

Media backgrounder



Longitude 131°

Longitude 131° is among Australia's most acclaimed luxury wilderness retreats - an exclusive collection of 16 tented pavilions with unrivalled views of the country's best-known natural wonder, Uluru (Ayers Rock).

Situated adjacent to the World Heritage-listed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Longitude 131° offers superb contemporary accommodation in the style of a luxury desert camp, right at Australia's spiritual heart.

Each of its tents has been carefully designed to have minimal impact on the delicate natural environment, standing lightly upon red sand dunes to provide an intimate encounter with the vast and unspoilt outback landscape.

First opened in 2002, Longitude 131° was designed by respected Australian architect Philip Cox, who created the outback retreat's distinctive safari tent-style guest pavilions and central Dune House.

Australian family business Baillie Lodges took over the reins at Longitude 131° in November 2013, in a lease agreement with the Indigenous Business Council of Australia, which owns the property.

Longitude 131° completed a trio of Australian luxury lodges in the Baillie Lodges portfolio, alongside flagship property Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island and Capella Lodge on Lord Howe Island.

Since 2017, Silky Oaks Lodge in Queensland's Daintree Rainforest and The Louise in South Australia's Barossa Valley have been added to the family following significant refurbishments, bringing the total number of lodges in the Australian collection to five. Overseas, Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge on Vancouver Island and the iconic Huka Lodge in Taupo, New Zealand, as well as the three Tierra Hotels properties in South America have also joined the collection.

Baillie Lodges has led a series of three multi-million dollar transformations of Longitude 131, with architectural designs commissioned by Max Pritchard who created the award-winning Southern Ocean Lodge. Baillie Lodges founders James and Hayley Baillie have taken a very personal, hands-on approach to the lodge's interior and exterior design and detail.

The most recent and significant refurbishment at Longitude 131° was completed in August 2017 with a spend of more than AU\$8 million. The project's aim was to take the property to the world-class standards of Southern Ocean Lodge; the result is considered a reinvention of an Australian icon.

Included is a remodelled central Dune House to feature new lounge areas, a stylish new bar with some 500 individually hand-painted tiles from Indigenous Arts Community Ernabella along with vibrant Indigenous artworks from communities around the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

Outside is an expanded outdoor terrace for open air dining, redesigned swimming pool and new Dune Top drinks and dining venue, while the property's new premium suite, the Dune Pavilion, is set on a private desert dune separate to shared guest areas.

Expansive and contemporary, the Dune Pavilion is Australia's only accommodation offering views of both World Heritage-listed Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas). Architecturally designed as a modern interpretation of the Australian homestead, the Pavilion is considered the star of the luxury camp. Featuring two bedrooms, separate lounge areas, a bespoke bar and private decks with daybed, luxury swag for stargazing and a trough-style plunge pool, the Dune Pavilion is the ultimate in outback luxury.

A suite of local designers has been commissioned to provide furniture and features for the reimagined property, many who have worked with Baillie Lodges for many years and whose work appears across the trio of properties. Highlights include furniture designed by West Australian Nathan Day, handcrafted furniture and feature lighting by Pierre and Charlotte Julian, and Robert Plumb outdoor furniture.

Also included in the refurbishment was the new Dune Top, offering views to Uluru and Kata Tjuta and featuring an open bar, plunge pool and intimate dining alcoves, perfect for sunset drinks or a more private 'quiet night out' under a multitude of stars. The Table 131 signature outdoor dining experience has been recreated to include a central decked area with EcoSmart campfire and flexible seating to accommodate couples and friends. The guest swimming pool has also seen a redesign, with contemporary decking and built-in day beds creating a sophisticated desert sanctuary.

Spa Kinara ('kinara' meaning 'moon' in Pitjantjatjara) is the property's first onsite spa and takes its inspiration from the traditional Aboriginal outback shelter, or '*wiltja*'. With two treatment rooms and a designer outdoor shower, Spa Kinara offers guests a menu of signature treatments using both the LI'TYA spa care range and a posy of outback botanicals, including the cure-all *irmangka-irmangka* (Salted Emu Bush) supplied by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Womens Council social enterprise.

In 2015, architect Max Pritchard was commissioned to design the stylish new balconies for each guest tent, creating contemporary outdoor living areas while enhancing views of Uluru. The balconies were fitted with day beds, armchairs and EcoSmart fireplaces, extending the luxury of Longitude 131° outdoors.

