



Lake Eyre by Air

Thursday 15th June to Tuesday 20th June, 2017

Insights Tours' *Lake Eyre by Air* is a tour by private aircraft giving you the perfect opportunity to see iconic Lake Eyre and far flung and interesting parts of the Outback. If you've ever thought of seeing this colossal lake, don't wait any longer! You'll see the vast river systems where immense floods sometimes course down to Lake Eyre. The enormity of the lake can only be fully appreciated from an aerial perspective.



Cessna Caravan aircraft chartered for this tour



Cooper Creek Photo: Brian Murphy

Lake Eyre by Air has an inclusive tariff with a maximum of 7 guests and is fully escorted. The tour features Cooper Creek and the site where Burke and Wills famously and fatally, missed their relief party by hours; Birdsville Hotel and remote Kilcowera Station. You will stay at the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary in the northern Flinders Ranges and experience their award winning 4WD tour to Siller's Lookout. At the opal mining settlement of White Cliffs, we stay subterranean at the Underground Motel and at World Heritage Listed Lake Mungo we'll see the lunar lakeside environment where human remains dating from 40,000 years have been found.

Day 1 Thursday 15th June

Wollongong to Kilcowera

This morning we fly from Wollongong (Albion Park) to Bourke where we stop for a short comfort stop before heading further north-west and over the border into Queensland to Kilcowera Station. Toni and Greg are the owners of this vast station and will meet us at their airstrip and then host us for lunch. This afternoon they'll guide us on a personalised tour of some of their property and you'll see and hear what life is like on an outback station. We also see Lake Wyara which is a National Park adjoining Kilcowera station.



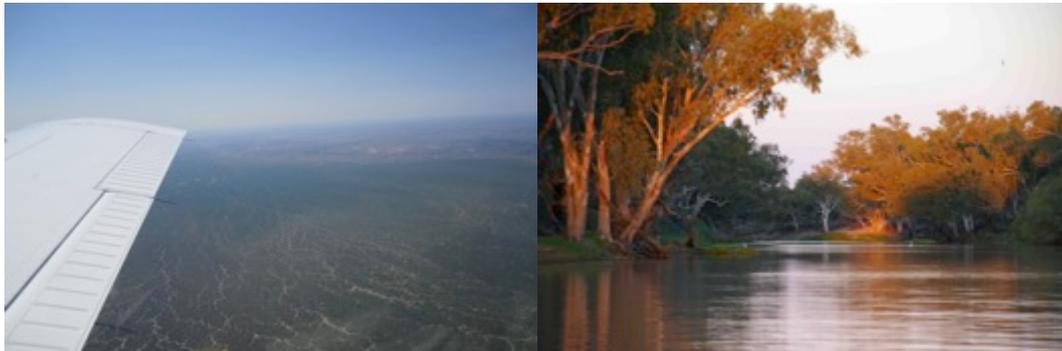
Overnight: Kilcowera Station

Kilcowera airstrip. Photo John Tuckerman

Day 2 Friday 16th June

Kilcowera to Birdsville

This morning we have a short flight to Thargomindah where a local guide will take us on a tour of this historic town situated on the Bulloo River, the first outside Brisbane to have electricity. We visit the old hydro power station as well as historic Leahy House and the restored hospital. After morning tea we return to our plane for the flight to Noccundra – and its stone hotel dating from 1882 - all that remains of a gazetted town on the banks of the Wilson River. Lunch is served in the historic dining room and afterwards you can stroll to the banks of the Wilson River. Our flight west from Noccundra affords us a tremendous view of the expansive floodplain of the Cooper Creek before we arrive at the Burke and Wills Dig Tree site.



Photos: Catriona Croghan and Brian Murphy

This is the infamous place where Burke and Wills returned from their epic overland trip to the Gulf only to find that their relief party had tragically departed only hours before the arrival of the exhausted explorers. Nappa Merrie station acts as caretaker for the site and provide a self guided interpretive exposition at this picturesque spot on the banks of Cooper Creek. It's a short walk from the nearby airstrip.

We fly over the South Australian outpost of Innamincka enroute to Birdsville over the flooded Strzelecki Desert. We have a sunset tour to "Big Red" – one of the largest sand dunes in the Simpson Desert situated about 40 kms from Birdsville where you'll experience the serenity of the desert.

