

'BREATHTAKING' SOLAR ECLIPSE WITNESSED BY MILLIONS



LONGYEARBYEN All eyes were turned to the heavens on Friday for a solar eclipse offering spectacular views from selected airplane seats, European countries with clear skies, and a remote Arctic archipelago. Die-hard eclipse junkies flew in from around the world to the Faroe Islands and Norway's Arctic Svalbard archipelago to observe the less than 3 minutes of daytime darkness, a phenomenon that has fascinated mankind since the beginning of time. Total

eclipses occur when the moon moves between Earth and the Sun, and the three bodies align precisely. The moon as seen from Earth is just broad enough to cover the solar face, creating a breathtaking silver halo in an indigo sky pocked by daytime stars. The next total solar eclipse visible from Europe is not due until 2026. A group of 50 Danes bought tickets aboard a Boeing 737 chartered by a science magazine to watch the event from the skies above the Faroe Islands.