

Media backgrounder



Design at Baillie Lodges' Longitude 131°

New Features at Longitude 131° from 2017 onwards

Longitude 131° at Uluru-Kata Tjuta is one of five luxury lodges in Australia in the Baillie Lodges portfolio, making the outback connection to Silky Oaks Lodge in Queensland's Daintree, The Louise in South Australia's Barossa Valley, Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island (currently closed and under rebuild) and Capella Lodge on subtropical Lord Howe Island.

A significant refurbishment at Longitude 131° was completed in 2017 and was the third and most revolutionary enhancement undertaken by Baillie Lodges since the property became part of the boutique portfolio in November 2013.

Combining Baillie Lodges owners James and Hayley Baillie's inspired design aesthetic and renowned attention to detail with the vision of Max Pritchard Gunner Architects (MPG), in 2017 the luxury outback camp Longitude 131° was considered an icon reinvented.

The Dune Pavilion

Designed to offer the ultimate in outback luxury, the Dune Pavilion is Australia's only accommodation to offer views of both World Heritage-listed icons Uluru and Kata Tjuta. The premium suite is designed in the style of a contemporary Australian homestead and is considered the star of the luxury desert camp.

The Dune Pavilion may be configured as one- or two-bedroom accommodation with king or twin bedding and features floor-to-ceiling glass walls, an expansive exterior deck and private plunge pool.

Longitude 131°'s trademark safari tent structure can be found here in the lounge room where a canopy ascends to the ceiling, while an EcoSmart fireplace creates an atmosphere of luxurious warmth. A Bang & Olufsen entertainment system puts the guest in charge of their surrounds, and custom-designed Ross Gardam feature lights set the tone.

The Dune Pavilion embraces a suite of custom-designed furniture and stylish joinery showcasing Australian Blackwood, the result of a collaborative vision shared by MPG Architects, the Baillies and Tobias Staheli of Spatial Expressions in Adelaide.

Included are hand-crafted beds, desks and couches in each bedroom, as well as the living room centrepiece, a contemporary lounge curved to embrace the view of Uluru beyond. Adelaide designer Jon Goulder's limited edition 'Settler's Chair' invites sophisticated relaxation, Baillie Lodges-style.

A series of six awe-inspiring First Nations artworks in the Dune Pavilion was commissioned from the Tjala Arts Centre in the Amata community in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

Bathrooms look out to the vast desert landscape, with suave Italian Agape graphite-toned bath and basins complemented by stylish Australian-made Brodware fixtures in black, and both hand-held and generous rain shower options.

An outdoor deck features a generous daybed with signature swag turndown for stargazing, as well as Robert Plumb furniture and EcoSmart fires for a modern campfire effect. The circular plunge pool is inspired by a traditional homestead water tank.

Extras for guests in the Dune Pavilion include a curated bar which is available for guest use based on personal beverage preferences. Private dining options include breakfast and sunset drinks and canapes, served with a view to the outback and its natural icons Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

The Dune Top

The Dune Top is the highest point on the property, offering panoramic views of the outback and its spectacular natural icons. The new decked area is open to guests by day and night, offering several options to relax and refresh. Central to the space is a circular plunge pool which features striking black mosaic tiling and invites guests to soak in the views of the outback, drink in hand. Robert Plumb outdoor furniture creates a stylish, laidback retreat.

A 'help yourself' bar is stocked with cool drinks, with hosts at hand for cocktail tips and service during the evening. The Dune Top is a space for guests to cool-down with a drink during the summer months and provides a sunshine-warmed haven during winter. It's an ideal venue for sunset drinks and canapes, as the desert sun casts its rosy lights over Uluru before setting behind Kata Tjuta.

Four curved dining alcoves also feature on the Dune Top, linked by boardwalks and offering an intimate dining-under-the-stars experience for two to four guests.

The bar and dining tables feature quartzite tops, reminiscent of outback salt lakes, while EcoSmart fires provide the convivial warmth of a bush campfire.

The Dune Top can also be used for intimate private occasions such as barbecue breakfasts and events.

The Dune House

The hub for guest activity which includes guest reception, boutique, restaurant, bar and lounge area, The Dune House saw a dramatic transformation as part of the 2017 redesign.

