



The moon obscures the sun during the total solar eclipse as seen from Arcos de las Salinas, Spain, on Wednesday. (Reuters)

Eclipse leaves Spain spellbound

Madrid/Reykjavik: Spectators across Spain watched in wonder, some whipping off their protective glasses and rising to their feet in unison, as a rare total solar eclipse swept across the northern part of the country on Wednesday evening, plunging it into darkness.

Spain deployed a massive police contingent and set up special viewing spots across rural areas that offered the best views of the spectacle.

Viewers in Buitrago de Lozoya, a rural district

north of Madrid, clapped and cheered as the sky dimmed and Baily's beads — bright points of sunlight that shine around the edge of the moon during a total eclipse — glistened on the horizon just after 8.30pm (local time) lasting barely a minute.

"It's impressive how the colours return little by little after totality — first the reds, then the blues — just like at dawn and sunset, totally deceiving your brain," said economist Diego Fernandez, 32.

Reuters