NATURAL LANDMARKS

Lake Eyre

North of the Flinders Ranges, in South Australia, is Lake Eyre. Covering an area of 8430 square kilometres – 144 kilometres long and 77 kilometres wide – Lake Eyre is the largest of South Australia’s salt lakes.

Located within Lake Eyre National Park, Lake Eyre is the driest part of Australia and receives very little rain – not usually more than 75 millimetres per year.

Lake Eyre is huge, flat and blinding in the sunlight. The surface is dry and cracked and sand-like. This salt crust is soft and thin and footprints easily break through to reveal a second layer underneath of slippery black-streaked clay.

The heat reflected off the lake’s surface creates a mirage that makes it look like there is water further on when, in fact, there is none.

Belt Bay, within the area of Lake Eyre, is the lowest point in Australia at 15.2 metres below sea level.

\[\text{Lake Eyre only fills with water when there has been heavy rainfall.}\]