For the first time, artworks and artefacts commissioned from local First Nations artists were introduced to guest tents, following a collaboration between Longitude 131° and nearby communities and providing a rich mix of ancient concepts and modern techniques. These were combined with stylish new fabrics and soft furnishings which reflect the rich ochres, midnight blues and subtle greens of the desert.

The Baillie Lodges signature "Baillie Bed" was introduced in all tents, while new staff uniforms were designed exclusively by Australian bush outfitters RM Williams. Furniture was commissioned by Arthur G and Pierre and Charlotte Julian, along with dining ceramics by Malcolm Greenwood.

Central to a stay at Longitude 131° is its selection of signature experiences - exclusive guided excursions to some of the most spectacular locations around Uluru and neighbouring Kata Tjuta. Options include a sunset walk at the base of Uluru as the rock's dramatic Kantju Gorge is illuminated in vivid evening light, or a sunrise expedition to the Walpa Gorge among the dome formations of Kata Tjuta.

Exceptional dining is another hallmark at Longitude 131°, celebrating the best of contemporary Australian cuisine with a fusion of modern and Indigenous flavours. Guests can dine and relax in the convivial atmosphere of the Dune House, the heart of Longitude 131°, or enjoy an outdoor dining experience under a billion stars at Table 131° or on the Dune Top.

Longitude 131° is a founding member of the Luxury Lodges of Australia collection.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage listing in two stages, initially in 1987 for its outstanding natural values and then in 1994 for its outstanding cultural values.

The Park is distinguished by two significant landmarks, Uluru - formerly more popularly known as Ayers Rock - and Kata Tjuta, commonly known as The Olgas.

Spanning some 1,325 square kilometres, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is jointly managed by Parks Australia, a federal government agency and the traditional Aboriginal owners, to whom ownership was officially granted on October 26, 1985.

Tourists first visited the region in the 1930s and since tourist numbers were first recorded in 1962/63 (5,462) the number of visitors has soared (1,774,000 in 2016/17).

There is no direct English translation for Uluru (Ayers Rock), however, in local Anangu Pitjantjatjara language Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) means 'many heads'.

At a Glance

- Longitude 131° offers 16 luxury "tents", each with their own private view of Uluru.
- The premium Dune Pavilion is Australia's only accommodation offering views of both Uluru and Kata Tjuta.
- The Dune House is the property's communal dining and lounge facility.
- All inclusive tariff, minimum two night stay.
- A program of signature tours led by lodge guides is available to all guests, as well as private touring alternatives. For more information, visit longitude131.com.au/experience
- Longitude 131° is situated on a secluded sand dune close to the border of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Uluru is approximately ten kilometres away (as the crow flies).
- Table 131° is one of the world's most remarkable dining experiences, featuring outdoor dining with local flavours on a private desert deck under a canopy of glittering stars.
- Each guest tent plays a visual narrative that pays homage to both Indigenous artists from the Maruku, Ernabella, Tjala and Tjumpi Arts Centres which contrast with memorabilia from notable 'western' pioneers, including Edward John Eyre, John O'Hara Bourke and William John Wills.
- Longitude 131° was one of the first tourism developments to be approved under the Commonwealth Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
- Children aged 10 years and over are welcome at Longitude 131°.

Getting There

Only three hours' travel by air from the east coast of Australia, regular flights are available to Ayers Rock Airport with Australia's major domestic airlines. Virgin Australia operates daily flights directly to Ayers Rock Airport from Sydney. Jetstar (Qantas code share) also flies directly to Ayers Rock Airport on selected

days. Qantas operates daily flights to Ayers Rock Airport via Alice Springs from Sydney. Qantas also offers direct daily flights from Cairns and Alice Springs. All three airlines provide connecting flights from most major domestic destinations.

The lodge is located 445 km southwest of Alice Springs; a one hour flight or 4.5 hour drive. For more information visit longitude131.com.au/destination/getting-there

Transfers

Longitude 131° provides complimentary guest transfers to connect with all Ayers Rock Airport flights. Road access is via Ayers Rock Resort, located a short distance away.

