

Sydney Social Flying

June 2025 Air Safari

Destination William Creek

7 Night Flying Adventure to Central Australia



OUTBACK PUBS FOR LUNCH, DIG TREE, KATI THANDA (LAKE EYRE), WILLIAM CREEK, INNAMINCKA, ARKARoola, BIRDSVILLE



June 2025 Air Safari – William Creek



Air Safari Lead

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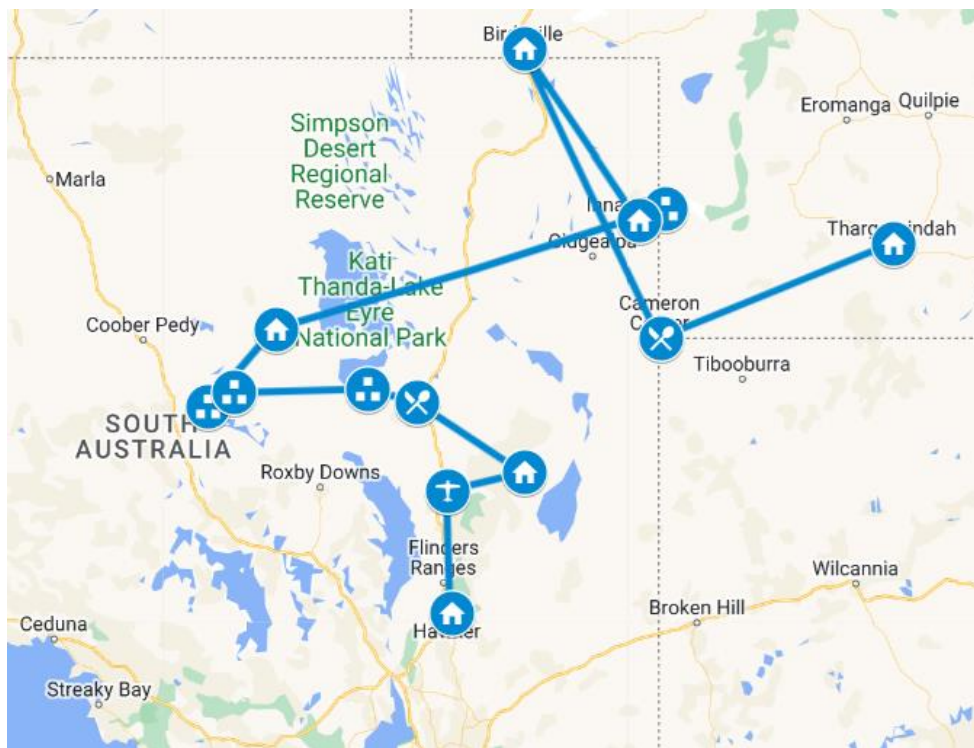
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Date	Route	Overnight	Distance (nm)
By 14-Jun	Home Base to YHAW	Hawker	
15-Jun	YHAW-YLEC-ARK	Arkaroola	124
17-Jun	YTGM-Cameron Corner-Nappa Merrie Dig Tree-YARK	Arkaroola	282
16-Jun	Rest Day	Arkaroola	
17-Jun	YARK-YMRE-Marree Man-Painted Hills-Prominent Hill-YWMC	William Creek	281
18-Jun	YWMC-Nappa Merrie Dig Tree-YIMT	Innamincka	281
19-Jun	YIMT-YBDV	Birdsville	133
20-Jun	YBDV-Cameron Corner-Nappa-YTGM	Thargomindah	367
21-Jun	YTGM to Home Base		
Totals	9 Stops	7 Nights	1,186

Note: Distances exclude travel to start location and return to home airport



Cost Summary

Price Type	Single Occupancy	Double / Twin Share
Base Inclusive Price	\$3,100	\$2,400

- Prices are quoted per person.
- Accommodation prices, which exclude getting to Hawker and returning from Thargomindah, are for 7 nights.
- **Pricing includes** Many meals - seven breakfasts, three lunches and six dinners.
- **Pricing includes** Airport transfers at Hawker, Arkaroola, Marree, Innamincka and Thargomindah.
- **Pricing excludes** Activities. A list of optional activities can be found on the Activities page towards the end of this document. The total price of all Activities would be an additional \$498 per person. Please note, morning tea is inclusive with the Arkaroola Ridgeway Tour and drinks and nibbles with the Birdsville Big Red sunset tour.

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to secure your place.

William Creek Air Safari Participants will be advised their total cost by late April, with final payment expected May 2025.





June 2025 Air Safari – William Creek

Terms and Conditions

Sydney Social Flying is a tour company, that arranges accommodation, catering, transfers, and activities for Safari participants.

It is the responsibility of the pilot in command and passengers to ensure the safe operation of the aircraft that they are travelling in.

