

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE – WESTERN AUSTRALIA

UmbraOz 2023

April 20 Thursday

"We're off to meet the Umbra...the wonderful Umbra of Oz." 🎵 😊

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

for select friends who might like to join us for this eclipse

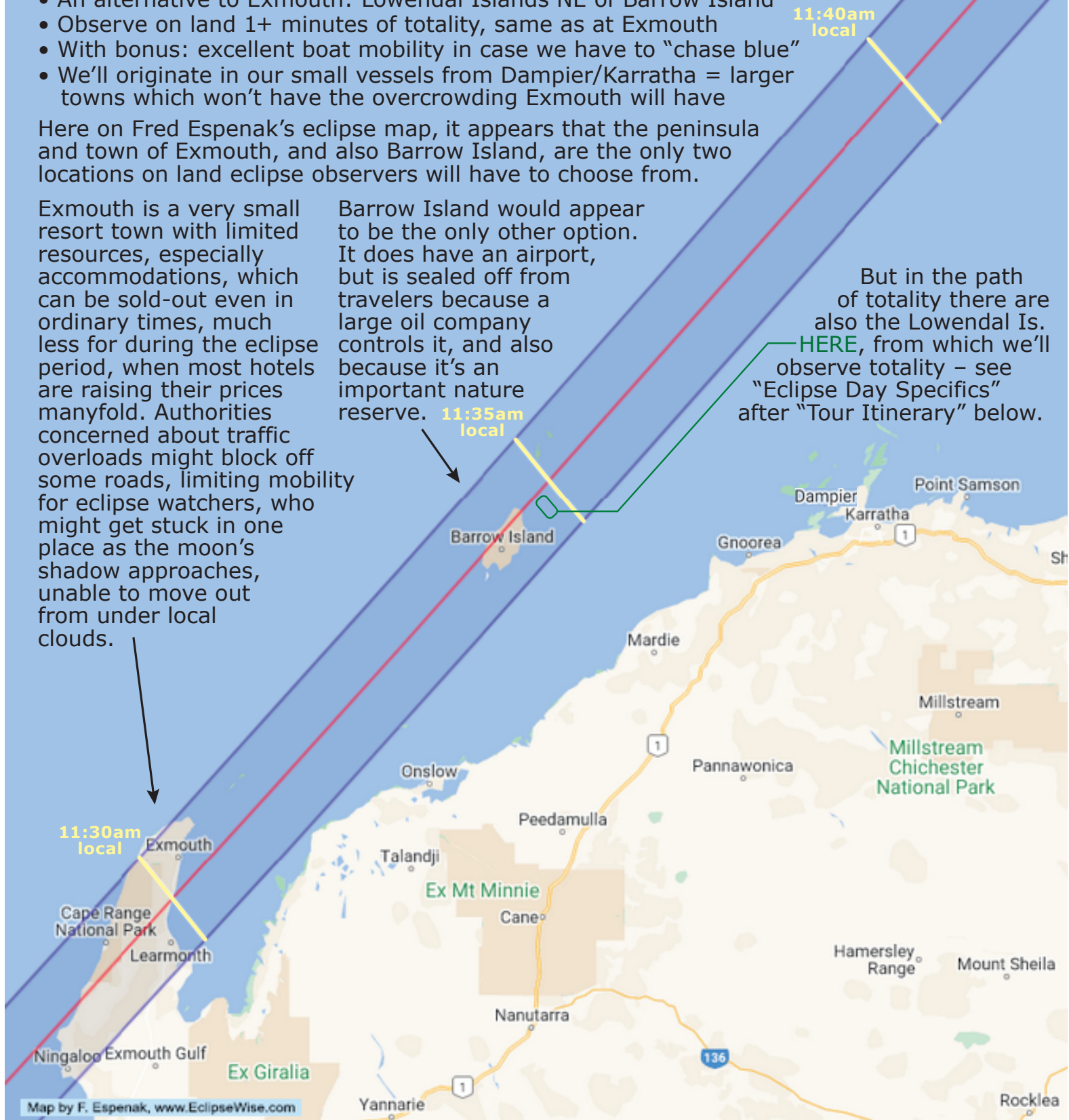
- An alternative to Exmouth: Lowendal Islands NE of Barrow Island
- Observe on land 1+ minutes of totality, same as at Exmouth
- With bonus: excellent boat mobility in case we have to "chase blue"
- We'll originate in our small vessels from Dampier/Karratha = larger towns which won't have the overcrowding Exmouth will have

Here on Fred Espenak's eclipse map, it appears that the peninsula and town of Exmouth, and also Barrow Island, are the only two locations on land eclipse observers will have to choose from.

