

# Miraculous Lake Eyre and the spectacular Channel Country

## + Coober Pedy Adventure

Albury • Broken Hill • Flinders Ranges • **Optional Coober Pedy Adventure** • Lake Eyre South and North • William Creek • Birdsville • Bedourie • Innamincka • Broken Hill • Albury

Join our unique Desert Floods air tour for an authentic experience of the vast Australian outback.

### Day 1: Home port – Broken Hill – Flinders Ranges

Check in at Smartair and feel free to leave your car here. Take off to Broken Hill for refuelling and a tour of the Royal Flying Doctor Museum. Fly to award-winning Rawnsley Park Station in the Flinders Ranges. Watch the sun set over Wilpena Pound from nearby Chace Range complete with champagne and nibbles. Enjoy dinner back at Rawnsley Park's Woolshed before retiring to your luxurious Eco-Villa to stargaze.

### Day 2: Flinders Ranges – Marree – William Creek

We fly along the spectacular Flinders Ranges towards Marree, and encounter the incredible sight of Lake Eyre for the first time. Fly over Lake Eyre South, the deepest part of the Lake, towards William Creek for a character-filled lunch at the pub. Sit back in your private aircraft and experience some of your tour highlights this afternoon.

### William Creek – Birdsville – Bedourie

We track north and east over the amazing Lake Eyre basin and follow the groove carved by the Warburton Creek, up through the stunning Goyder Lagoon region before landing at the famous little town of Birdsville. A quick refuelling stop and it's a short hop north over the unforgettable kaleidoscope of the Channel Country to experience the hospitality at the historic old Royal Hotel at Bedourie.

### Day 3: Bedourie – Innamincka/Dig Tree

Early this morning we see waterways and bird breeding grounds through the eyes of our host and guide on a short ground tour which includes local points of interest. We then fly over Lake Machattie, one of Australia's largest pelican breeding areas and see Bilpa Morea, the world's largest claypan, as well as the colourful tentacles of the Diamantina River. Lunch is at either the historic Dig Tree, an icon instrumental to both the life and death of explorers Burke and Wills in 1861, or possibly the Innamincka Pub, also located on the Cooper Creek just a short hop to the west. Here you can visit the museum or the Australian Inland Mission Nurses Home.

### Broken Hill – Home port

Then it's south to overfly perhaps Lake Blanche or Cameron Corner, (the point at which NSW, SA and QLD all join) before a rest and refuelling stop at the Broken Hill Terminal Café, famous for its Pro Hart artworks. Time then to head for home over western NSW. We arrive around 6pm having covered over 2000 nautical miles (or nearly 4000km) on an unforgettable journey around the outback.

### Your tour includes

- All flights and transfers
- Tour of the Royal Flying Doctor Service Museum in Broken Hill
- Dinner, bed and breakfast (twin share) at Rawnsley Park Station in a luxurious Eco Villa
- Sunset viewing tour of Wilpena Pound from Chace Range including drinks & nibbles
- Dinner, bed and breakfast (twin share) at the Royal Hotel, Bedourie
- Private vehicle tour of waterways and birdlife around Bedourie

### Travel dates:

Charter flights are available from May until September when the outback becomes uncomfortably warm. Please call us for dates.

### Tour price:

From \$3199 per person, twin share, subject to departure point and based on 6 people travelling. Please specify if you would prefer the private use of the aircraft or are happy to share with others. A single supplement of \$149 applies.

\$3199 from Albury

\$3249 from Wagga & Bathurst

\$3299 from Canberra & Bankstown

### How to book:

Phone (02) 6021 2929 or email Smartair (flying@smartair.com.au) to book, and we'll help you with the paperwork and payments.



[www.smartair.com.au](http://www.smartair.com.au)

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# The Desert Floods

## 3-day flying tour to Lake Eyre and the Channel Country + Coober Pedy

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• Birdsville • Bedourie • Innamincka • Broken Hill • Albury

The Lake Eyre basin is one of the largest internally draining systems in the world and covers about 1.3 million square kilometres. The main river systems on the east side of the basin are the Cooper, the Diamantina-Warburton and the Georgina, which arise in the humid sub-tropics and discharge towards Lake Eyre, about 1,000 km away in the inwardly draining centre of the continent.