Accommodation

Guests at Longitude 131° adopt the spirit of the original pioneers, relaxing after a day's exploring in canopied pavilions, recreated for the 21st century as sanctuaries of earthy elegance. Custom-designed furniture from contemporary Australian designers offers stylish lounging, whilst the bespoke 'Baillie Bed' dressed in organic linens and luxurious throws holds centre stage. Private floor to ceiling windows yield unparalleled views of Uluru, literally at the end of the bed.

With a commitment to conserve precious water in this desert environment, an ensuite bathroom features a generous shower (rather than a bath) with spacious vanity basin and sliding mirror offering remarkable views of Uluru. An expansive balcony with sumptuous day bed, armchairs and feature fireplace offer new perspectives to drink in the view. A small desk is equipped with a music system for entertainment and the in-suite bar proffers a selection of Australia's best loved gourmet treats to complete the in-tent experience.

Design

Inspiration for the design of Longitude 131° was drawn from the traditional safari-style camps operating throughout Africa. Aboriginal arts, as well as native flora and fauna themes combine to create a distinct sense of place to reflect the cultures and landscapes of Australia's 'Red Centre'.

Traditionally each guest tent has been themed to paying homage to the region's early explorers and pioneers, stoic characters that challenged Australia's vast interior and originally pitched tents in the desert under vast Southern night skies.

Key to the new direction unveiled in the refurbishment driven by Baillie Lodges in early 2014 was the introduction of local Indigenous heritage to the artworks and artefacts in the guest tents and lounges.

Baillie Lodges works closely with several Aboriginal art centres in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands to commission artworks for display at Longitude 131°. Included are dot paintings and wood carvings or 'punu' from Maruku, Tjala and Ernabella, Tjanpi Desert Weavers' baskets and vibrant Ernabella ceramics. Aboriginal art complements the existing explorers' artefacts, photographs and journals throughout the property and each is united by contemporary fabrics and soft furnishings which reflect the rich ochres, midnight blues and desert greens of the outback landscape.

Experiences

At Longitude 131° guests take 'the road less travelled', sharing exclusive experiences with travelling companions and fellow guests. Together, they explore the living and cultural landscapes of Uluru and Kata Tjuta. The signature touring program at Longitude 131° has been designed exclusively for guests and is included in the tariff.

Uluru Sunset

The essential outback experience, guests capture the changing lights reflected over Uluru's many faces as the sun slips down below the horizon, chilled glass and canapé in hand.

Field of Light

Bruce Munro's internationally acclaimed art phenomenon, Field of Light has taken root in the outback. Created from 50,000 bud-like stems and crowned with radiant frosted-glass spheres, the installation blooms and appears to sway as darkness descends over Australia's spiritual heartland. Guests arrive at dusk and meander around the field before enjoying the cool night skies at Table 131°.

Table 131°

Guests dine outdoors and discover the wonders of the southern night sky at an exclusive venue among the dunes. The mesmerising sounds of an ancient culture welcome the gathering and as darkness falls a four-course dinner with fine Australian wines is served. In the cool season, a warm fire sparks under the spectacular night sky. Later, Longitude's resident astronomer regales guests with tales of the Southerly constellations.

Walpa Gorge & Kata Tjuta

This experience heads to Kata Tjuta (also known as The Olgas), comprising 36 majestic dome-like rock formations. In the company of the Longitude 131° guide, guests explore Walpa Gorge whilst learning about the natural history of Kata Tjuta and how eons of weathering and continental upheaval have created today's landscape. The tour pauses for a long distance perspective and photo opportunity before a visit to the Cultural Centre where interactive displays provide insight into the spiritual and cultural meanings of Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

Mala Walk & Kantju Gorge Sunset

In the late afternoon, guests journey to the base of Uluru to learn about the history of the Mala people. During the walk, the lodge guide points out cave paintings and other relevant sites important to both Anangu and the early explorers. Guests enter Kantju Gorge at dusk to witness the gorge walls ablaze with the light of the setting sun, enjoying sunset drinks and canapés in the silence and solitude.

Mutitjulu Meander

An early start rewards with guests transported to the base of Uluru in time for sunrise where they discover the peaceful Mutitjulu Waterhole and the sacred site of Kuniya Piti. During the walk, the Longitude 131° guide shares the Anangu creation story of Kuniya and Liru, adding greater depth to the monolith's striking features.

Private Touring

Many guests value the option of private touring in a luxury four-wheel drive in the company of travelling

companions and a personal guide. Guests may follow the signature program, or design their very own experiences with the help of expert guides. Subject to availability, Longitude 131° can offer private touring for all guests. Pre-bookings are essential. Half or full day private touring is available at an additional cost. For full list of activities, visit longitude131.com.au/experience.

Optional Experiences

An additional menu of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park experiences and beyond offers the chance to tailor a special interest itinerary. An amazing helicopter flight over Uluru or Kata Tjuta is the only way to fully appreciate the scale and grandeur of the spectacular region. Those seeking an adrenalin rush may prefer an exhilarating Harley Davidson motorcycle tour around the base of Uluru. Or climb aboard a 'ship of the desert' and meander through the rich red sand dunes atop a camel to watch the awe inspiring backdrop of Uluru and Kata Tjuta change colour as the sun rises or sets. Activities operate on a limited share basis and charges apply.

Ernabella Arts

Established in 1948, Ernabella Arts is the oldest, continuously running indigenous arts centre in Australia. By special arrangement with the community, Longitude 131° guests are able to visit Ernabella by fixed wing charter plane or 4 wheel drive expedition to meet the artists and gain insight into the ancient techniques and stories which form the basis of their artworks. This half-day tour offers a unique cultural exchange in a one-on-one encounter that promises to be rich, colourful and unforgettable.

Food and Wine

Longitude 131° offers the best of contemporary Australian cuisine, with an emphasis on quality produce and local flavours to mirror the tranquil, spiritual outback surrounds. The menu changes daily, according to the 'western' and Indigenous seasons.

Guests dine and relax in the earth-toned Dune House, the heart of Longitude 131°, with its panoramic views and cantilevered roof. Sundowners are shared at the convivial open bar and savour world class cuisine celebrating a fusion of modern and indigenous flavours.

The Longitude 131° wine list features varietals from Australia's finest wine regions.

All dining and beverages* are included in the tariff. Special dietary requirements may be catered for (advance notice preferable). *A select Cellarmasters list is available at additional cost.

Useful Background Information

Commonwealth Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act

In July 2000 the Australian Federal Government passed the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC). Under the EPBC, developments such as Longitude 131° were required to adhere to strict environmental and cultural criteria. The EPBC's objectives are to:

- Provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects of the environment that are of national environmental significance;
- Promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources;
- Promote biodiversity;
- Provide for the protection and conservation of heritage;

- Promote a co-operative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, land-holders and indigenous peoples;
- Assist in the co-operative implementation of Australia's international environmental responsibilities;
- Recognise the role of indigenous people in the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity; and
- Promote the use of indigenous peoples' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in co-operation with, the owners of the knowledge.

For more information on the EPBC, visit deh.gov.au/epbc/about

Original Design & Construction

Longitude 131° was designed by renowned Australian architect Philip Cox, and construction was managed by Bovis Lend Lease.

Roads and pathways were marked out, fenced and screened and the entire construction process used only these areas to protect the natural vegetation and fragile landscape. When construction was complete, these same roads and paths became the only vehicular and pedestrian access.

To minimise the use of concrete and the resultant need for heavy concrete trucks onsite, tents were prefabricated and assembled like a jigsaw puzzle. The largest vehicle acceptable on site was a utility, so component parts were limited in size to those that could fit onto a utility.

A special screw pile construction was employed to install the guest tents, utilising hole diggers and pile applicators attached to the end of a telescopic arm.

Guest tents are designed to "float" above the sandy desert floor. Any sand requiring removal from under the building footprint was removed by hand. The entire property is designed so that it could be dismantled and relocated, with the current location returned to its pre-developed state.

Even the swimming pool was pre-fabricated remotely and the sections bolted together on site, supported by the same screw pile foundations used to support the guest tents.

Construction was completed using the latest energy efficient design. Each guest tent has a fully glazed wall facing Uluru. Guests have the option of sleeping with the wall entirely open, with the protection of remote-controlled screen, or full block-out blinds.

The Dune House is a much larger structure, partially built into the side of the sand dune to maximise natural insulation and reduce energy needs. Solar panels cover the roof and provide hot water for the kitchen, guest tents and the pool.

Guest tents are made up of three separate layers of fabric to enhance thermal and acoustic insulation and maintain a comfortable interior climate.

