



## **TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND**

### **2017 Eclipse Planning**

#### **SUMMARY**

This document addresses and offers resources for residents and visitors in the path of totality of the total solar eclipse on Monday, August 21, 2017.

The Town maintains that it is not a question of if people will visit Sullivan's Island; but, how many will visit Sullivan's Island.

The Great American Eclipse is especially noteworthy in that 12.2 million people already live in the path of totality, 88 million live within a day's drive, and the United States is the second most visited country in the world with the eclipse taking place during one of the most popular months of tourist travel.

*Astronomy.com* noted:

Reasons why this eclipse will be the most-viewed ever:

1. The attention it will get from the media;
2. The superb coverage of the highway system in our country;
3. The typical weather on that date; and,
4. The vast number of people who will have access to it from nearby large cities.

## **ECLIPSE FACTS**

*(Taken from Community Eclipse Planning by Dr. Kate Russo)*

- A total solar eclipse occurs somewhere on Earth once in every 18 months on average.
- In any one location, a total solar eclipse is very rare, occurring on average once every 375 years.
- During a total solar eclipse, the Moon's shadow is cast upon the Earth. There are two parts to this shadow – an outer shadow that covers a wide region creating a partial eclipse, and a much smaller central shadow that creates the total eclipse. The central shadow creates a thin path known as the path of totality.
- If you are located within the path of totality, you will experience nature's most amazing spectacle – a total eclipse of the Sun.
- Those outside the path of totality will experience a partial eclipse, an event nowhere near as dramatic as a total eclipse.
- Even if only 19% of the Sun is visible, it is still 10,000 times too bright to see the exciting eclipse phenomena. You must be within the path of totality to feel the full experience.
- Even those who know what is happening can be caught off guard by a total solar eclipse. It is eerie, awe-inspiring, unsettling, beautiful and often emotionally overwhelming.
- Most people find it hard to describe the totality experience.
- It is essential to consider eye safety when planning for the eclipse. People must use solar filters to view the partial phases of the eclipse. Few people that you will meet have experienced a total solar eclipse. Most people remain unaware of how incredible this natural event is.
- Often the total eclipse is the single largest event to occur within a region, attracting major crowds and media interest on a scale never previously experienced.

## **GENERAL TIPS AND CONSIDERATIONS**

- A. The Charleston area is anticipating record breaking numbers for visitors to the area. As of August 01, 2017, the hotel occupancy on the peninsula was at 98% with Mount Pleasant at 100% occupancy for the period August 19 through 21, 2017.
- B. Given the large number of visitors expected and residents that will travel to a viewing location, it is expected that traffic will be very heavy and congested. Motorists should plan accordingly.
- C. Similar to traffic concerns, the high volume of visitors will likely result in less than optimal cellular service.

- D. Availability of seating at restaurants and public bathrooms will be in high demand.
- E. The only safe way to look directly at an uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special filtered glasses known as “eclipse glasses.” The American Astronomical Society sites that “to date, three manufacturers have certified that their eclipse glasses and handheld solar viewers meet the ISO 12312-2 international standard for such products: *Rainbow Symphony*, *American Paper Optics*, and *Thousand Oaks Optical*.” These products can be bought directly through their websites or through eclipse websites such as:
- [http://www.eclipse2017.org/glasses\\_order.htm](http://www.eclipse2017.org/glasses_order.htm)
  - <https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/store/all>
- F. The greatamericaneclipse.com has said that the Charleston area will be a desirable state to view the eclipse because of the path and good weather prospects. However, coastal weather can change quickly. The Town recommends that you work with your local weather forecaster and radio stations to report hourly on the up-to-date weather forecasting throughout the weekend of the eclipse. Additionally, listed here are websites and apps that are highly rated for up-to-date weather information.

Websites:

- Weather.com
- NOAA.com
- Forecast.io

Apps:

- Weather underground
- DarkSky
- RainAware
- The Weather Channel

## **VISITORS TO SULLIVAN’S ISLAND**

By and large Sullivan’s Island is a single family residential community with a public beach. As such visitors will not find hotels or condominiums located on the Island. These tips are offered to those that may choose to visit the Town for the event:

- A. While no public events are planned by the Town or there are no specific designated viewing areas, the beach is likely to offer the best vantage point.