All participants accept Sydney Social Flying may change the itinerary.

Sydney Social Flying makes no assurance that the information in this document or any other documents relating to Safaris is correct.

Payments you make to Sydney Social Flying may be used to pay for; accommodation, landside activities, tours, restaurants, and other planned activities.

On making your payment, you are authorizing Sydney Social Flying to make bookings on your behalf. Sydney Social Flying payments to suppliers are subject to their Terms and Conditions. Should you need to cancel your booking, this could result in cancellation charges being levied by suppliers.

Our cancellation policy is as follows. Sydney Social Flying will refund the monies paid, less any supplier cancellation fees. Additionally, we reserve the right to charge up to a \$250 per person cancellation administration fee.

Itinerary Saturday 14 to Saturday June 21

DAY ONE Saturday June 14

Hawker, a small community of around 300 people, is the first night of this year’s William Creek Air Safari.

The town was surveyed during March 1880, and was proclaimed on 1 July 1880, named after George Charles Hawker, whose main claim to fame seems to be Speaker of the South Australia Parliament.

The railway reached Hawker in 1881 and was a significant link on the Adelaide Darwin railway until replaced by the standard gage line, which was routed about 100 kilometers to the west in 1980.

Throughout the 1880s the town became the hub for the wheat farming in the area. The wheat was recognized as some of the best in South Australia and bullock teams brought it to the railhead for shipment to the flour mills to the south.



Wilpena Pound

DAY TWO Sunday June 15

Flying via Leigh Creek to Arkaroola will provide spectacular views of the 800-million-year-old Wilpena Pound, perhaps the most well-known landmark in the Flinders Range.

With 610 square kilometers of freehold and pastoral lease, the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary was established by geologist / biologist Reg Sprigg in 1968 through his purchase of the pastoral lease, followed by its subsequent conversion to a wilderness sanctuary.

The area around Arkaroola is sprinkled with many abandoned small mine, and The Arkaroola Protection Act 2012, enabled Arkaroola to be listed on the South Australian Heritage Register as a prerequisite for eventual national and world heritage listings.

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Hawker (YHAW)	Leigh Creek (YLEC)	351	75
Leigh Creek (YLEC)	Arkaroola (YARK)	070	49



Arkaroola Village

DAY THREE Monday June 16



Lake Frome, Arkaroola Ridgetop Tour

There will be an opportunity on the Arkaroola rest day to take the half day Ridgetop tour.

The Ridgetop country is the oldest part of the Flinders Ranges, much of it is granite, but also includes some even more ancient sedimentary rock that was laid down in an ancient sea nearly 1,600 million years ago.

The geological history of this region is fascinating – with the granites fracturing and impregnated with uranium 440 million years ago. These have since been dissolved from the rocks and dumped on the eastern plains where it is recovered at the Beverley uranium mine a few kilometres out on the plains below Sillers Lookout.

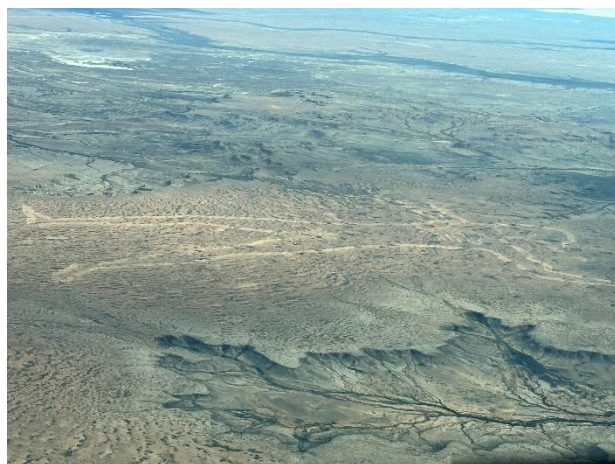
Other photo opportunities on this tour include Freeling Heights, a ring of saw toothed blue mountains that fringe the Mawson Plateau and the 1,000 meter deep Yudnamutana Gorge.

DAY FOUR Tuesday June 17

Leaving late morning, first stop is Marree Hotel for lunch. Following this, the Maree to William Creek route can take you 30 nautical miles to the west via Marree Man, Anna Creek Painted Hills and the Prominent Hill mine with perhaps a detour via Kati Thanda (Lake Eyre) .

The Painted Hills, which are not widely known, are a 30 by 10 km area of sandstone outcroppings of vivid colours that emerge suddenly out of the desert and are a result of 50 million years of climate change that have laid bare the desert's oxidised rock strata.

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Arkaroola (YARK)	Marree (YMRE)	297	80
Maree (YMRE)	Marree Man	278	32
Marree Man	Anna Creek Painted Hills	262	86
Anna Creek Painted Hills	Prominent Hill (YPMH)	236	18
Prominent Hill (YPMH)	William Creek (YWMC)	035	65



Marree Man

DAY FIVE Wednesday June 18

Today's flight to Innamincka will take you over Kati Thanda (Lake Eyre), offering many photo opportunities. Twenty miles east of Innamincka is Nappa Merrie Dig Tree of Burke and Wills fame.