Overnight at Birdsville Hotel

Day 3 Saturday 17th June Birdsville to Arkaroola

This morning we take off from Birdsville for the highlight of the tour – the mighty Lake Eyre. First we overfly Poeppe’s Corner where the borders of South Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory meet in the Simpson Desert. Then fly south over the stunning and intriguingly shaped salt lakes of the Simpson to the magnificent sight of the expanse of Lake Eyre. We see all the major watercourses which flow into Lake Eyre including Kallakoopah Creek, Warburton Creek, Cooper Creek and the Neales and Macumba Rivers. We’ll fly over the western shore of the lake and the monumental Warburton Groove – the astonishing northern entrance of the lake. After a comprehensive sightseeing flight of both Lake Eyre North and Lake Eyre South, we will land at Marree for lunch in the dining room of the Transcontinental Hotel – an imposing 2 storey structure built for the passing traffic of the original Ghan railway.



After lunch we fly about 1 hour to Arkaroola - a privately owned sanctuary in the rugged and spectacular northern Flinders Ranges, this 610sq km multi award-winning Wilderness Sanctuary, established and operated by the Sprigg family contains some of Australia's most spectacular mountain views.

Day 4 Sunday 18th June

Arkaroola to White Cliffs



Image: Siller’s Lookout

The spectacular Advanced Ecotourism accredited 4WD Ridgetop Tour is world famous journey to the depths of ancient seabeds and across razor-back ridges to the magnificent climax at Siller's Lookout. Travelling in a specially constructed open-top 4WD vehicle, the Ridgetop guided tour encompasses some of the most spectacularly rugged country on earth. A trained tour guide will share their knowledge of Arkaroola's 1600-million year geological history as they navigate the steep ascents of the Ridgetop Track.

A feature of our flight this afternoon is the experience of seeing one of Australia’s truly remarkable geological formations – Wilpena Pound – best seen from the air to appreciate all its majesty. Then we continue to White Cliffs - an opal mining town where we stay in the Underground Motel – excavated in the traditional style of the homes of White Cliffs where miners developed the idea of living underground to escape the searing summer temperatures.



White Cliffs Underground Motel



Wilpena Pound

Day 5 Monday 19th June White Cliffs to Lake Mungo

This morning we will have a short tour of White Cliffs and the opal mining areas before boarding our plane for the flight south over the Darling River and the Menindee Lakes enroute to Lake Mungo. We stay at the beautifully appointed Mungo Lodge and have lunch in the dining room. Afterwards we visit Mungo National Park which is part of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area - a chain of dried-out lakes that were once strung between Willandra Creek and the main channel of the Lachlan River in Outback NSW.



Lake Mungo dried up around 14,000 years ago, and today a great crescent-shaped dune, called the Walls of China, stretches along the eastern shore of the lakebed. Mungo National Park is the site of Australia's oldest known human remains as well as where the remains of extinct buffalo-sized wombats and giant kangaroos have been found. During our guided tour we will visit Walls of China,

Lake Mungo, the expositions at the Visitor Information Centre and inspect the historic Mungo Woolshed built by Chinese laborers back in 1869. Overnight Mungo Lodge

Day 6 Tuesday 20th June Lake Mungo to Wollongong



After a leisurely breakfast we take off for Hay where we have a specially arranged tour of the town with a local guide. We'll visit the Shear Outback exposition which tells the stories of the Outback's legendary shearers. We'll also visit the Dunera Museum situated in the Hay Railway Station which details Hay's World War 2 POW camp history. After lunch in Hay we fly

across NSW to arrive at Wollongong about 5pm.

General Information and conditions of booking

Cost The cost of this tour is \$6,495

The cost includes:

- private, chartered aircraft
- good motel style accommodation on a twin share basis for 5 nights
- all sightseeing excursions,
- all meals
- services of Insights Tours' escort throughout the tour
- all taxes and charges
- bottled water and light snacks during flights

The additional costs are: drinks, cost of travel insurance, items of a personal nature and anything not included above.

To make a booking

Please complete the enclosed booking form and return it to Insights Tours with your deposit. Places on the tour require a \$500 deposit.

