



THE GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE

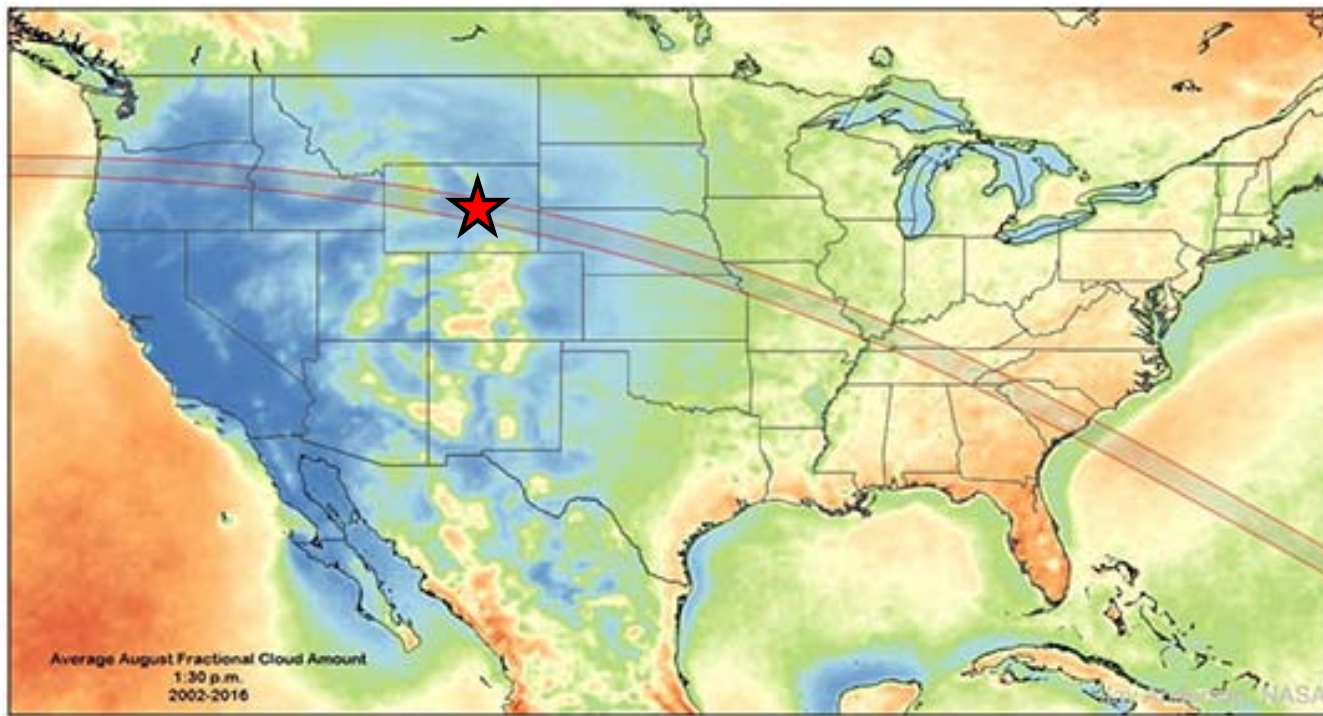
An Astronomical Journey

by: Jim Thompson

Many Reasons To Go

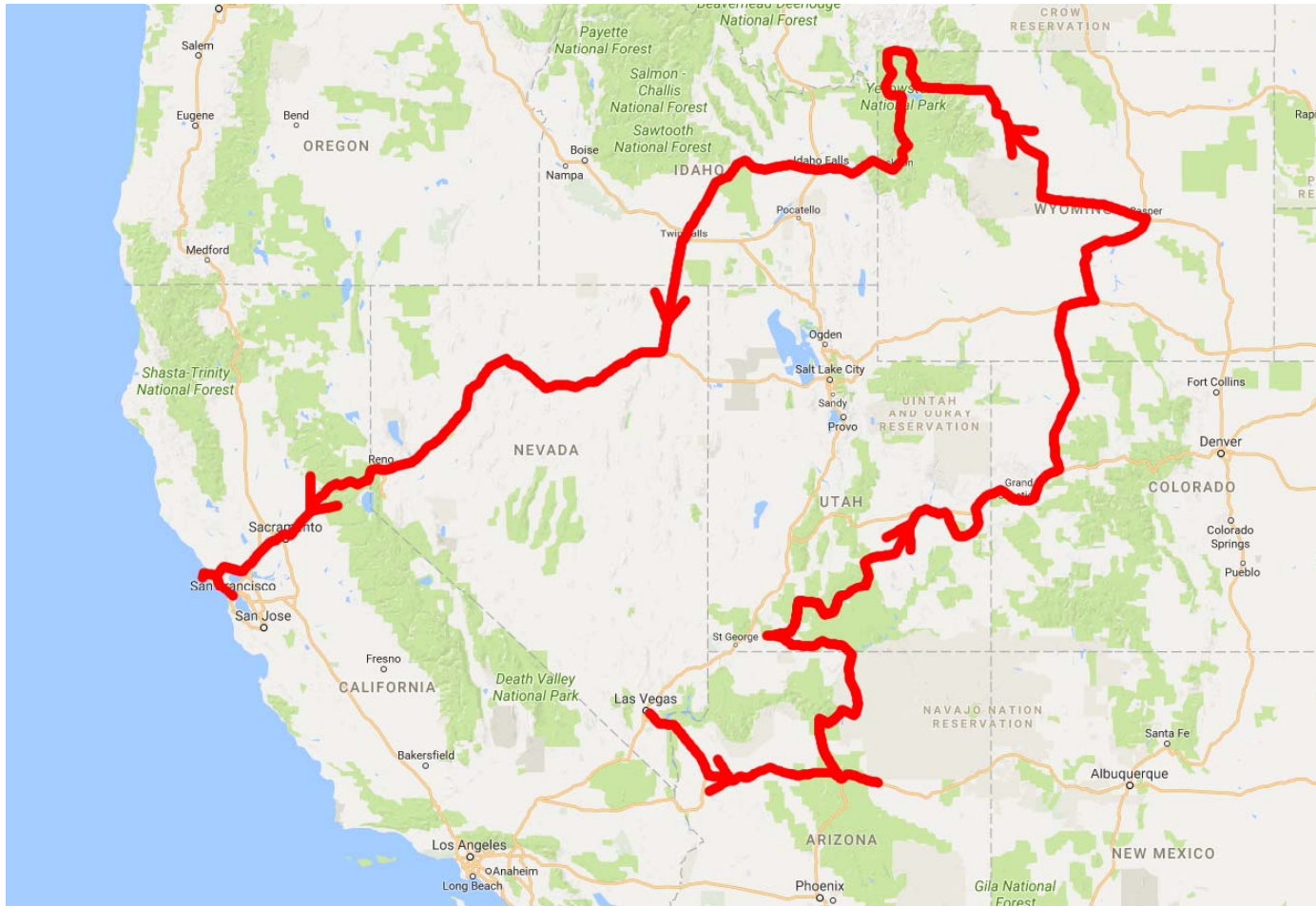
- Neither myself nor anyone in my family has seen a total solar eclipse before
- Path of totality close enough to take whole family affordably
- Eclipse took place in summer; kids out of school