Guests' arrival at Longitude 131° is via an entrance set low in the sand dune, which opens to reveal the dramatic impact of the view of Uluru holding centre stage via floor-to-ceiling windows. The canopy which has traditionally led the property's desert safari ambience complements dramatic Tasmanian Blackwood for a contemporary, grounded dimension.

Indigenous artworks commissioned from nearby Aboriginal arts communities bring a vibrant energy to the space and tell *Tjukurpa* (creation or 'dreaming') stories.

Inside, the restaurant and lounge offer dining and relaxation options for guests while an open bar is the focus point for the Dune House. Reminiscent of the convivial bar in the Great Room at sister property Southern Ocean Lodge, the bar at Longitude 131° is also generously self-serve and features more than 500 individually crafted ceramic tiles representing desert spinifex from the Aboriginal arts community at Ernabella.

A group of 26 Ernabella artists was commissioned to paint the tiles by hand, with the project led by young community member Marceena Jack aged just 19 and including ladies aged up to 60 years.

Outside, an expanded terrace offers guests space to enjoy breakfast or lunch in the open air.

Swimming Pool

The swimming pool was also given a make-over as part of the refurbishment and is reminiscent of a modern outback billabong. Tallowwood decking with contemporary, integrated day beds surround the pool, offering protection from the sun with built-in shade structures.

During summer, a light mist emanating from the overhead awning keeps guests cool. Handmade ceramic side-tables by Robert Plumb contribute to a stylish poolside ambience. There's also a self-serve pool bar and towels are readily available.

Spa Kinara

The 2017 reinvention of Longitude 131° included the introduction of a spa to the property. Spa Kinara, meaning moon) takes its design inspiration from the traditional Indigenous shelter or '*wiltja*'.

The dome-shaped main spa retreat or '*wiltja*' features rusted steel and curved ply, while six birds created by the Tjanpi Weavers in the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Lands and woven in desert spinifex take flight towards the imagined outback sky. Colourful ceramic beakers from Ernabella shine in backlit interior alcoves while outside a Belgian-designed Vola outdoor shower provides a rejuvenating rinse-off in the open air.

A second spa '*wiltja*' showcases the *Kulata* installation of 25 traditional spears set strikingly against graphite walls. The spears are handcrafted by the men of Ernabella under the guidance of elder Adrian Intjalki who teaches the community's younger men the skills and meaning of the craft. Complex in design, the spears are made up of three types of wood, a mulga spearhead and bound with sinew from emu or kangaroo.

A menu of spa treatments uses the LI'TYA spa care range as well as locally sourced outback botanicals and ingredients including *irmangka-irmangka*, a balm crated by the ladies in the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Lands Women's Council from the hand-picked leaves of Salted Emu bush found in the central deserts.

Key Designers

James and Hayley Baillie are both passionate about contemporary design and together work with Australian designers to create their own breed of luxury lodges with a luxurious and welcoming 'at home' feel.

Max Pritchard Gunner Architects (MPG)

Architect Max Pritchard brought to life James and Hayley's vision for Baillie Lodges' flagship property Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island, and has designed a range of pavilion and treehouse style residential and commercial buildings in spectacular locations around Australia.

Together with MPG partner Andrew Gunner, Max designed the balconies for the guest tents which were implemented at Longitude 131° in 2015, welcoming the outdoors into the guest experience and including an EcoSmart 'campfire' and daybed with luxury swag for sleeping under the stars.

MPG was engaged to design the 2017 transformation of Longitude 131° and worked closely with James and Hayley to deliver a world-class guest experience of Uluru-Kata Tjuta that offers both a luxurious desert sanctuary and a seamless connection to the destination.

Ernabella Arts Indigenous Community, APY Lands

First Nations artists from the Ernabella Community were commissioned to create more than 500 hand-painted tiles that line the bar in the Dune House, and around 30 of their vibrant ceramic pots provide a warm welcome in the reception area. Ceramic beakers from the community are on display in the Dune House, in Spa Kinara and in guest tents.

Paintings from the Ernabella artists are also showcased in the Dune House, with a number having been painted onsite during artists-in-residence events at Longitude 131°.

The *Kulata* installation of traditionally handcrafted spears created by the Ernabella community's male members creates an arresting presence at Spa Kinara.