There are actually two trees here - the famous Dig Tree with instructions on how to locate the food cache blazed into it, and about 30 meters downstream the Face Tree which has Burke's face carved into it. This was done in 1898 by John Dick.

This monument serves as a poignant reminder of the extreme harshness of the outback. The events at Cooper Creek in 1861 serve as case study in how a little bit more communication and initiative may have prevented the deaths of Burke and Wills.

Later that afternoon in Innamincka, there will be an opportunity for a leisurely boat cruise on Cooper Creek.

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
William Creek (YWMC)	Nappa Merrie Dig Tree	066	262
Nappe Merrie Dig Tree	Innamincka (YIMT)	240	19



Cooper Creek at Dig Tree

DAY SIX Thursday June 19

Birdsville, staying at the Birdsville Hotel is our destination today.

Birdsville is situated between the eastern edge of the Simpson Desert, the vast gibber plains of Sturt's Stony Desert to the south and rich Channel Country to the north.

Once a notorious place through which cattle drovers moved their stock, on arrival you may find time for a walk around town or just enjoy a cold drink at the Birdsville Hotel. Try a curried camel pie at the Birdsville Bakery, if you get the opportunity!

The Big Red Sunset Tour, takes you for a tour around town, including a visit to the Birdsville racetrack before ending on the top of the 30-meter-high Big Red Sandhill for sunset.

This is great spot to enjoy fantastic outback views while enjoying drinks and nibbles, getting back in time for dinner at the pub.

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Innamincka (YIMT)	Birdsville (YBDV)	318	133



Big Red Sandhills, Birdsville

DAY SEVEN Friday June 20

The flight from Birdsville today will first take you to Cameron Corner, named after John Brewer Cameron who undertook the initial survey of the New South Wales and Queensland border, completing the task in 1880. It as an excellent spot for a break.

Thargomindah is where we stay for the last night. It has an interesting history, having in 1893, the first electric street lighting in Australia. In the world, it was the third after London and Paris to have hydro electric street lightings. The historic hospital, Hydro Power Plant and Leahy House built in the 1880s are good places to visit if you have time for a walk.

Dinner that night is at the motel with the Bullo River Hotel Motel across the road being an excellent venue for a debrief of the day's flying!

Depart	Arrive	Track (Mag)	Dist (nm)
Birdsville (YBDV)	Cameron Corner	149	206
Cameron Corner	Thargomindah (YTGM)	059	161

DAY EIGHT Saturday June 21

After a hearty breakfast it is time to say good bye to your fellow travellers and set off for home.



**Verandah Wing,
Old Thargomindah Hospital (1888)**





June 2025 Air Safari – William Creek Accommodation

Date	Destination	Accommodation	Web Site	Phone
Sat Jun 14	Hawker	Outback Chapmanton Motel	https://www.outbackmotel.com.au	(08) 8648 4100
Sun Jun 15 Mon Jun 16	Arkaroola	Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary	https://www.arkaroola.com.au	(08) 8648 4848
Tue Jun 17	William Creek	William Creek Hotel	https://www.williamcreekhotel.com	(08) 8670 7880
Wed Jun 18	Innamincka	Innamincka Hotel	https://innaminckahotel.com.au	(08) 8675 9901
Thu Jun 19	Birdsville	Birdsville Hotel	https://birdsvillehotel.com.au	(07) 4656 3244
Fri Jun 20	Thargomindah	Oasis Motel	http://www.thargomindah-oasis.com.au	(07) 4655 3155

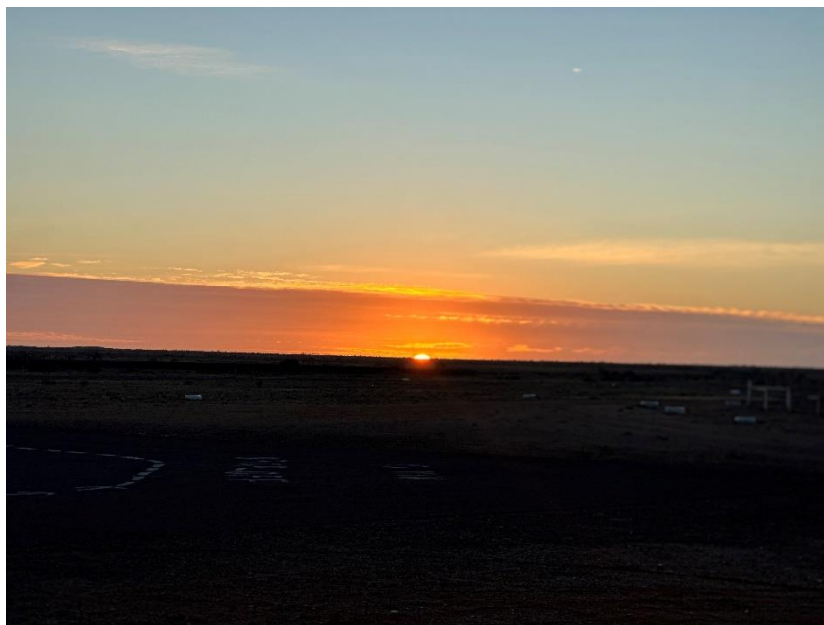
Included Transfers are Hawker, Arkaroola, Innamincka, and Thargomindah airfield to accommodation return. Accommodation at William Creek and Birdsville is within walking distance from aircraft parking.