- B. Although the beach is open to the public, there are no public facilities for changing or showering.
- C. In the event of an emergency dial 9-1-1; for Police or Fire non-emergency or assistance dial 843-743-7200.
- D. The Town does not have public bathrooms for beach visitors, however; for this event portable toilets have been strategically positioned at beach access paths located at Station 12, Station 16, Station 18, Station 18.5, Station 22, Station 22.5, Station 23, Station 24, Station 28.5 and Breach Inlet parking lot.
- E. Parking
  - 1) Public parking is clearly marked by signage. Parking is restricted to one side of the street and all wheels must be off of the pavement. There is no charge for parking.
  - 2) No parking will be permitted along SC 703 between the Ben Sawyer Bridge and Middle Street.
  - 3) State statute allows a motorist to temporarily pull aside to load/unload passengers; however, at no time shall traffic be impeded to load/unload passengers.
  - 4) Sullivan's Island has critical emergency beach access paths located at Station 12 Street, Station 16 Street, the Sand Dunes Club, Station 18.5 Street, Station 22 Street and Station 28.5 Street. At no time shall the paths be used by non-emergency vehicles or blocked by a vehicle to load/unload passengers.
- F. Inbound traffic to Sullivan's Island via SC703 (Station 22.5 Street)/Ben Sawyer Bridge:
  - 1) Turn left at Jasper Boulevard for viewing from the beach east of Station 22.5 Street.
  - 2) Station 22.5 Street at Middle Street is mandatory right turn only. Motorists that wish view the eclipse on the beach west of Station 22.5 Street should take this route.
  - 3) **ALL MOTORISTS VISITING SULLIVAN'S ISLAND AND RESIDENTS SHOULD ANTICIPATE TRAFFIC DELAYS PRIOR TO AND AFTER THE EVENT.**
- G. Town Ordinances pertaining to the beach:
  - 1) Alcohol, opened or unopened, is prohibited on the streets and beach of Sullivan's Island.
  - 2) Dogs are not permitted on the beach between 10am and 6pm during the period of year which the eclipse will occur. Dogs on the beach during permitted hours must have a permit issued by the Town.

- 3) Driving motor vehicles on the beach is prohibited.
- 4) Trash and other debris must be removed from the beach but may be deposited in trash receptacles at the street.
- 5) Sullivan's Island does not have public lifeguards. Swimming, wading or entering the water between Station 12 Street to Station 13 Street and at Breach Inlet is prohibited because of dangerous currents.

## **SULLIVAN'S ISLAND RESIDENTS**

- A. Town Hall will open at 8 am on August 21, 2017 and only close briefly during the eclipse between 1pm and 3pm for employees to view the event. The Water and Sewer Department will follow the same schedule.

All first responders (Police and Fire Departments) will be fully staffed with additional personnel to assist the large crowd that is anticipated to be on Sullivan's Island.

In the event of an emergency dial 9-1-1 for assistance. For Police, Fire and Water and Sewer non-emergency assistance contact the dispatcher at 843-743-7200.

- B. It is anticipated that traffic on and off the Island prior to and after the event will be extremely heavy. Please anticipate delays as a result of the traffic when planning your trips on and off the Island.
- C. It is expected that regular cellular service will be slow because of the number of visitors to the area and anticipated high volume of cell telephone traffic.
- D. Ingress and egress of traffic to Sullivan's Island will be handled like a busy summer weekend. Officers will be positioned at Station 22.5/Middle Street and Station 22.5 and Jasper Boulevard to facilitate movement. Inbound traffic at Station 22.5/Middle Street will turn right only; therefore, if your destination is east of Station 22.5 Street please turn left at Jasper Boulevard.
- E. Beach Services Officers will be present on the beach and roads for alcohol and parking enforcement.
- F. Additional first responders will be standing-by at the Fire Station to assist with calls.
- G. Charleston County EMS will position an ambulance or Delta Unit on Isle of Palms or Sullivan's Island during the event.

## GENERAL ECLIPSE RESOURCES

A number of the below sources have been used for the preparation of this white paper. However, you are encouraged to navigate through them on your own. There is a plethora of information at each of these sites, and you will certainly find items that will help planning in anticipation of the eclipse.

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/observing-news/planning-workshop-for2017-solar-eclipse-08262015/>

[www.beinginthesshadow.com](http://www.beinginthesshadow.com)

<https://greatamericaneclipse.com/>

<http://eclipseophile.com/>

<https://eclipse.aas.org/>

