This will be the first total solar eclipse to touch the U.S. mainland since 1979 and the first to cross from coast to coast since 1918.

The partial eclipse will last between two and three hours, and the total eclipse (within the path) will last just under three minutes.

Tens of millions of people will experience total eclipse, while hundreds of millions more will see the partial eclipse.

The next total solar eclipse in the U.S. will occur on April 8, 2024.

The American Optometric Association (AOA) offers these tips to safely view the celestial event of the decade:

**DON’T** look directly at the sun without eye protection, even briefly, except during total totality.

**DO** consider purchase of specially made ‘eclipse glasses’ or other ISO-certified filters.

**DON’T** use sunglasses, photographic film, neutral density filters, smoked glass or other materials.

Learn more by visiting aoa.org/2017Eclipse or eclipse.aas.org.