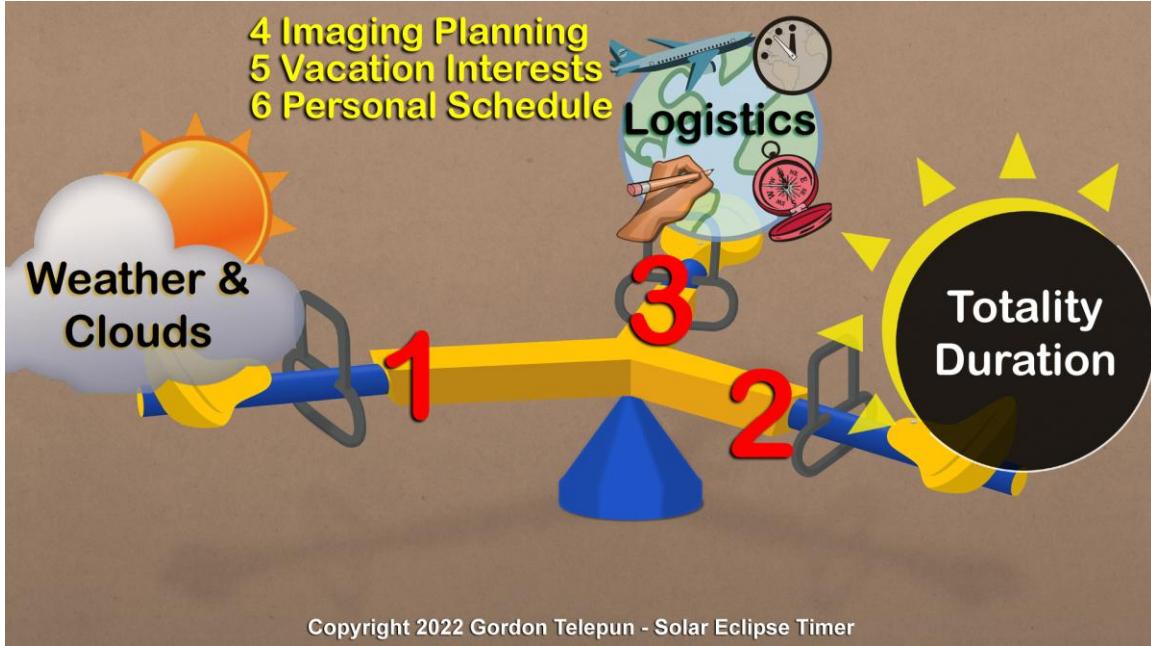


Travel Eclipse Decision Matrix



When you need to decide on traveling internationally to a total solar eclipse you can analyze the variables in an organized way. I look at 6 categories. The first three are the most important: 1. Weather and clouds. 2. Totality duration. 3. Logistics. The next three categories also need consideration: 4. Imaging planning. 5. Vacation interests. 6. Personal schedule

1. Weather and Clouds. This is the most important variable! You need to understand your chances of having clear weather on eclipse day. You do not want to get clouded out. You should consider traveling to a 1-minute eclipse with a 98% chance of clear skies. You may want to skip a 5-minute eclipse with a 10% chance of clear skies.
2. Totality Duration: The longer the better if the weather will cooperate. Considering that the absolute longest totality duration can be about 7m 31s anything between 2 minutes and 5 minutes is great.
3. Logistics: How hard is it to get to an observation site? Assess the proximity of airports and fares? How much ground travel and over what quality roads? Is the local government stable and is the area safe for tourists? What is the access to lodging, food, water, and bathrooms?
4. Imaging planning: What will you do for a high altitude eclipse or a low altitude eclipse? Is there interesting terrain or structures for wide-angle imaging? Will you be in a position to video the umbra approach or exit?

5. Is the eclipse located in a country or an area that you always wanted to visit anyway? Therefore, you are willing to be lenient with the first four categories? Seeing the eclipse could be secondary to the vacation itself?

6. Personal Schedule: Can you get enough time off from work or school to travel? Is the eclipse during the school year? Is the eclipse around busy holidays?

Eclipse Travel Matrix For:		
Category	Score Description	Analysis
Weather / Clouds		
Totality Duration		
Travel Logistics		
Image Planning		
Vacation Interests		
Personal Schedule		
End Result		

For the Score Description use whatever terminology makes sense to you. I find descriptive words to be useful for me. Suggestions for the range from bad to good would be: deal-breaker / bad / poor / marginal / neutral / ok / good / very good / great / super great / excellent.