

See the Flooded Outback Air Tour

There have been massive floods throughout Queensland, Northern NSW and South Australia during the past few months. All this water is draining south towards Lake Eyre, Trevor Wright from Wright's Air at William Creek says Lake Eyre has more water in it this year than last year. The Eyre Creek west of Birdsville is in flood, the Diamantina River is in flood and the Cooper Creek is in flood. At the height of the Cooper Creek flood the water reached a depth of 9 metres over the causeway at Innamincka. It has been 20 years since so much water flowed down the Cooper Creek and it is expected to cross the Birdsville Track sometime in June, which last occurred in 1990!



Lake Eyre

Here is your chance to get out and see outback Australia flooded in a way that has not occurred for 20 years. The itinerary is as follows:-

- Day 1** 0900 Meet pilot at Olympic Dam airport
Fly over Lake Eyre to witness the flooding of this usually dry salt lake and follow the flooded Warburton Groove through Goyders Lagoon to Birdsville. Land at Birdsville and enjoy lunch in the famous Birdsville Hotel. After lunch fly over the Diamantina River system and Lake Machattie where hundred's of birds should be nesting. Land at Bedourie and check into the rustic 1890's Bedourie Hotel for the evening. Dinner served at the hotel and breakfast at the roadhouse next morning.
- Day 2** Depart Bedourie and fly west into the Simpson Desert following the flooded course of Eyre Creek. We then track south over the Simpson Desert following Eyre Creek which is in flood and teeming with birdlife until we reach the vehicle access track through the desert known as the QAA Line. We then follow this east to the mighty Big Red sand dune 40 k's west of Birdsville and drop back into Birdsville for lunch at the Bakery and a stroll through the Birdsville Working Museum.



Big Red

After lunch we fly south east over Coongie Lake which is in full flood and then up the Cooper Creek to the famous Dig Tree and the Burke & Wills bridge which was severely damaged when the floodwaters actually overtopped the bridge. Then we fly back down along the Cooper to Innamincka. Tonight we stay in the Innamincka hotel/motel and enjoy a great outback dinner.



Eye Creek floods

Day 3

After a big cooked breakfast in Innamincka we board our plane and fly along the Cooper Creek over Lake Hope and view the Cooper Creek as it continues to flood towards the Birdsville Track (note the Cooper is expected to cross the Birdsville Track by mid – late June). We then fly to Marree for lunch in the hotel. After lunch we take to the skies again and continue west crossing Lake Eyre South on our way along the Oodnadatta Track for an afternoon sunset fly over the beautiful Painted Hills before landing at William Creek. Dinner in the famous William Creek Hotel.

Day 4

An early rise and breakfast in the hotel before our flight back to Olympic Dam where we arrive by 7.30am in time for the first flights out that day.



The Cooper Creek near Innamincka

Tour cost is as follows:-

Based on 6 passengers in the plane total fee per person \$2260

Based on 5 passengers in the plane total fee per person \$2540

Based on 4 passengers in the plane total fee per person \$2960

(all prices are single share)

This fee includes all plane flights from Olympic Dam and back to Olympic Dam as described above. All meals from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 4.

Not included are your flights/accommodation/meals to Olympic Dam prior to the start of the tour and from Olympic Dam after the tour. Drinks are also not included other than tea/coffee with the meals.

Dates for the Tour based on pick up and return to Olympic Dam

11-14 June 2010 Fully Booked

18-21 June 2010 Seats available

If you wish to join one of these amazing outback flood flight tours email your intention to info@greatdividetours.com.au and nominate your date of choice. Once sufficient bookings for the tour to proceed are received (Min 4 and Max 6 persons - note costs based on Min and Max numbers) I will contact you and confirm your booking which requires full payment of the tour fee within 3 days. The tour fee is not refundable unless Great Divide Tours cancels your tour or your spot can be filled by another booking.

Once I have confirmed the tour is proceeding you should then make your flight arrangements to and from Olympic Dam. There are direct flights daily to and from Olympic Dam via Adelaide. There is accommodation located 10 kilometres to the south of Olympic Dam at Roxby Downs contact **Oasis Roxby Downs Motor Inn** Telephone; (08) 8671 0311

Vic Widman
Great Divide Tours
02 9913 1395