Exmouth is a very small resort town with limited resources, especially accommodations, which can be sold-out even in ordinary times, much less for during the eclipse period, when most hotels are raising their prices manyfold. Authorities concerned about traffic overloads might block off some roads, limiting mobility for eclipse watchers, who might get stuck in one place as the moon's shadow approaches, unable to move out from under local clouds.

Barrow Island would appear to be the only other option. It does have an airport, but is sealed off from travelers because a large oil company controls it, and also because it's an important nature reserve.

But in the path of totality there are also the Lowendal Is. **HERE**, from which we'll observe totality – see "Eclipse Day Specifics" after "Tour Itinerary" below.



TOUR ITINERARY

SAT 15 APR:

Depart USA (or other location) by international flight.

SUN 16 APR:

Arrive Perth, Western Australia. Complete entry requirements, then make your way to the hotel by group transfer, for those who arrive at approximately the same time, or by taxi if arriving on your own. Overnight in Perth.

MON 17 APR:

Transfer to the airport in good time to perform check-in and security formalities before the domestic flight to Karratha, located on the northwest coast of the state of Western Australia. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel. Balance of day will be free time to relax and explore on our own.

TUE 18 APR:

Today we will have an introductory orientation tour of the area with a local guide during which we will see the main highlights of this small town and the coastal port of Dampier.

WED 19 APR:

This morning we will board our "eclipse vessels" at Dampier for a roundtrip-3-hour "practice run" (1-1/2 hours each way) in the morning from Dampier to relatively nearby Enderby Island to test our landing skills on a beach there, and also so that we can all acquire some "sea legs" as preparation for our next day's adventure. This will include one or more practice "blue escape" sprints at the boats' top speeds of 16-25 knots in case the weather has partial clouds as tomorrow's eclipse time approaches and we decide to "chase" on the water instead of staying on land. Following this rehearsal outing we'll return to Dampier by late morning or mid-day and will have the rest of the day to prepare for tomorrow based on what we have learned this morning. For instance this might include shopping at a hardware or other store for last-minute supplies. Then... early to bed because we're all going to be early-rising overnight...for our 3am departure!

THU 20 APR: ECLIPSE DAY!!!

Here is an overview of our plans for this special day. See also, in more detail with maps, "Eclipse Day Specifics" on pages 5-7.

We'll do an early morning start for our approximately 12-hour eclipse excursion as follows:

3am-6am: Westbound to our preferred island for viewing.

Likely our primary choice of destination will be Bridled Island at 20.636s 115.558e in the Lowendals, near the port of Varanus. Here the tide will be rising on eclipse morning, to high tide shortly before the moon's shadow arrives. But if on eclipse morning the weather during our westbound leg appears to be better at the Montebellos than at the Lowendals, we can switch our destination to be the former.

6am-noon: In the path of totality, awaiting lunar darkness at 11:34am-11:35am.*

*Duration of totality at Bridled Island will be 1m04s at 11:34:19-11:35:23 local (UTC+8), slightly longer than at Exmouth.

Huge advantage: our fast vessels can drop us off at our choice of island(s) to observe totality on the beach(es) there if the weather is clear. But if the weather isn't completely clear within two hours or one hour or even a half-hour or less before the moon's shadow arrives, we'll have the option of jumping back onto our vessels and speeding at 16-25 knots towards wherever any blue sky patches are beckoning! The boats will also have great last-minute zigzagging maneuverability which will help us ensure we get to the right spot in time!

