



See animation version of eclipse at <https://www.shadowandsubstance.com/>

On the night of Thursday March 13 into the early AM hours of March 14 you can observe a **Total Lunar Eclipse**. A lunar eclipse occurs when the full moon passes through the Earth's shadow. Unlike a solar eclipse you don't have to travel to see the eclipse. If the moon is up where you live the eclipse will be visible. As the partial phase of the eclipse begins you can find the moon in the SE about 50 degrees up between the constellations of Leo and Virgo.

You won't need special equipment or dark skies to enjoy the eclipse. However, a binoculars or a small telescope will enhance your view. Watch as the moon slips into the Earth's inner shadow – the umbra – as a “nibble” on its low left side. The moon will continue to darken and take on a reddish-brown color as the eclipse continues. As totality begins at 1:28 AM take note of how its color changes as it slips further into the shadow. The color of the eclipse is caused by the Earth's atmosphere bending the light of all its sunrises and sunsets around the planet. Depending on how much dust is in the air it may appear bright copper orange, dusky brick red or even dim gray. Since the whole event lasts over 3.5 hours you don't need to stand out in the cold all night. You can duck in or out to see what is happening. Learn more about [Lunar Eclipses from NASA](#)

If you are planning to take some images of the eclipse, practice a few nights earlier. Modern smart phones will work nicely but you may want to mount the phone to keep it steady. Telescope imagers should have their scope set up and sharply focused earlier in the evening. Maybe bracket your exposures for best results. If your phone or camera has a remote that will help. **PS.** You are likely to see something on the Internet about a sunrise partial Solar Eclipse on March 29. Unfortunately the sun is still below our horizon as it ends.