The balance will be due by Thursday 13th April 2017

Cancellations policy

If you need to cancel your booking prior to or on Thursday 13th April 2017 – the cancellation fee will be equivalent to the amount of the deposit. That is, there is no refund of the deposit.

If you need to cancel your booking after Thursday 13th April 2017 - the cancellation fee is 100% of the total tariff. That is, there is no refund of the total tariff.

Insights Tours strongly recommends that you consider travel insurance in case you need to cancel.

Insurance

We strongly recommend considering travel insurance to cover cancellation penalties. Insights Tours can provide information about obtaining insurance. We are an accredited agent of Aussie Travel Cover insurance.

Viability of tour

In the event that the economic minimum number of guests is not reached, the tour will be cancelled by Insights Tours no later than Thursday 13th April 2017 and we will refund in full any money paid.

Luggage

Please limit your luggage to a maximum of 10 kgs per person in a soft bag

Aircraft

The aircraft that we will be travelling in is an 8 seat Cessna Caravan turbo prop plane. Guest numbers will be limited to a maximum of 7 to ensure your safety and comfort. The aircraft has been chartered by Insights Tours from There by Air Pty Ltd and the aircraft is the same type as that pictured on the front of this brochure. The Cessna Caravan offers a spacious interior, combined with first class safety and performance. It is powered by a Pratt and Whitney PT-6 Turboprop engine - one of the most reliable engines in the world.

Each guest has a window seat and because the aircraft has a high wing, each passenger is afforded uninterrupted viewing. There are air-stairs which provide easy access to the cabin.

In flight refreshments

During flights Insights Tours provides complimentary bottled water and light snacks.

Accommodation

The standard of accommodation is good motel type accommodation except for Killcowera Station where our accommodation is in the renovated Shearers Quarters. These rooms are comfortable and well maintained but do not have ensuite facilities. Showers and toilets are located in a separate adjacent building.

The cost of the tour is based on twin share accommodation.

Single accommodation is available for an additional cost of \$235.

Insights Tours

Insights Tours is a boutique tour business operated by Paul and John Tuckerman. We arrange tours which utilise coaches, aeroplanes and trains and provide our guests with spacious and comfortable travelling conditions. Our philosophy is to arrange tours with a spectrum of interesting visits, inspections and conveyances. Each tour is uniquely arranged to encompass the best insights of the regions visited.

Passenger numbers are limited to ensure a commodious travelling experience and to ensure that visits and guided tours are of maximum benefit. This tour is for a maximum of 7 guests.

Each of our tours is personally escorted ensuring you can relax in the confidence that all of the pesky administrative details and arrangements are being taken care of.

This tour will be escorted by John Tuckerman

There is always the chance that our itinerary could be delayed or curtailed in some way beyond our control. Except for prolonged or unexpected events, the tour will be conducted as closely as possible to the itinerary stated above. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to conduct the advertised itinerary however we reserve the right to alter the itinerary in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

If you would like details or assistance with any bookings, or have any questions about the itinerary, please contact Paul Tuckerman

Insights Tours

Telephone: (61) 02 42 672535

Facsimile: (61) 02 42 675530

Email: paul@insightstours.com.au

Postal: PO Box 180, Thirroul NSW 2515

In person: at 14 Allenby Parade Bulli (please make an appointment to ensure our office is attended when you visit)

BOOKING FORM

LAKE EYRE BY AIR 15th June to 22nd June, 2017

Insights Tours

14 Allenby Parade Bulli NSW 2516
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Facsimile: (61) 02 42 675530
Post: PO Box 180, Thirroul NSW 2515
Web: www.insightstours.com.au
Email: paul@insightstours.com.au

Name/s:.....

Address:

.....

Telephone:.....Email.....

Any special requirements or requests:.....

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Contact in an emergency:.....

Room type: please circle your choice: Twin Double Single

Deposit

Cheque enclosed. (please make cheques payable to Insights Tours)

Electronic / bank transfer. Our account details are:

- Name of account: Insights Tours client travel account
- BSB: 062 607
- Account number: 1013 1313

I / we acknowledge the general information and conditions of booking

Signature/s: