



South Carolina City Is Over the Moon about the “Great American Eclipse”

Greenwood, South Carolina (July 24, 2017) – Unless you’ve been living under a (moon) rock, you’ve no doubt heard about the upcoming “Great American Eclipse.” On the afternoon of Monday, August 21, a total eclipse will stretch across the United States, from the Pacific to the Atlantic. It’s a rare and wondrous phenomenon that hasn’t happened in 99 years. Across the country we’ll experience twilight in the middle of the day as the moon passes in front of the sun, but people positioned along the “path of totality” – a 70-mile-wide band that arcs across 14 states, from Oregon to South Carolina – will experience total darkness. That makes destinations situated on that band particularly appealing for those travelers seeking the ultimate eclipse experience.

South Carolina is in a prime position as the easternmost state to welcome the eclipse, and it’s estimated that more than 1 million visitors will flock to the Palmetto State on August 21. If you think about it, this makes total sense. South Carolina is, after all, the only state to incorporate the moon into its flag. It’s like they knew from the start that they’d have this chance to shine ... or not shine, as the case may be.

The city of [Greenwood](#) in South Carolina’s Old 96 District, located on the western side of the state, is prime real estate when it comes to eclipse “viewing.” People here will be treated to the most darkness for one of the longest stretches of time. The usual population of 23,000 could easily double or triple as Greenwood welcomes visitors eager to be plunged into daytime darkness for a memorable 2 minutes and 28 seconds. Greenwood’s magic time is 2:39 p.m.

[Lake Greenwood State Park](#), which will host an All-American Eclipse Party on August 21, is an ideal place to experience the eclipse. In addition to offering abundant space for plenty of gawkers to gather, the park also boasts lush lawn terraces that slope toward the lake, providing some of the best seats in the universe for this spectacular show. It’s as if Mother Nature built “stadium seating” especially for this once-in-a-lifetime event. Because the park is removed from city lights and in a

purely natural setting, visitors will get a true understanding of utter darkness, plus they'll more fully experience some of the natural phenomena that accompany a total eclipse. Birds will temporarily cease their songs, nocturnal animals will begin to stir earlier in the day, and temperatures will drop 10 to 15 degrees. Park rangers will lead a program at 1 p.m. to explain what's going on up in the sky, and visitors can purchase special viewing glasses at the park's Drummond Center.

Other sites in Greenwood are getting in on the fun, too: The Ninety-Six National Historic Site, which interprets the region's Revolutionary War history, will shift gears on August 21 and offer family-friendly activities and eclipse-viewing at its Star Fort Pond. The signature [Inn on the Square](#) will host an "Aposteclipse" Wrap-up Party with live music, specialty drinks and "Inn the Dark" T-shirts at 3:30 p.m. The Mill House restaurant will serve "Moon Pies," and Good Times Brewery, based inside the restaurant, will introduce a new limited-edition brew, "Dark Side of the Moon," in honor of the eclipse.

There are still a few hotel rooms available in and around town, or visitors can simply drive in for the day, as Greenwood is situated along several major routes. The local visitors bureau is providing complimentary souvenir sunglasses while supplies last, since anyone coming to experience the eclipse will need to wear special glasses for most of the astronomical event. However, the glasses can be removed during the extended period of utter darkness.

Don't be left in the dark about this memorable day that will turn into night. For more information about how Greenwood is celebrating the "Great American Eclipse," please visit www.sctravelold96/eclipse-2017.

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