The wild year of 2020 boasted two solar eclipses: an annular eclipse on June 21 and a total solar eclipse on December 14. Travel restrictions prevented North Americans, as well as many others in the Western Hemisphere, from viewing the path of annularity that stretched from Africa through the Middle East to Pakistan, India, mainland China, and Taiwan. Fortunately, local eclipse viewers who managed to get beneath the Moon's shadow captured wonderful images of the breathtaking event.

The following is a smattering of shots from last June's annular eclipse, which I monitored into the wee hours of the morning with the help of email, the web, and livestreams from the Middle East and Asia. My decades-long interest in eclipses, and the resulting expeditions I have taken to view them, have allowed me to meet many fascinating people whom I never would have otherwise. And although I don't keep in constant contact with every one of them, when an eclipse passes overhead anywhere in the world, I have a good chance of hearing from some of my old friends who are eager to share their new pictures.

At the time of this writing, the next solar eclipse to be seen from Earth will be total, with its peak occurring near the border of Argentina and Chile on December 14, 2020. Be sure to keep an eye out for images of December's total solar eclipse in future issues of Astronomy.

Meanwhile, the next annular eclipse will be on June 10, 2021. It path will trek from southern Canada over the North Pole and down to the Russian Far East. Observers in the northeastern United States will be happy to learn that partial phases of this annular eclipse will be visible to them in the early morning. So, make sure to get your filtered solar eclipse glasses now available at MyScienceShop.com.

And don't forget: Share what you see!
The June 21 solar eclipse also traced a path through Pakistan, where the cloud-crow forecast was not as favorable as in the lower Arabian Peninsula. Fortunately, it turned out to be very clear from Sakkar — a city in the Pakistani province of Sindh — to the Moon’s edge. The eclipse was visible from many parts of the world, including Europe, Africa, and parts of Asia.

**AN UNFILTERED VIEW LEADS TO A REVISION**

Prior to the eclipse, NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) captured images of the Sun’s surface and corona. The views provided valuable information about the solar atmosphere and helped in planning the eclipse observation. The SDO’s high-resolution images were used to predict the position of the Moon relative to the Sun, allowing astronomers to accurately pinpoint the eclipse’s path.

**Address to remember:** eclipse.nasa.gov

The eclipse was observed by astronomers and eclipse enthusiasts from around the world. The event attracted thousands of people to the viewing areas, and the experience was unforgettable for those who witnessed it in person. The total eclipse lasted for about three minutes, providing a breathtaking view of the Sun’s corona, which is otherwise only visible during a total solar eclipse.

**Conclusion**

The June 21 solar eclipse was a remarkable event that showcased the beauty and complexity of our solar system. The event brought together people from all over the world to witness this natural spectacle and share in the experience. The images and observations from the eclipse were used to study the Sun’s atmosphere and enhance our understanding of solar phenomena. The event was not only a scientific achievement but also a moment of unity and wonder for all who participated in it.
ECLIPSE RESOURCES

Many observers who were unable to personally see the annular eclipse viewed the skies during the daytime instead opted to monitor images and livestreams of the event around the middle of their local time — an uptick in interest in solar eclipses among people who have lived in that part of the world. For instance, the European Space Agency's (ESA) Solar Orbiter mission captured images of the eclipse as seen from space.

Additionally, amateur astronomers in China, Japan, and other countries were able to capture stunning images of the eclipse as it passed over their regions.

1. A camera mounted to the International Space Station captured this shot of the annular eclipse in China.

2. The X-ray telescope on the Japanese Hinode spacecraft captured this view of the eclipse over China.

3. The passage of the Moon's shadow in the atmosphere was also tracked by the European Solar Orbiter mission, which provided valuable data on the effects of the eclipse on Earth's atmosphere.