



Record crowd for Solstice sunrise at Stonehenge

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A record crowd of about 36,500 revelers appeared at Stonehenge, in western England, for the biggest ever gathering of visitors to welcome the dawn of the Summer Solstice.

The number of people attending the event caused roads in the area to become gridlocked in the hours leading up to sunrise at 04:58 British Summer Time (BST).

Solstice marks the dawn of the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere. The event has grown in popularity since a 6.5-kilometer (4-mile) exclusion zone around the World Heritage Site was lifted nine years ago.

Police praised tourists' co-operation and said the solstice fell on a weekend and attracted record numbers of people to descend on the ancient monument.

About 36,500 tourists arrived at the site to watch the sunrise on the longest day of the year.

Last year 30,000 people watched dawn break at Stonehenge, which was obscured by rainy conditions.

NAT/ZAP/DT