

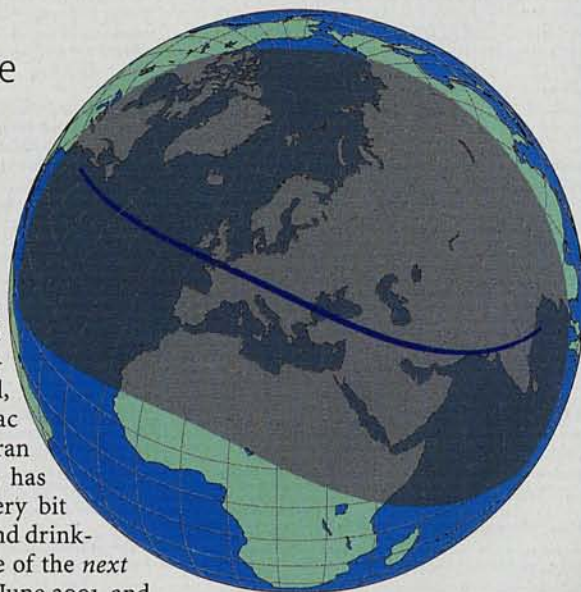
Here's a date for your diary, 11 August 1999, the date of the last total eclipse of the millennium

## Total Eclipse

Where will you be August 11th? Enthusiasts in Britain will be heading for the south-west tip of the mainland to observe a total eclipse on "homeground". Those of us in other parts of Europe still have time to phone up a colleague at a laboratory in Karlsruhe, or Munich, in Germany, to book a day with them observing the eclipse from their home territory. But, according to the excellent Nasa bulletin on the eclipse, the probability of a completely clear sky over Western Europe is just 20% in Northern France and does not get much better eastwards. So, for some of us the solution will be to travel to Turkey seeking really blue skies. And for those of you who have not yet booked anything for

the big day: be warned. The 'daylight' during an eclipse is said to be significantly unusual. Steve Bell, of the Nautical Almanac Office in the UK, a veteran eclipse watcher himself, has described totality as "every bit as addictive as smoking and drinking." The first total eclipse of the *next* millennium will be on 21 June 2001, and will pass over the South Atlantic and Africa.

The maps shown here were provided by HM Royal Almanac Office in the UK. Further information can be found in the *RGQ Guide to the 1999 Total Eclipse of the Sun* by Steve Bell (Tor



Mark Press tel +44 1209 822101 fax +44 1209 822035). The Nasa bulletin is available on the Web at [umbra.nascom.nasa.gov/eclipse/990811/rp.html](http://umbra.nascom.nasa.gov/eclipse/990811/rp.html).