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New Jersey casinos do not need anything else to take gamblers out of their casinos, but a rare phenomenon will do the trick in the next couple of hours. Already, Atlantic City casinos have had gamblers trickling out the doors.

"We came to the casino (Caesars Atlantic City) around ten, and we plan on staying for a while, but I figured I'd take a

break from the slots for a few minutes and come out here and try to see the lunar eclipse," said Maria Nelvo, who is standing outside the casino with her boyfriend.

All over the country, the next several hours will be filled with gamblers taking extended breaks to catch a glimpse of the lunar eclipse. The full lunar eclipse is set to take place shortly after 3AM, and many gamblers insist they will still be at the casinos when that occurs.

For the first time in 456 years, tonight's lunar eclipse coincides with the winter solstice. The solstice is the shortest day of the year. A lunar eclipse is when the moon completely passes behind the Earth, and the Earth blocks the sun from striking the moon. The moon appears red and orange shades during the eclipse.

The full eclipse takes six hours. It began at 11:30 PM, and will continue until the full eclipse at 3:17. The moon will reappear at 5:30 AM. With such a long period of time, gamblers have more than enough chances to get out from the casinos.

In some states, smoking is illegal inside the casinos, so the lunar eclipse is helping some gamblers in two ways. They not only will get to see the eclipse, but they also will be getting a cigarette break. The smokers that move outside to enjoy their cigarettes may be surprised at the amount of company they have outside the casinos early Tuesday morning.

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