- Be aware of your surroundings and take precautions against theft, especially in crowded areas.

Totality is the moment when the Moon completely covers the Sun, creating a surreal and awe-inspiring spectacle. Here is what you can expect from this once-in-a-lifetime experience:

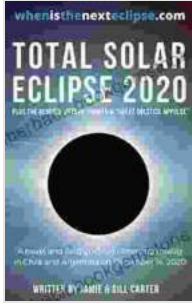
- **Darkness:** As the Moon moves between the Earth and the Sun, the sky will gradually darken.
- **Shadow Bands:** Just before and after totality, you may observe shimmering bands of light and shadow dancing on the ground.
- **Diamond Ring:** At the beginning of totality, a thin ring of sunlight will appear around the edge of the Moon, resembling a diamond.
- **Baily's Beads:** As the Moon continues to cover the Sun, you may see bright points of light around the Moon's edge, known as Baily's Beads.
- **Corona:** During totality, the Sun's outer atmosphere, known as the corona, will become visible as a faint glow around the Moon.
- **Stars and Planets:** If conditions are clear, you may be able to see stars and planets in the sky during totality.

Witnessing a total solar eclipse is a truly unforgettable experience that should be on every skywatcher's bucket list. The eclipse of December 14, 2020, offers a unique opportunity to observe this celestial wonder in the stunning landscapes of Chile and Argentina. By following the tips and guidance outlined in this guide, you can plan your trip and make the most of this once-in-a-lifetime event.

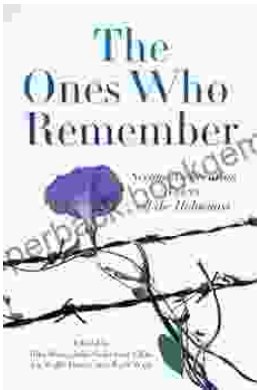
Remember to prioritize safety, enjoy the journey, and embrace the awe-inspiring beauty of totality.

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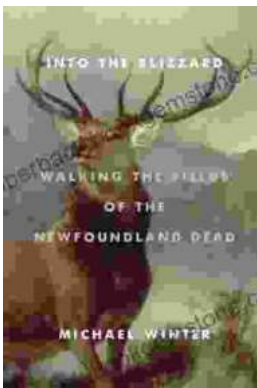


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