Floors are insulated and covered in natural stone to enhance cooling in summer and insulation in winter. The tents are positioned to minimise heat load on the glazing and solar heating is used to provide hot water.

Environmental Management & Conservation

Longitude 131° is situated on 23,800 square metres of privately owned land and is surrounded by Katiti Aboriginal Land and the dual World Heritage listed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

In keeping with development standards under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, a host of measures has been undertaken to protect the unique environmental and cultural heritage of the area.

Approval to develop Longitude 131° was granted by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and the Central Land Council, following in depth assessments and an independent cultural mapping study.

An independent assessment of potential impacts on threatened species was conducted by Desert Wildlife Services, including a plan for the management of all vulnerable species within the entire site.

Special attention was paid to small native creatures living in the area. Of particular note was the implementation of an annual Mulgara (small native marsupial) monitoring program with results shared with National Mulgara Recovery Team, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and NT Parks and Wildlife. A 12 square kilometre area of freehold land was set aside as a Mulgara conservation reserve to protect the core habitat for this species.

A Great Desert Skink warren was also discovered during the threatened species study; the warren was then marked and an exclusion zone established. The planned road into Longitude 131° was relocated to minimise impact and protect the warren.

An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) clearly specifies all plans, programs, procedures and strategies for minimising environmental impacts and maximising outcomes. Developed in accordance with the ISO 14000 standards for environmental management, the EMP also details objectives, targets, accountabilities, actions, documentation and reviews for key environmental issues, with results that:

- A feral animal control program was established.
- No introduced plant species have been used in revegetation programs.
- Rehabilitation Guidelines reduce land disturbance and direct the successful rehabilitation of any degraded land.
- Controlled burns are undertaken for protection purposes and to encourage regeneration of core habitats of native species.
- Vertebrate pests are closely monitored and noxious weed species strictly culled/controlled.
- Waste-water is pumped two kilometres back to the main resort sewerage plant, to avoid the development of non-native green spots in the pristine desert environment.

Ongoing environmental management is provided by a qualified Environment Manager. Sustainable practices are included in the daily duties of each staff member, and the team is also encouraged to provide initiatives to improve the lodge's environmental practices.

Longitude 131° - along with each of the Luxury Lodges of Australia properties - is accredited with Tourism Australia's T-QUAL Tick - the Australian Government's national symbol of tourism quality.

Film & Photography

The superior quality of light in the Red Centre stuns many photographic professionals. After sunrise the colour washes rapidly, however sunset offers lingering qualities of light that suit a range of still photography or filming requirements.

Photographers need to allow at least 90 minutes before sunset or sunrise to prepare equipment and join a scheduled tour, or to reach a preferred location with a private guide.

Ayers Rock Helicopters and Professional Helicopter Services can be chartered for aerial shots. Both operators have extensive experience working with media professionals, as well as an intimate knowledge

of the National Park's Commercial Film & Photography Guidelines (following).

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Film & Photography Guidelines

All commercial film and/or photography conducted within Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park requires a permit. Permits are obtained through the National Park and media should allow at least 14 days permits to be processed.

For more information on Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Commercial Film & Photography Guidelines or Permit Applications, visit [Parks Australia](#).

Image Library

A comprehensive selection of destination and lodge imagery is available for download in high resolution, visit Baillie Lodges' [trade and media console](#). No copyright applies. Photographic credit to Longitude 131° would be appreciated.

Tourism Australia and Tourism NT offer exceptional online image libraries. To order image files, visit [images.australia.com](#) or [imagegallery.tourismnt.com.au](#)

Media Information

A selection of media releases and backgrounders is also available for download here: [baillielodges.com.au/trade-and-media/](#)

Weather Conditions

Guests can expect a desert climate with average daytime temperatures ranging from approximately 22° Celsius (72° Fahrenheit) in winter to 35° Celsius (95° Fahrenheit) in summer. Daytime temperatures during summer can exceed 40° Celsius (104° Fahrenheit).

Morning and night time temperatures during winter can be very low and reach freezing point, and guests should pack appropriate warm clothing. Regardless of the time of year, guests should ensure they include a sunscreen and hat when packing. When out and about, no matter what time of year, plenty of drinking water is a must. For the current weather, visit [bom.gov.au](#) Average monthly maximum temperatures for Longitude 131° follow:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Degrees Celsius	36	35	33	28	24	20	19	23	27	31	34	35
Fahrenheit	97	95	91	82	75	69	66	73	81	88	93	95

Indigenous Culture

Archaeological work in the Cleland Hills to the north of Uluru in 1987 suggests that Aboriginal tribes were living in the region at least 22,000 years ago.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is located in the territory of the original Pitjantjatjara and Yunkunytjatjara people.