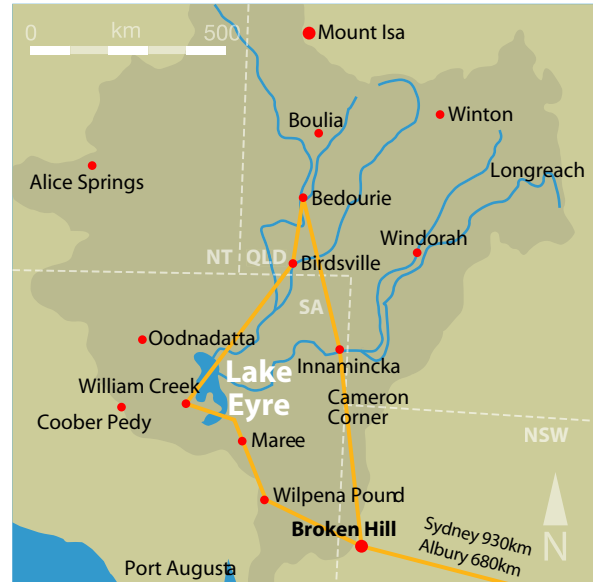
Cooper Creek spreads out into a vast area of meandering ephemeral channels, making its way roughly south into the far south-west corner of Queensland, before turning due west into South Australia and on towards Lake Eyre. In most years, the Cooper is absorbed into the earth, goes to fill channels or permanent waterholes, or simply evaporates without ever reaching Lake Eyre.

In wet years, the Cooper manages to flood the entire Channel Country and reaches Lake Eyre after flowing through several dry desert areas. Typically, during floods, the rivers expand to extraordinary widths, resulting in sheets of water up to 70 km wide on the Cooper below Windorah and even wider on the Diamantina and adjacent channels above Birdsville.

The rainfall of the Lake Eyre basin is exceedingly erratic, and catastrophic droughts and floods tend to be the normal state of affairs throughout this region. Historically, Lake Eyre has a 1.5m flood every three years; a 4 metre flood every decade and a fill or near fill, four times a century.

We didn't think it would happen again after last year's fabulous floods, but records have tumbled like the rain. Another wet start to the year and locals expect the Diamantina River and Warbuton Creek system and the Cooper Creek system will run again this year and flow into Lake Eyre. Water from Longreach, Innamincka and Moomba may eventually make its way to Lake Eyre via the Cooper Creek system.

Local experts predict that the birdlife will be plentiful in 2012 – we don't know this for sure - but we do know the best way to find out is to fly there and experience Australia's vast and awesome flooding deserts for yourself. Every trip is an authentic outback experience.



### The fine print:

- A 50% deposit is required to secure your booking and the balance is payable 14 days prior to departure.
- Sorry, but we can't accept cancellations less than 21 days prior to departure. Prior to that you will be charged a percentage of the fare if you cancel.
- We require you to take out travel insurance to protect yourself against such an eventuality.
- Dinner and breakfast are included. Lunch, snacks and alcohol are not included and are at your own expense. If you have any special dietary requirements let us know so we can organise things in advance for you.
- Accommodation is based on twin share. A single supplement of \$149 applies.
- Luggage should be restricted to a maximum 7kg in weight and packed in a soft bag.
- In order to calculate our fuel requirements, we will need to know your weight, so don't be offended when we ask!
- We provide bottled water for you on the aircraft and a few other goodies.
- Flights, itineraries and ground arrangements can sometimes be altered due to bad weather.
- On the rare occasion that a delay occurs, there may be extra food and accommodation costs incurred which you would be expected to pay for.
- Smoking is not permitted inside the aircraft or on the tarmac.
- Our usual touring aircraft is our twin-engined Piper Navajo. Please see the Fleet page on our website [www.smartair.com.au](http://www.smartair.com.au) for more details of the aircraft.
- We can't guarantee how long the outback will remain flooded but we check regularly with people in the area and satellite images for up-to-date information.

The tour can be extended with an extra night in Broken Hill or Coober Pedy - or anywhere else you'd like to go. Just ask us.

Please contact Smartair on (02) 6021 2929 or [flying@smartair.com.au](mailto:flying@smartair.com.au) to book and to enquire about the dates of flights. Our friendly staff will help you with the paperwork and booking procedures.