- Numerous other interesting things to see in the U.S.
 - ▣ Astronomy Mag. trip to US Southwest was inspiration
- My family has been on my case to take them on a trip somewhere – time to shut them up

First Step: Where Watch Eclipse



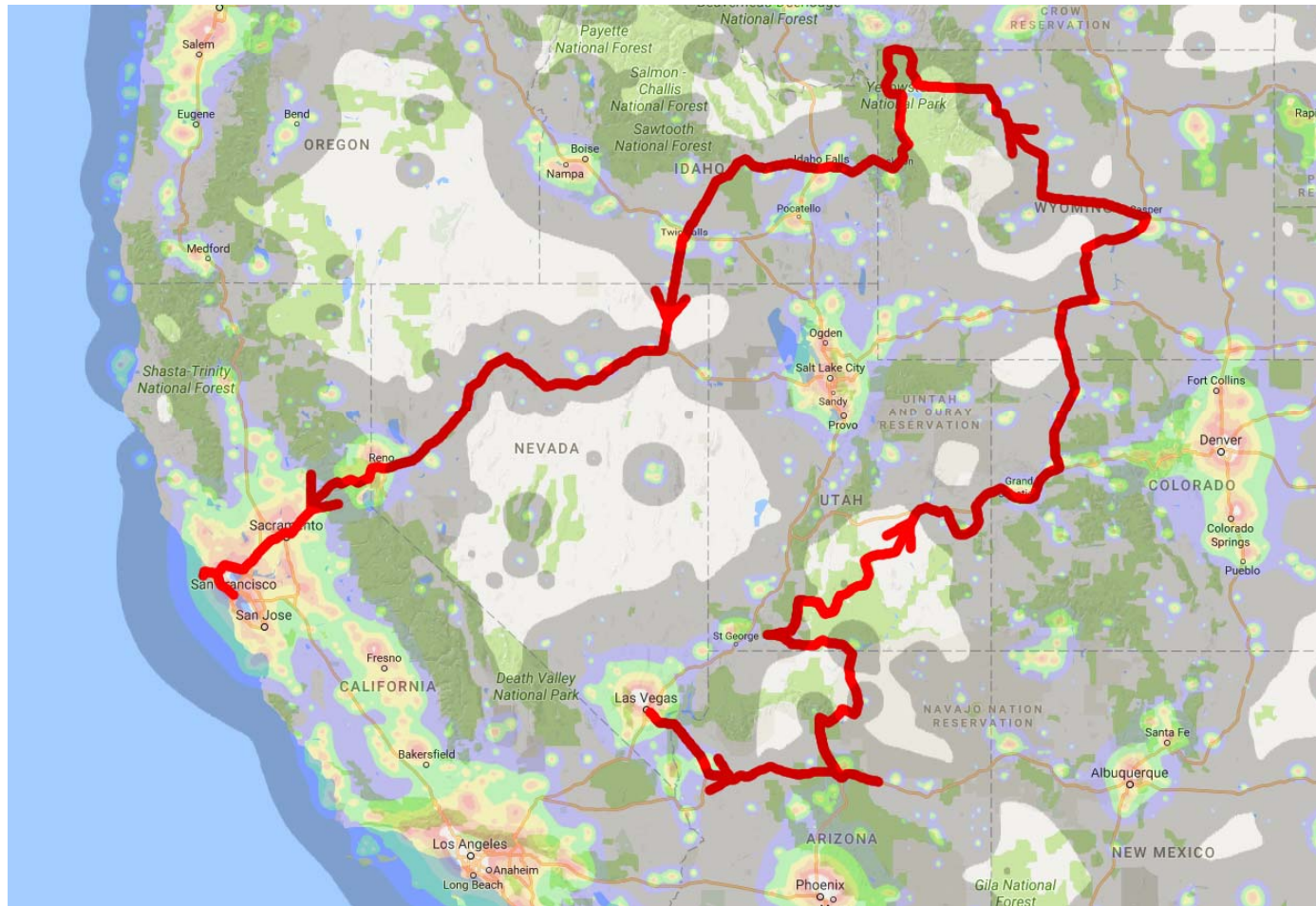
- Lots of online resources
- Pick location with low chance of clouds
- Also want location easy to get to from other attractions
- Chose Casper, WY

