EYE SAFETY DURING AN ECLIPSE

It's NEVER safe to look directly at the sun, except when the sun is completely blocked during the period of a total eclipse known as *TOTALITY.*

1 PARTIAL ECLIPSE • GLASSES ON

The eclipse begins when the sun's disk is partially blocked by the moon. This partial eclipse phase can last over an hour.

2 BAILY'S BEADS • GLASSES ON

As totality approaches, only the low-lying valleys on the moon's edge allow sunlight through, forming bright spots of light called Baily's Beads.

3 DIAMOND RING • GLASSES ON

The last of the sunlight streaming through the moon's valleys creates a single bright flash of light on the side of the moon. This is known as the diamond ring effect, and it marks the last few seconds before totality begins.

4 TOTALITY • GLASSES OFF

Once the diamond ring disappears and the moon completely covers the entire disk of the sun, you may safely look at the eclipse without a solar filter. Be careful to protect your eyes again before the end of totality—the total eclipse may last less than a minute in some locations.

5 FINAL STAGES • GLASSES ON

A crescent will begin to grow on the opposite side of the sun from where the Baily's Beads shone at the beginning. This crescent is the lower atmosphere of the sun, beginning to peek out from behind the moon and it is your signal to stop looking directly at the eclipse. ***Make sure you have safety glasses back on—or are otherwise watching the eclipse through a safe, indirect method—before the first flash of sunlight appears around the edges of the moon.***

Images 1 and 3-5 Credit: Rick Fienberg, TravelQuest International and Wilderness Travel
Image 2 Credit: Arne Danielson