Included Meals are breakfasts on all mornings, lunches Cameron Corner, Arkaroola and Maree, and dinners all evenings except at Hawker.

Tours

Date	Location	Activity	Start	Duration	Cost (Per Person)
Sun Jun 15 or Mon Jun 16	Arkaroola	# Astronomy Tour	19:00	2.0 hours	\$65
Mon Jun 16	Arkaroola	# Ridgetop Tour	08:00	4.0 hours	\$210
Wed Jun 20	Innamincka	# Cooper Creek Cruise	16:00	1.0 hour	\$75
Thu Jun 19	Birdsville	# Big Red Sunset Tour	16:00	3.0 hours	\$148

Likely most popular tours which come to a total of \$498 per person.



Airfields

Airfield	ICAO Code	Fuel Provider	Phone	Payment Method	Self Service
Dubbo	YSDU	Viva	0407 708 866	Fuel2Scy Card, Visa or Master CC	Yes
		Air BP	0419 767 200	Air BP Carnet	No
Bourke	YBKE	Viva	0448 821 146	Fuel2Sky Card, Visa or Master CC	Yes
Thargomindah	YTGM	Bullo Shire Council	07 4621 8000	Visa or Master CC	Yes
Birdsville	YBDV	Birdsville Aviation Fuel	(07) 4656 3244	Fuel Charge	No
Cameron Corner		N/A			
Nappa Merrie Dig Tree		N/A			
Innamincka	YIMT	Innamincka Trading Post	08 8675 9900	Visa or Master CC	No
Arkaroola	YARK	Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary	(08) 8648 4848	Visa or Master CC Prior Notice Required	No
William Creek	YWMC	Wrights Air	0434 777 930	Visa or Master CC	Yes
Hawker	YHAW	Finders Range Council	0428 486 031	Visa or Master CC	Yes
Leigh Creek	YLEC	Flying Fuels	0412 602 447	Visa or Master CC	Yes
Broken Hill	YBHI	Air BP	0408 728 605	Air BP Carnet	Yes
Forbes	YFBS	Forbes Shire Council	(02) 6850 2874	All Credit Cards	Yes

Maintenance Organisations

Organisation	Location	Web Site	Contact
Sigma Aerospace	Tamworth Airport	https://www.sigmaaerospace.com.au	(02) 6760 7644
Beal Aircraft Maintenance	Dubbo Airport	https://www.facebook.com/Beal-Aircraft-Maintenance-916081998443530	(02) 6884 1000
Aircraft Services Wee Waa	“Nurrwyn” Wee Waa		(02) 6795 4496
Western Queensland Air Maintenance	Charleville Airport		(07) 4654 3030 0428 441 448 (after hours)
Consolidated Aviation	Broken Hill Airport		(08) 8088 4307
TAE Aviation Pty Ltd	Parafield Airport		(08) 8258 9040



Links

<https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/hawker-sa>

<https://southaustralia.com/destinations/flinders-ranges-and-outback/places/wilpena-pound>

<https://www.arkaroola.com.au>

<https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/marree-sa>

<https://www.ritas-outback-guide.com/Marree.html>

<http://www.ausemade.com.au/sa/destination/w/william-creek/william-creek-images-03.htm>

<https://www.williamcreekhotel.com>

<http://www.thargotourism.com.au/dig-tree>

<http://www.thargotourism.com.au/the-burke-and-wills-dig-tree>

<http://www.thargotourism.com.au/documents/766737/1008714/Dig%20Tree%20-%20Information%20Sheet.pdf>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-29/national-heritage-status-burke-and-wills-dig-tree-tourism-boost/7125968>

<http://www.innaminckatp.com.au>

http://www.outbacknow.com.au/index.php/towns/detail/south_australia/outback_sa/innamincka

<https://birdsvillehotel.com.au>

<https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/birdsville-qld>

<https://www.outbackqueensland.com.au/town/birdsville>

<https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/thargomindah-qld>

