

UMBRATOLL WOLEAI MICRONESIA 2016 MARCH 9

If you think the next “U.S.” total solar eclipse isn’t until August 2017, think again – it’s actually nearly a year and a half sooner than that!

Because the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) are in free association with the United States, even using U.S. currency so we maintain the next TSE in a U.S. territory is actually 2016 March 9 Wednesday!

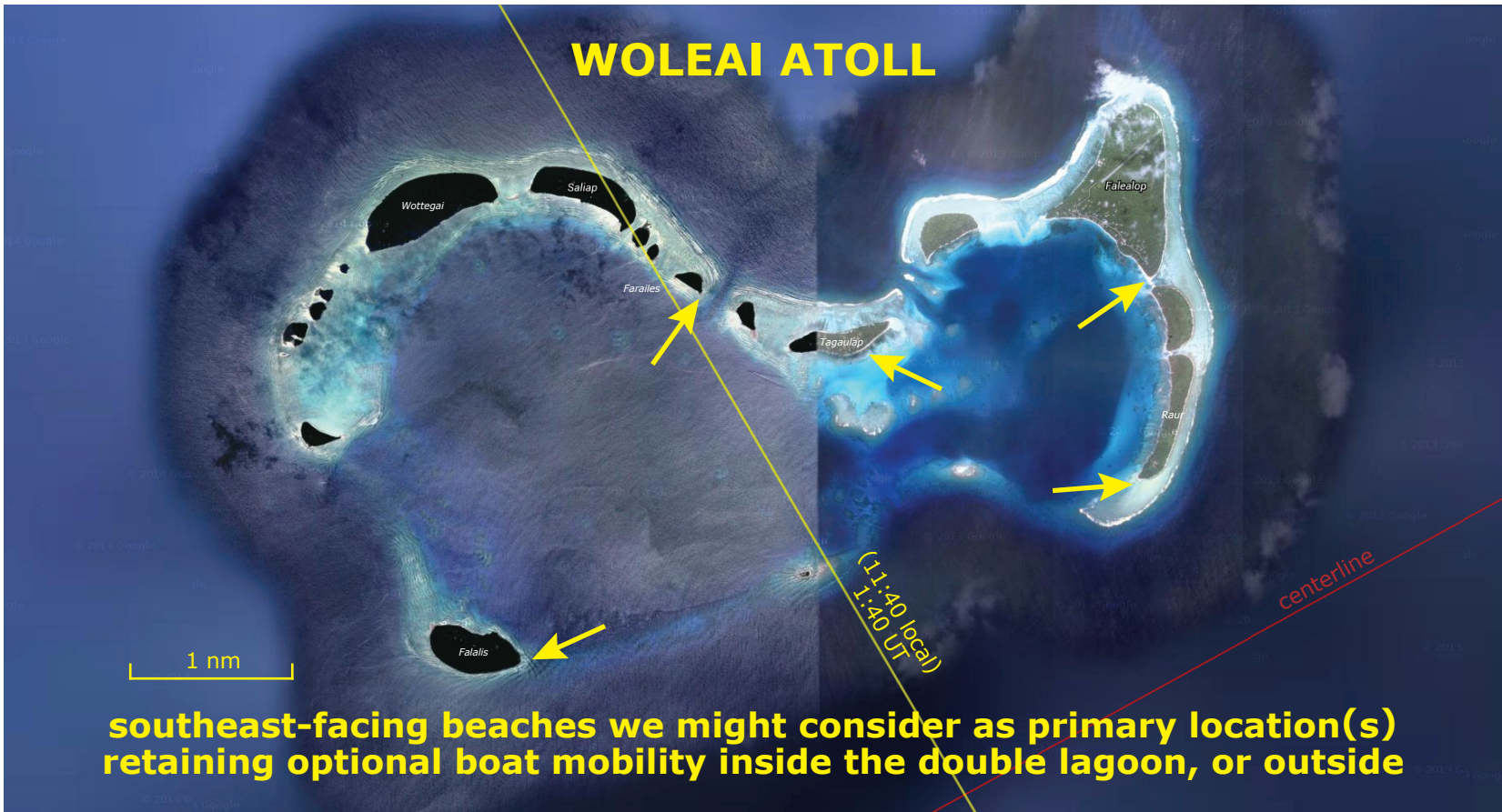
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Join us by ship out of Colonia, Yap to Woleai atoll at 7.37n 143.91e for limb-corrected 4 minutes 3 seconds of totality on that date = 45 seconds longer than anywhere in Indonesia and with the sun at 72 degrees elevation = 23 degrees higher than anywhere in Indonesia, viewing from dry land most likely on one of the beaches of the double lagoon.

In honor of passage of the moon’s shadow a.k.a. the “umbra”, Woleaians will ring their church bell i.e. they will “toll” the bell...therefore this occasion shall be known as Umbratoll 2016.

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Weather prospects at Woleai (pronounced “WO-lay-eye”) are perhaps slightly better than, but overall generally comparable to, Ternate in Indonesia which means some days can be great weather looking like this → but also acknowledging cloudiness is definitely possible in March so, to improve our chances of successful eclipse observation we expect to arrange mobility by one or more small boats if needed from our primary chosen southeast-facing beach location to another one of the atoll’s beaches or, optionally, to observe from the small boats themselves if we need fully two-dimensional, last-minute zigzag mobility, either from the smooth waters inside the double lagoon (preferably) or from the choppier waves of the high seas outside if we need to range a further distance.



M/V Hapilmohol 1

Our transportation from Yap to Woleai will be on board M/V Hapilmohol 1, the freighter which serves as passenger and cargo vessel for Yap State of the FSM. When islanders in this part of Micronesia wish to travel from one location to another without venturing to do so in their traditional canoes, Hapilmohol 1 or H1, as we like to call it, is their means of choice.



We’ll be chartering H1 for our exclusive use to travel from Yap 48 hours en route to Woleai and remain there 3 days until eclipse day with option to utilize the vessel as our “hotel”, then 48 hours of travel returning to Yap. No regular Micronesian passengers will be on board, other than any we hope will join as eclipse travelers.