Next Step: Plan Our Route



- Objective: see as many NP's as practical
- Use rental RV – mostly camping
- Include San Francisco – cool!
- 18 days, Aug. 11th to 28th

Astronomy Sprinkled On Top



- Driving through some very dark skies – observing & imaging
- Perseid meteor shower Aug. 12-13th
- Berringer meteor crater
- Lowell Observatory
- ...and a TSE!

Day 1 to 4 – Northern Arizona



Day 5 to 9 – Southern Utah



Day 10 & 11 – Eclipse!



Day 12 to 14 – Yellowstone & Craters



Day 15 – Big Drive to Reno

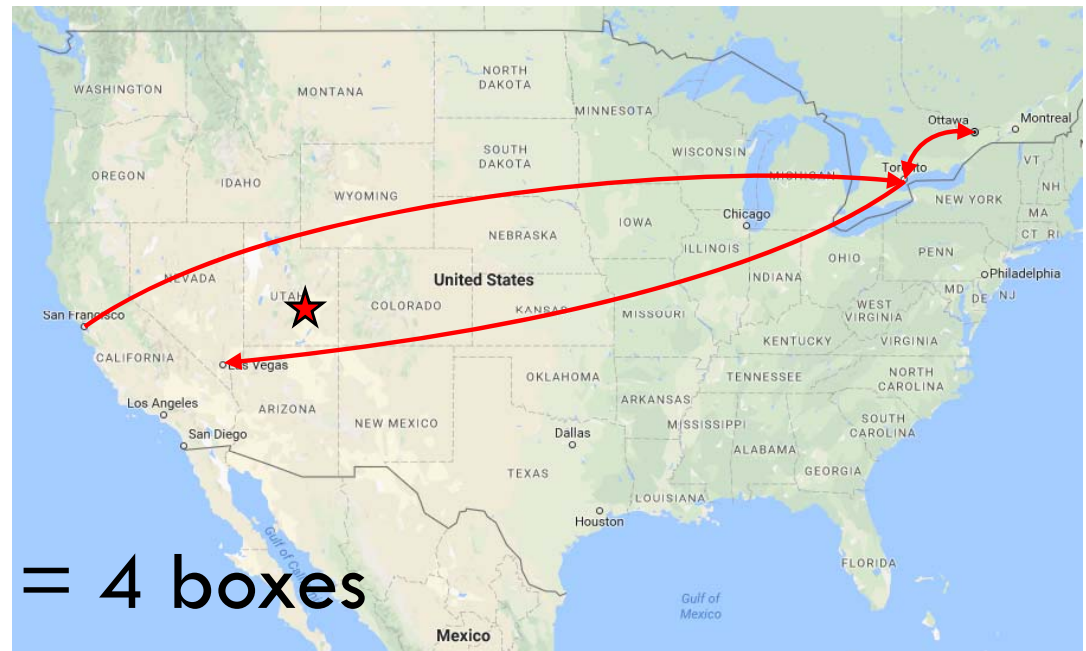


Day 16 to 18 – California & Home



By the Numbers

- Highest altitude reached: 9600' (UT-12 between Boulder & Grover)
- Kilometers travelled:
 - ▣ by plane = 8600
 - ▣ by van = 5500
- Gas used = 670L
- Rice-A-Roni consumed = 4 boxes
- Water, Juice & Gatorade drank ~ 160L



Where to Next?