These traditional owners of the Park are now known as Anangu or Pitjantjatjara people. Anangu life revolves around the Tjukurpa, which is closely translated as 'Dreamtime' or 'Dreaming', and refers to a

complex system of ancient stories and legends that have been passed through generations and shape the beliefs and behaviours of Anangu people today, and into the future.

According to the Tjukurpa, ancient heroic ancestors erupted from the featureless surface of the earth and travelled across it, having adventures and leaving their mark on the landscape in many forms.

At Uluru, the most significant of these ancestors are the Mala, Kuniya and Liru.

Both Uluru, and Kata Tjuta were greatly affected by the activity of powerful ancestor beings. Because of the connections to important and secret ritual ceremonies that all Anangu undertake at various stages in their lives, not even the names of these ancestors can be revealed casually for the traveller.

Tjukurpa is not simply a story that explains how physical things like rocks and trees came to be, it details how important social behaviours and accepted ways of doing things originated. It details how the social and physical world came into being, the form of the land and the original relationships between humans.

It is the basis for the 'world view' of Anangu. It acts as an ethical guide for truth and morality, as well as a religious system to help Anangu look at, anticipate and judge things in a similar way to each other.

Anangu have communicated the sacredness of Uluru and their wish for travellers not to climb it, as they have done in the past, as the path follows the traditional route taken by their ancestral Mala (rufous hare-wallaby men) on their arrival at this sacred place. Today, the public Uluru climb is closed. A base circumference walk offers a spiritually and physically rewarding alternative.

Source: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Tour Operator Workbook, Environment Australia & Mutitjulu Community Inc, 2002. For more information, visit parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru

Flora

As its World Heritage listing indicates, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park 'contains unique, rare or superlative natural phenomena, formations and features'.

Anangu have for centuries divided the flora in the Park into a number of categories: Punu (trees), Puti (shrubs), Tjulpun-tjulpunpa (flowers), and Ukiri (grasses).

Perhaps the most prevalent tree is the Desert Oak, or Kurkara. Desert Oaks are slow to mature and grow in deep sand in large numbers. Juveniles look like Christmas trees and mature to spread massive limbs when the roots meet the water table. It is the only member of its family in Central Australia and its cones are the biggest of its kind. Fire burns its foliage but usually does not kill the tree.

Shrubs such as grevilleas and hakeas (corkwood trees) flower in the spring and winter and are known for their big bottlebrush heads. Kaliny-kalinypa (honey grevillea - *Grevillea eriostachya*) flowers are bright yellow and green. Colourful ground flowers are called tjulpun-tjulpunpa. Daisies and other ground flowers bloom after rain and during the winter. Others such as the wattles bloom as spring approaches.

The prickly tjanpi (hard spinifex - *Triodia basedowii*) hummocks are prevalent throughout the Park. Their enormous root systems prevent desert sands shifting, spreading underground beyond the prickly clump and deep into the soil and forming an immense cone.

'Bush tucker', in the form of wild tomatoes and other fruits, can also be found at different times of year and include Kampurarpa (desert raisin or wild tomato - *Solanum centrale*), tjuntawara (shy nightshade - *Solanum cleistogamum*), itunypa (western nightshade), and tjilka-tjilka (prickly nightshade - *Solanum petrophilum*) which have distinctive yellow stamens that extend from the fused pentagon of purple petals.

Fauna

Historically, 46 species of native mammal are known to have been living in the Uluru region, but currently there are 21 according to recent surveys. Of particular importance is the Mala, or rufous-hare wallaby, whose numbers have dwindled in the region.

Anangu and Parks Australia have completed the construction of a 170ha feral-proof enclosure, which is the new home for 25 Mala, reared in nearby Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon). It is hoped that the Mala will adapt to their new home, breed and eventually be released into the wild and contribute to the long-term survival of the species.