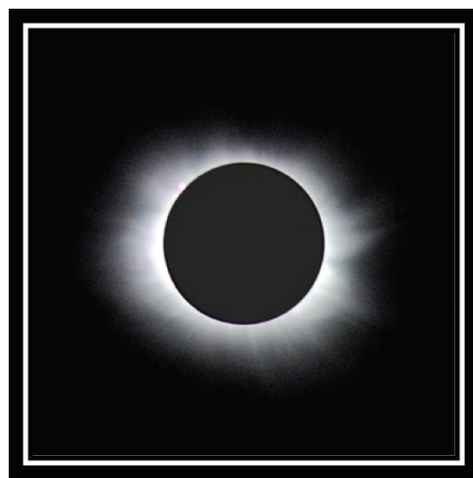
***NOTE: Participants will be free to decide which they prefer – either staying put on the selected viewing island and "sitting it out" hoping it will be clear for totality, or "escaping on the boats" to chase the blue spots. For those who decide to stay on the island the boats will return after totality to pick them up for our collective return to Dampier.**

Noon-3pm: Return eastbound.

On return to Dampier we will transfer back to the hotel. In the evening we'll have an "Eclipse Celebration BBQ Dinner" at an appropriate location to celebrate our achievements and to share our experiences of the day together!

FRI 21 APR:

Check out of the hotel and transfer to Karratha airport for the domestic flight back to Perth. On arrival transfer to the hotel.



SAT 22 APR:

Morning sightseeing tour of the city of Perth and Fremantle. Then, after a break for lunch, head north along the coast to Nambung National Park and the Pinnacle Desert which is named for the many weathered limestone pillars, often reaching heights of 10 feet or more, that protrude from its yellow sands. Return to the hotel for a free evening.

SUN 23 APR:

Today we have a relaxing cruise up the Swan River through the rolling farmland and vineyards of the Swan Valley. Stops will be included at one or two of the wineries for a look at the wine-making process and a tasting of the finished product. The cruise back to Perth will include some light snacks and drinks along with live local musical entertainment as we pass through the beautiful scenery on the way. On arrival return to the hotel for overnight.

MON 24 APR:

Today is a free day or you may elect to join an optional small group tour, either one of the sample tours listed below, or others...

Optional tour to Rottnest Island: Visit this favorite getaway destination of locals on a day trip to Rottnest Island located just offshore in the Indian Ocean. Travel to Rottnest by high-speed ferry from either Perth or Fremantle, then embark on a guided sightseeing tour of the island by minivan or small coach. The guide will point out landmarks such as the West End and the Wadjemup Lighthouse. After this introductory tour, enjoy free time in the afternoon to explore the car-free island at your leisure before the return journey to the hotel.

Optional tour to Wave Rock: See this geological beauty that lies outside the city. Visit the pioneer town of York, the oldest township in Avon Valley; Wave Rock and Hippo's Yawn, unusual rock formations; Mulka's Cave, an ancient site sacred to Aboriginals; and make a stop for tea in a quaint country town.

TUE 25 APR:

Check out of the hotel and make your way to the airport in good time to perform departure procedures and check in for your international flight back to USA or elsewhere.

END SERVICES

OPTIONAL EXTENSION:

For those who are interested, we will be offering an extension at the end to fly from Perth to Exmouth to spend a few days there, after most of the eclipse crowds will have left. During this time we will see some of the major attractions of the area and take the highly-talked-about, and thrilling, excursion to see the whale sharks! Please advise if you are interested in this option.

TOUR COST:

US\$4,565 per person based on twin share in hotel rooms.

Supplement for single room in hotels US\$1,434 additional.

PLUS: International air at current rate when ready to book, and domestic Australian flights Perth-Karratha-Perth at applicable group rate when confirmed.

TOUR INCLUDES:

Accommodations in Perth and Dampier including taxes, with breakfast daily, sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary, transfers on arrival and departure where noted, private full charter seafaring vessels for Eclipse Day and day prior, activities as noted, Eclipse Celebration BBQ dinner, miscellaneous taxes, fees, service charges, tour planning costs and fees.

