

The April 16th, 2026 UT occultation by Didymos

Call for a large campaign in France and Sardinia

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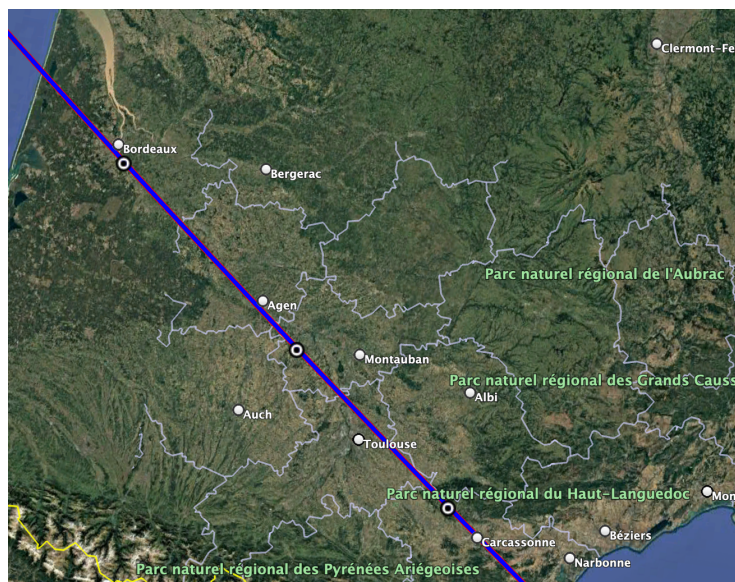
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The powerful method of stellar occultations is a technique uniquely approaching the performances of planetary space missions [S25]. Although the use of occultations to characterise NEAs [K10] have been expected 15 years ago; it has only become recently feasible thanks to the Gaia DR3 stellar catalogues [G23] which have revolutionised the use of stellar occultations to the point of successfully predicting occultations by sub-km sized NEAs. This began with the occultation by (99 942) Apophis [D23], followed by a series of occultation by the Didymos-Dimorphos system [S23, T24] target of the DART (NASA) and Hera (ESA) planetary defence missions.

We present here the last good occultation opportunity by the Didymos system on April 16th, 2026 UT which will be observable from France (cf. Fig. 1) and Sardinia.

We take advantage of this opportunity to announce the efforts for a large campaign in France for this event.

Figure 1: Predicted path for the April 16th, 2026 UT where the Didymos system will be occulting a 13 G mag. star.



References

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