

UMBRA TOLL 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!

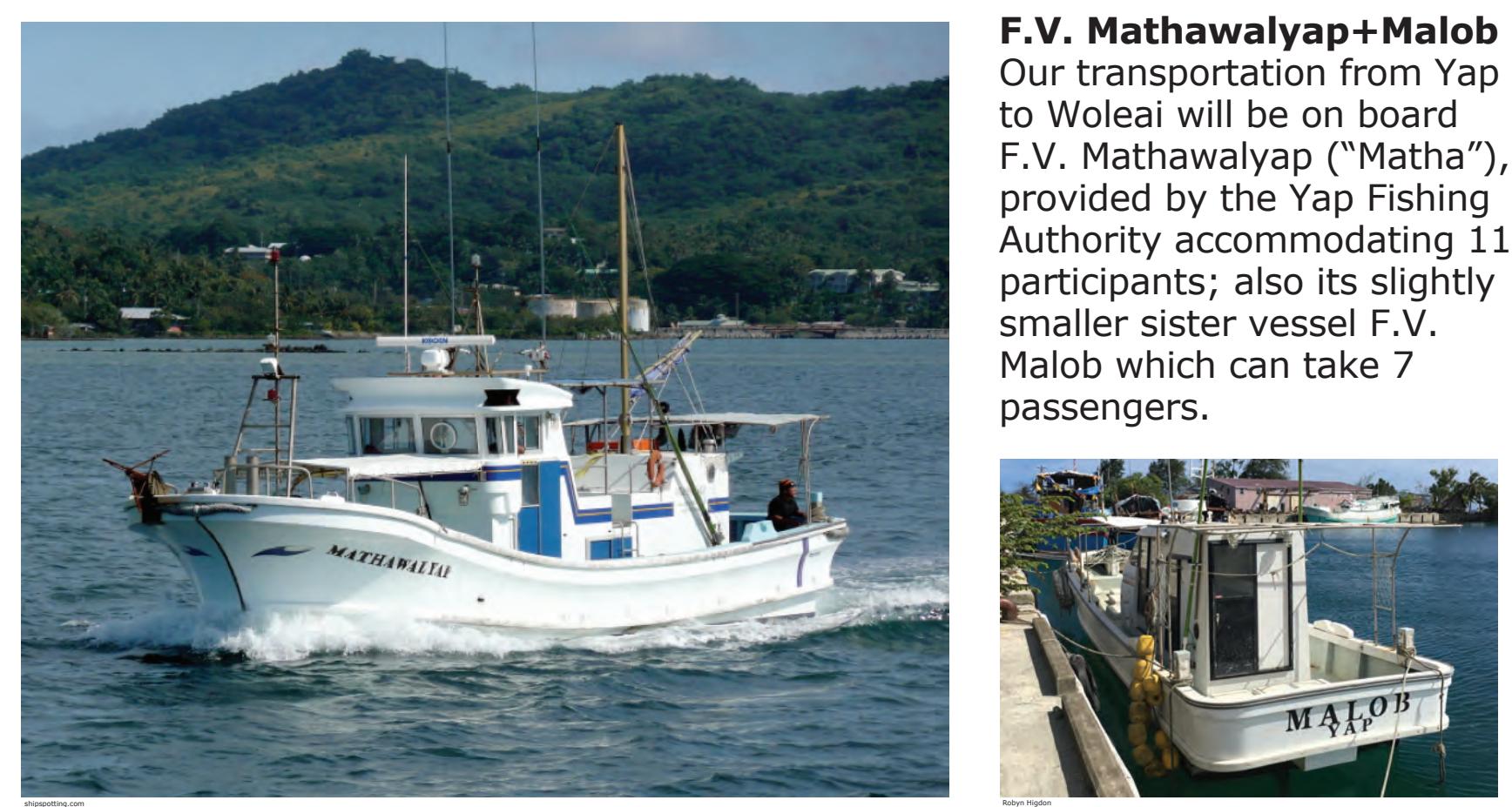
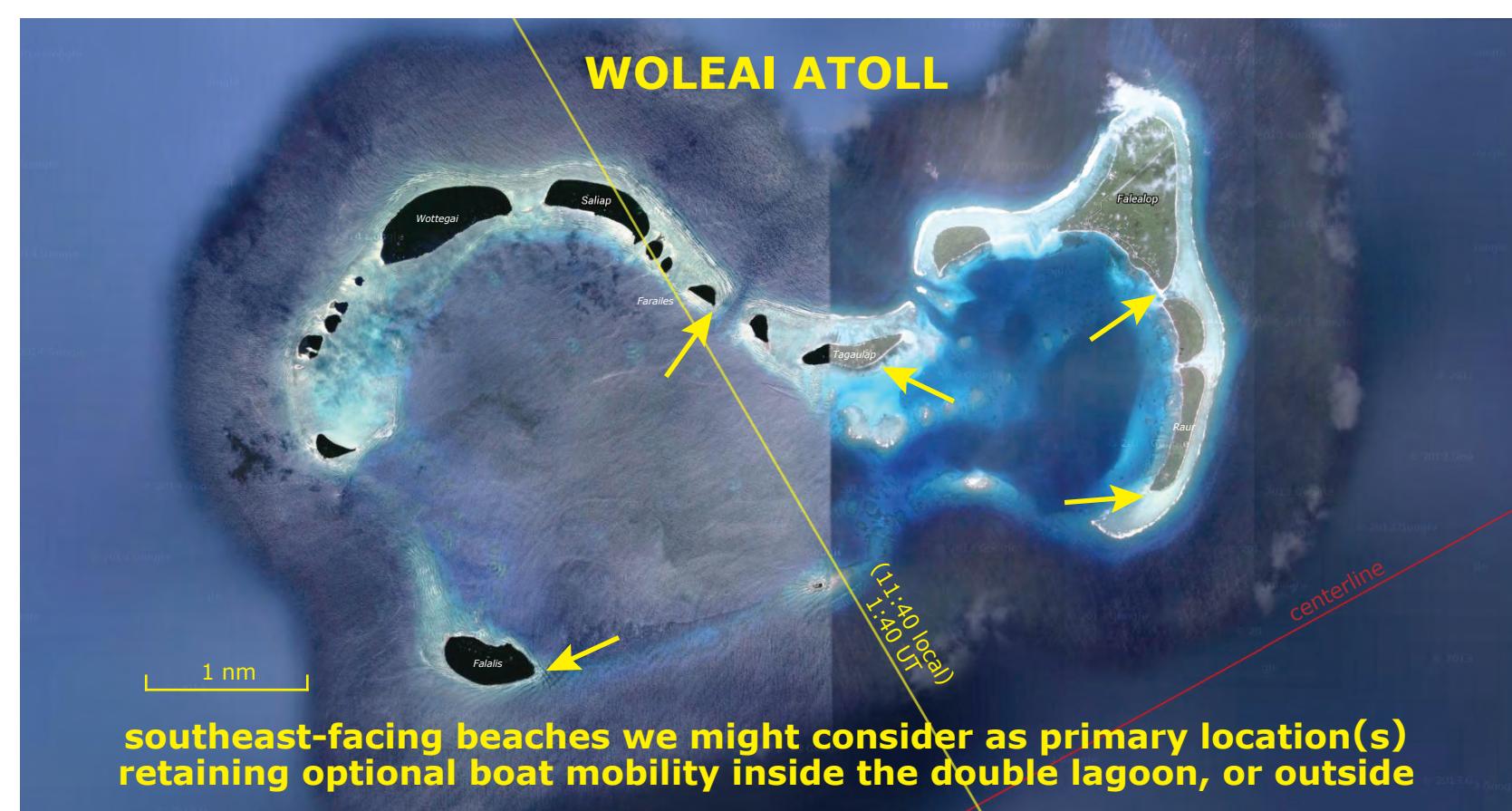
:-)

Join us by boat 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.

:-)

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 may be able to arrange mobility by one or more small boats, economics TBD, from our primary chosen southeast-facing beach location to another one of the atoll's beaches inside the double lagoon or to one of the beaches outside, on the open ocean. We can't wait to see what the islanders will think of this magnificent phenomenon at eclipse time – will they do special dances and chants to "save" our daytime star from its seeming demise?



F.V. Mathawalyap+Malob
Our transportation from Yap to Woleai will be on board F.V. Mathawalyap ("Matha"), provided by the Yap Fishing Authority accommodating 11 participants; also its slightly smaller sister vessel F.V. Malob which can take 7 passengers.