NOT INCLUDED:

International, regional and domestic airfares, airport and other taxes and fees if applicable, meals and sightseeing not specifically mentioned as being included, services of a personal nature such as laundry, or anything else not specifically mentioned as being included.

BOOKING RESERVATION FORM FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA TSE 2023

Please book ____ places for the following person(s) named below.
I enclose a non-refundable US\$1,000 payment for each person booked.

FULL NAME(S):

By signing below I am indicating I accept the terms and conditions of this booking, in particular that my payment of US\$1,000 per person is non-refundable. Details as to when further payments and/or the balance amount are due will be advised to me at a later stage and I will pay those according to the schedule advised or risk cancellation and loss of my deposit.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/PROVINCE
+ ZIP/POSTCODE: _____

COUNTRY: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE(S): _____

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

T.E.I. TOURS & TRAVEL, P.O. Box 23784, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 USA
Tel.: (925) 825 6104 Email: tei@teiglobal.com

ECLIPSE DAY SPECIFICS

(Here are the Montebello Islands – not as close to centerline as the Lowendals – could serve as a secondary, backup destination for us.)

11:35am
local

Here are the Lowendal Islands. On eclipse morning we'll depart from Dampier in our chartered vessels approx. 3am and arrive at the Lowendals approx. 6am.

Barrow Island

Gnoorea

Dampier

Karratha

Upon arrival here in the Lowendal Islands we'll choose one beach from among more than a dozen available. We'll land on it by approx. 7am, using mini-boats we will have towed with us from Dampier to help in stepping ashore with our equipment. We'll begin setting up for the eclipse which will be taking place at 11:35am with just over one minute of totality.

For instance we might pick one of the four beaches on this island, Bridled Island.

Lowendal
Islands

Port of Varanus
industrial area
with oil tanks, etc.

This beach in the northern part of Bridled Island at 20.636s 115.558e might be a good choice since it's in a sheltered cove. Duration of totality will be 1m04s with solar elevation 56 degrees at 19 degrees azimuth.

Naturally we'll hope the weather is crystal clear from horizon to horizon so we can relax on our chosen beach and await a great view of totality at 11:35am. But if there's some gray in the sky as of 1-2 hours before arrival of the moon's shadow, we'll have the option of stepping back onto our vessels and "chasing blue" in any direction at a speed of at least 16 knots, including last-minute zigzag capability. This is an option our colleagues on land at Exmouth won't have! In such instance we'll likely observe totality from our vessels on the water – but if we find an island beach that's under a blue section of sky, we'll land on it if there's time to do so. Note: you can choose to stay on the original beach and not join the "chase" – after totality we'll return to pick up anyone who has remained.

Bridled Island



On April 19 Wednesday, the day before eclipse day, we'll do a 3-hour "practice run" in the morning roundtrip (1-1/2 hours each way) from Dampier to Enderby Island to test our landing skills on a beach there, and also so that we can all acquire some "sea legs" as preparation for our next day's adventure.

Dampier is an important resource extraction hub and therefore has many vessels based right there, giving us a range of different boats to choose from. The nearby town of Karratha has an airport with regularly scheduled commercial flights from Perth seven days a week, flights that are much more numerous than from Perth to Exmouth. This means we'll have excellent access for getting into and out of the area.

Therefore our plan is to fly from Perth to Karratha and stay in hotel space at Dampier. We'll charter locally-based vessels to depart from Dampier approx. 3am on eclipse morning to get us to our selected viewing location on an island beach in the Lowendals, with the Montebellos as a backup. After our 1+ minutes of totality we'll head back to Dampier, arriving back there around 3pm, to a restaurant or our hotel to celebrate!

The vessels we pick from among the ones our provider will have available will depend on how many umbraphiles sign up with us for this plan. Two examples:



Jilly B

10 meters x 3.5 meters, 8 tons
595 horsepower, 25 knots
up to 12 passengers – we'll plan on 8 or 9



Loligo

22.6 meters x 8 meters, 88 tons
2896 horsepower, 22 knots
full galley, 2 toilets
up to 23 passengers – we'll plan on approx. 17