The Mulgara, a small carnivorous mammal and also a vulnerable species, is mostly restricted to the transitional sandplain area, a narrow band of country that stretches from the vicinity of Uluru, to the Northern boundary of the Park. This very important area also contains Itjaritjari (marsupial mole), Kuniya (woma python) and Tjakura (great desert skink).

The Park has a very rich reptile fauna of high conservation significance with 73 species having been reliably recorded. Four species of frog are found in abundant numbers at the base of Uluru and Kata Tjuta following summer rains.

Also calling the Park home are the Malu (red kangaroo), Kanyala (euro), Kipara (Australian bustard), Kalaya (emu) and lizards such as the Tinka (sand goanna) and Ngintaka (perentie). Of all the mammal species found in the Park, six are introduced: the house mouse; camel; fox; cat; dog; and rabbit.

78 species of bird have been recorded in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, including several rare species such as the Scarlet-chested parrot, the Striated grasswren and the Grey honeyeater. Hawks, Australian kestrels and falcons soar above the rocky habitats or 'puli' of Uluru and Kata Tjuta and live amongst the plants growing at their bases. They prey on other birds, small mammals, reptiles and insects.

Also located in the rocky habitats are Patupiri (fairy martins) and their bottle-shaped mud-nests in caves. Little Wood swallows glide for insects high on the cliff faces.

Amongst the hard spinifex are two uncommon species: the Painted fire tail and Mirilyirilyi (dusky grasswren). Dusky grasswrens are one of the larger wrens that bounce over boulders with their tails cocked. When disturbed the Dusky grasswren will dash away, running with their tails lowered, and hide. Grevilleas, hakeas and desert oaks offer food and shelter for these species. Patilpa (Port Lincoln ringnecks) are often seen in desert oaks where they feed on seeds from cones.

Interesting Facts

- Uluru is 348 metres at its tallest point: 43 metres higher than Sydney Tower, 24 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower, and just 33 metres lower than the Empire State Building.
- The Cultural Centre is a free form structure built from locally made mud bricks and the design was based upon two ancestral snakes of Anangu - Kuniya (woma python) and Liru (poisonous snake man).
- Uluru's characteristic colour changes are a result of the filtering affect of the sun's rays through the earth's atmosphere.
- 5,462 domestic and international tourists visited Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in 1962/63. In 2016/17 this number has reached some 1,774,000.
- Geologists have dated the underground water table and found that some parts/sources of the Park are as old as 7,000 years.
- The sand dunes seen throughout the Park have been in their present position for up to 30,000 years.

Packages

Nightly rates at Longitude 131 are inclusive of all dining, open bar* with premium wines and spirits, in-suite bar, signature experiences and return Ayers Rock Airport transfers. A minimum two night stay applies. *Cellarmasters list available at additional cost.

Guests in the Dune Pavilion enjoy extras including a personally tailored bar, options for private sunset drinks and canapes and in-suite breakfast.

To view current packages, visit longitude131.com.au/packages

Longitude 131° welcomes children over the age of ten.

Baillie Lodges

Baillie Lodges is a growing portfolio of luxury lodges renowned for setting benchmarks in premium experiential travel. Set in exclusive locations of unique natural or cultural significance, the boutique properties appeal to the discerning global traveller seeking a remarkable experience. The Australia-based collection was founded in 2003 by James and Hayley Baillie and includes Longitude 131° at Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Capella Lodge on Lord Howe Island, Silky Oaks Lodge at the Daintree Rainforest, and The Louise in the Barossa Valley. Flagship property Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island was destroyed in the 2020 bushfires and its rebuild is in progress, with an anticipated reopening in mid-2023. In 2019, an affiliate of KSL Capital Partners acquired Baillie Lodges with the aim to further expand the unique collection of luxury lodges. The 2022 addition of Chile's esteemed Tierra Hotels group marks a continuation of the collection's foray into international waters, joining the Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge on Canada's Vancouver Island and New Zealand's Huka Lodge. For more information, please visit baillielodges.com.au

Luxury Lodges of Australia

Luxury Lodges of Australia is a collection of 19 independent luxury lodges and camps offering unforgettable experiences in Australia's most inspiring and extraordinary locations. Capella Lodge, Longitude 131°, Silky Oaks Lodge, The Louise and Southern Ocean Lodge are honoured amongst the 'first 15' founding lodge members of this prestigious collection designed to celebrate a new era of Australian luxury accommodation and adventure. See luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au

Reservations

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