



Asociación Argentina de Astronomía
Observatorio Astronómico
Paseo del Bosque s/n, La Plata, B1900FWA
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Buenos Aires, September 7, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

In the past weeks we have received several requests to arrange scientific expeditions in Argentine territory for the Total Solar Eclipse of December 14, 2020. Given these requests, we would like to provide you with information about the situation in our country. As you may know, COVID-19 cases are still increasing in Argentina, and the health system is near saturation. External borders are closed to tourism, whereas internal borders (Argentina is a federal country) are only partially open, mainly for essential activities. People gathering is restricted, and social distancing is enforced. If this situation persists in December, it is highly improbable that foreigners could enter the country without an official permit.

The Argentine Astronomical Society (the National Member representing Argentina before the International Astronomical Union), the National Committee for Astronomy, and the National Outreach Committee, want to bring this situation to your knowledge and recommend that you proceed with your planned travel only if it is completely necessary.

In this case, we can offer you to transmit your request of an official travel permit to the Ministry of Science of Argentina. If you are interested, please send us (aaacd@fcaglp.unlp.edu.ar) the following information **by September 26**, in an official letter signed by the authorities of your institution:

1. Name, age, citizenship, and Passport number of all travellers,
2. Affiliation,
3. Scientific purpose of the travel, and instruments to be brought to the country,

4. Detailed travel plan (dates, flight and lodging information, observing location, etc.).

We would like to stress that we will solely take into account requests made by **foreign groups** wanting to perform **research activities related to the eclipse**, and that **we cannot ensure that the permit will actually be granted** by the Argentine Government. We would also like to stress that, given the COVID-19 crisis, **we cannot assume any responsibility regarding research expeditions, including but not restricted to health care, customs clearing, lodging, travelling within the country, or logistics.**

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the above email address.

Sincerely yours,

Argentine Astronomical Society
National Committee for Astronomy
National Outreach Coordinator