

# Birdsville Races & Lake Eyre Tours & Flights



**From Alice Springs - September 4 - 10, 2013** - via Plenty Highway, Boulia, Birdsville Races, Birdsville Track, Marree, Lake Eyre, Leigh Creek to Adelaide. 7 days/6 nights

**From Adelaide - September 4 - 10 - Lake Eyre, Cooper Creek & Birdsville Races** – 7 day / 6 night tour as below from Day 3. Includes **Birdsville races**, wetlands walk, Birdsville Track, Simpson Desert, “Big Red” sandhill, Flinders Ranges & Lake Eyre Tour & Flight, Mungerannie wetlands. Tour from **Adelaide return to Adelaide** - Tour Code ECB7

**Sydney to Adelaide - September 4 - 10** – 7 day tour as below from day 3. Depart Sydney via **Bourke, Innamincka, Bourke & Wills Dig Tree, Birdsville races**, wetlands walk, Birdsville Track, Simpson Desert, “Big Red” sandhill, Flinders Ranges & Lake Eyre Tour & Flight, Mungerannie wetlands. Tour from **Sydney to Adelaide** SVE7

**Fly in 3 day Birdsville Races & Lake Eyre** from Adelaide Sept 6-8 - See <http://spiritsafaris.com/pdf/Birdsville-Races-fly-in.pdf>

4 Wheel Drive Tours Include spectacular 1 hr 30 min (or extend to 2.5hrs) **Scenic flight over Lake Eyre, 2 full days of Birdsville Races**, visit to **Big Red**, the **Simpson Desert’s** biggest sand hill, **Birdsville Track**, scenic Flinders Ranges, Oodnadatta Track, Lake Eyre Flight includes Elliot Price Conservation Park, major islands & landmarks. PLUS 4WD with wildlife & bird watching to Lake Eyre National Park on the lake shores. Return to Adelaide via Clare Valley.



Birdsville town during Races – Bruce Hutchison Photography



Birdsville Races

## From Alice Springs to Adelaide via Birdsville Races & Lake Eyre – 7 days / 6 nights

**Day 1** – Depart Alice Springs 9am for morning tea at Gemtree and check out the gems, crystals and mineral specimens as well as local Aboriginal Art and artefacts at this popular destination. Our journey takes us via Strangeways Range, then the rugged Harts Range to Jervois, which is our last fuel stop. Jervois is a cattle station, formed in 1960, and one of the last stations to be taken up in the area. Travelling the Plenty Highway we skirt the northern edge of the Simpson Desert with likely plenty of wildflowers lining the roadside. Enjoy an open campfire under the stars tonight at a remote bush camp. LD



Water inflow to Lake Eyre



Old Afghan Mosque from camel train days

**Day 2** – After breakfast, we are back on the road via remote cattle stations and cross the NT/Queensland border to arrive Boulia for lunch. Boulia is the capital of the Channel Country – the great river system that feeds Lake Eyre. The Min Min lights exhibition and show is a town highlight. Now we head south via salt lakes and cattle stations to Bedourie, and on to Birdsville and the welcoming festivities, hot shower and campsite.

**Day 3** – Its race day for 2 days with an active social program supporting the **Royal Flying Doctor Service**. You are issued with a **Birdsville Race Club Medallion** for entry to all events, including the races, and may attend the **Birdsville Dance & the Birdsville Ball**, enjoy a drink at the Birdsville Pub and tune up your whip cracking skills for the competition.. If touring from Adelaide, tour arrives at lunchtime with Big Red tour option available.

**Day 4** – The BIG DAY at Birdsville Races – 12 races are on the program. You choose if you wish to attend all or just be amused by the characters and many activities and spontaneous entertainment available. Dance night tonight – the biggest social event on the local calendar. Before the races we will also visit Big Red, the Simpson Desert’s biggest sand hill.

**Day 5** – Today we head off south on the **Birdsville Track** following the spectacular **Diamantina River via Goyder Lagoon**. (recently flooding) Enjoy a break at **Mungerannie Hotel**, views of the salt lakes and rich vegetation after recent rains on this remote iconic Australian route. Overnight Marree Hotel with campfire option available.

# Birdsville Races & Lake Eyre Tour & Flight - 7 day tour



Continued



**Flinders Ranges**

**Day 6** – From Marree, we take a 1 hr 30 min **scenic flight over Lake Eyre**. Our flight allows us to see the Warburton Groove, the main inflow channel to Lake Eyre, Elliot Price Conservation Park, Halligan Bay, Lake Eyre South and the Marree Man ( a giant sculpture in the landscape). On return to base, we see some of the sights of Marree, this once thriving Ghan Railway town. Marree is caretaker for some interesting railway relics, plus the old mail truck used by legendary outback mailman Tom Kruse on his run from Marree to Birdsville. We visit the shores of Lake Eyre and Lake Eyre National Park and connect with the wonder of the bird and plant life revitalised by recent flooding rains in a permanent waterhole. Overnight in Marree with a few yarns around the campfire (optional), the bar, or just take it easy.

**Day 7** – Today we visit the Old Ghan ghost town of **Farina**, view the giant **Leigh Creek** coal mine, the fascinating and colourful Ochre Pits and travel via old Ghan railway towns including Parachilna & Beltana (time permitting) via the **Flinders Ranges** to Hawker and picturesque mountain landscapes. We visit the impressive Kanyaka Station & stone woolshed ruins (time permitting) as we follow the Old Ghan Railway Line via Quorn, through the Pitchie Ritchie Pass and the breathtaking view of Spencers Gulf & Port Augusta to arrive Adelaide around 6pm, delivered to your accommodation or airport connection.

## Tour Inclusions

- Small group luxury 4WD travel (usually 4-6 / vehicle) with professional and experienced driver / guide
- Corporate Marquee entry 2 days, Entry medallion to all Birdsville Races events, including dance night
- Scenic Flight over Lake Eyre
- All delicious meals, including vegetarian, unless noted in itinerary.
- All camping gear which is modern and easy to use.
- All World Heritage and National Park entry and accommodation fees, hotel pickups
- Contributions of tour price supports Outback Kids and nature care programs.

## Birdsville Races & Lake Eyre Tour & Flight

**September 4 -10, 2013**



**Alice Springs, Birdsville to Adelaide** via Plenty Highway, Boulia, Birdsville Races, Birdsville Track, Marree, Lake Eyre. **7 days / 6 nights** including Lake Eyre flight, all meals, 4WD transport, comfy camping + includes 2 nights hotel \$3,300 - Code BVE7

**Adelaide, Birdsville to Adelaide - September 4 - 10 - Lake Eyre, Cooper Creek & Birdsville Races** – 7 day tour as above. Includes **Birdsville races**, wetlands walk, Birdsville Track, Simpson Desert, “Big Red” sandhill, Flinders Ranges & Lake Eyre Tour & Flight, Mungerannie wetlands. Tour from **Adelaide to Adelaide** - \$ 3,300 Code ECB7

**Sydney, Birdsville to Adelaide - September 4 - 10** – 7 day tour as above. Departs Sydney via Bourke, Innamincka, Bourke & Wills Dig Tree, **Birdsville races**, wetlands walk, Birdsville Track, Simpson Desert, “Big Red” sandhill, Flinders Ranges & Lake Eyre Tour & Flight. Tour from **Sydney to Adelaide** - \$ 3,300 Tour Code SVE7

Lake Eyre Flight

**\$2,995 - SAVING \$305 IF BOOKED BY APRIL 25**

**Book Now Call 1300 763 188**