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The Coolest Images of Yesterday's Solar Eclipse

By Ryan F. Mandelbaum • July 03, 2019

For thousands of people in Chile yesterday, the Moon passed directly between Earth and the Sun, casting a day-blotting shadow just prior to the real dusk. And of course, there are pictures.

You can see the lines of the solar corona, its hot outer atmosphere.

The Moon's shadow reached the Chilean coast by mid-afternoon, culminating in a total eclipse in which the Sun was completely blocked out at around 4:40 p.m. Chilean time. You can watch video streams of the eclipse here and here.

Viewers were able to see eclipse phenomena like Baily's beads, in which the rough surface of the Moon allows "beads" of sunlight through, just at the start and finish of totality.

And a blacked-out Sun isn't the only wild thing to occur during eclipses—the Sun appears to set from 360 degrees, rather than on just one part of the sky. One camera was able to catch a blip of that false sunset just before the real sunset.

Many Chilean viewers were able to see this eclipse thanks to donations from the 2017 eclipse that crossed North America. The organization Astronomers Without Borders collected tens of thousands of pairs of eclipse glasses two years ago and distributed them to schools and organization in Peru, Chile, and Argentina.

The Sun looked pretty amazing. It looked especially cool from space.



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Check out this amazing photo of the total solar eclipse today, taken near the @LSST observatory on Cerro Pachón by our very own @EarthCam #NSFScience