Maruku Arts Centre, Uluru

A significant collection of traditional First Nations woodwork or '*punu*' was purchased from Maruku Arts Centre, including a number of '*coolamon*' or traditional water-carrying vessels as well as animal carvings.

Tjala Arts Centre, Amata Indigenous Community, APY Lands

The six-piece artwork series in the Dune Pavilion was purchased from the Tjala Arts Centre at Amata Indigenous Community. The *Kungkarangkalpa* or 'Seven Sisters' painting in the Dune House also comes from a collaboration of four sisters from the Ken mob from Tjala Arts.

Three of the Tjala artists, Barbara Moore, Naomi Kantjuriny and Mona Mitakiki were also finalists in the 2017 Wynne Prize for landscape painting.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Alice Springs

Tjanpi Desert Weavers is a social enterprise of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council that enables women in Australia's remote central deserts to earn their own income from fibre art, primarily using desert spinifex.

Traditional baskets from the Tjanpi Desert Weavers feature around the Dune House and in guest tents, while a flock of six woven birds circles in the domed space of Spa Kinara.

Arthur G.

An Australian family-owned-and-operated business of more than 35 years, Arthur G produces furniture using quality craftsmanship and fine local materials. At Longitude 131° guests can relax in Arthur G-designed chairs in the guest tents and Dune Pavilion.

Baillie Beds

Designed by leading Australian bedding company AH Beard, the custom-made Baillie Bed features throughout the three Baillie Lodges properties.

EcoSmart Fires

Australian designed, environmentally friendly EcoSmart fires appear in various forms around Longitude 131°, from the Dune Top to guest balcony campfires. EcoSmart fires are in place across the Baillie Lodges properties.

Jon Goulder

Award-winning Australian designer-maker Jon Goulder specialises in designing contemporary furniture, product and interiors. Jon's leather and wood 'Settler's Chair' is featured in the Dune Pavilion. Jon is a senior lecturer at the Jam Factory in Adelaide, which has been the source of many design discoveries for Baillie Lodges.

Malcolm Greenwood

Organic-style ceramics by Sydney-based artist Malcolm Greenwood feature throughout the dining experience at Longitude 131° in hand-crafted bowls and plates, as well as in sister Baillie Lodges properties.

Nathan Day Furniture and Design

West Australia-based Nathan Day designs stylish wooden and leather furniture. For Longitude 131° Nathan has used ebonised Blackwood to create an effect of the Australian bush. His bar stools and reception chairs feature in the Dune House, while a dining table and chairs and a coffee table make a statement in the Dune Pavilion.

Pierre and Charlotte Julian

Pierre and Charlotte design and produce contemporary lighting and custom furniture using timbers unique to Tasmania, which are both beautifully crafted and environmentally responsible. Pierre and Charlotte have a long working friendship with Baillie Lodges, having worked with James Baillie at P&O Resorts in the 1990s before providing furniture and lighting for Southern Ocean Lodge.

At Longitude 131° the design duo has supplied the coffee tables and a reimagined version of the Atlas Lamp in the Dune House lounge, and dining chairs, stool and lamps in the Dune Pavilion.

Robert Plumb

Created by Sydney-based landscape designer William Dangar, Robert Plumb's Australian-made outdoor wooden furniture range has a weathered look that fits naturally with the environment. Guests will find Robert Plumb outdoor furniture in guest tents, in the Dune Pavilion, around the swimming pool and at the Dune Top. Locally-made ceramic side tables in metallic, charcoal and plum finishes feature in the Dune Pavilion, at the Dune Top and around the pool.

Ross Gardam

Australian Ross Gardam creates contemporary furniture and modern feature lighting. His lights are widely featured in the guest tents - including a desk lamp and new bedside lights, as well as custom-designed feature lights in the Dune Pavilion lounge.

spatialExpressions - Designer and craftsman Tobias Staheli

Adelaide-based Tobias Staheli is a designer and maker of fine timber furniture and customised fitouts. Working collaboratively with Max Pritchard and Andrew Gunner at MPG and James and Hayley Baillie, Tobias was responsible for bringing the vision for the Dune Pavilion fitout to life, and also designed the fine timber reception desk and convivial bar table in the Dune House.

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