



Uluru-Kata Tjuta

Chris Kim 9Geo4

Investigating Australia's Physical Environments

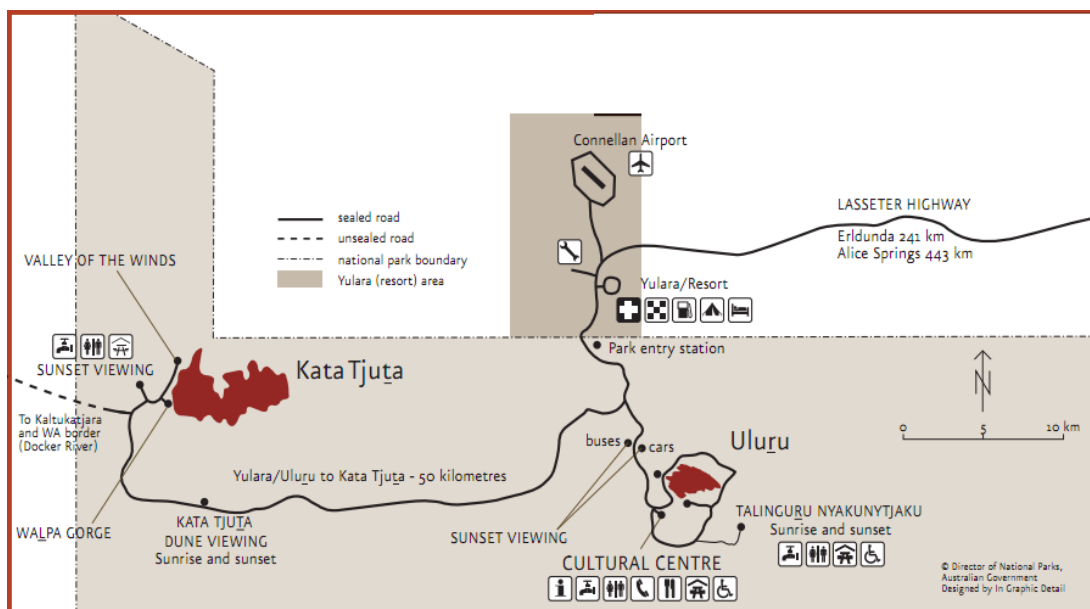
North Sydney Boys High
School

Introduction to Uluru-Kata Tjuta

Uluru-Kata Tjuta (also known as the 'Ayers Rock') is an Australian World Heritage site completed with the culture of the native Aboriginal people. Lying 348m in height and a total circumference of 9.4km, it is without a doubt that Uluru-Kata Tjuta is one of the most recognised landmarks in Australia.



Located in Central Australia near Alice Springs, Uluru-Kata Tjuta has been listed as a World Heritage site as of 1987 and was listed as a World Heritage cultural landscape in 1994. The national park is known for and named after the two rock formations known as: Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas).

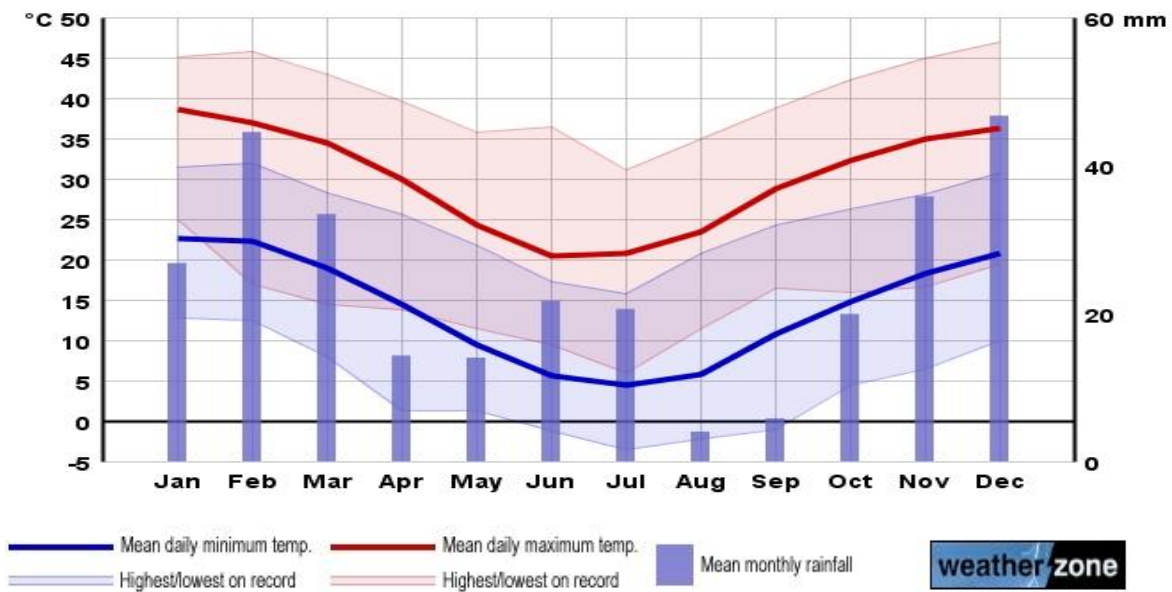


Uluru: Average Temperature in (°C)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max	37.5	35.8	33.5	28.8	23.4	20.2	20.3	22.6	26.4	31.5	34.1	36.8
Min	21.2	20.5	17.4	12.6	7.9	5.1	3.4	5.5	9.1	13.5	17.2	19.8

Highest temperature recorded: 45.5°C (114°F) in February 1992

Lowest temperature recorded: -4°C (25°F) in July 2001



Uluru-Kata Tjuta has a wide temperature range with minimum rainfall, causing the area to be arid and dry all season.

Physical Characteristics

Uluru



Uluru is the largest monolith in the world made up of a single piece of arkosic sandstone, which extends to 5 kilometres beneath the desert surface. Uluru rises 348 metres above the ground, and has a total circumference of 9.4 kilometres. Uluru captivates and inspires people internationally with over 350,000 tourists annually, with its unique fiery presence at sunrise and sunset.

Kata Tjuta



Meaning “many heads” in Aboriginal language, Kata Tjuta or Mount Olgas is a group of large rock dome formation consisted by a group of over than 36 large rock domes made up of granite, basalt, and sandstone. Kata Tjuta is located 42 kilometres west of Uluru, and the tallest rock dome is 546 metres high. Kata Tjuta is a massive system of gorges and valleys that allows people to walk around and soak in the quiet and spiritual environment. To the Anangu people, it is of equal significance as Uluru.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta has numerous unique physical characteristics, however the most prominent is the ‘Arkose’ (a type of sandstone which composes Uluru) and its flora and fauna. All of these elements combine to create a truly unique environment to be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Arkose

Uluru is dominantly composed of a type of sandstone called 'Arkose', coarse-grained and commonly found in granite. Arkose is unique for its significant composition of rock fragments to cause the sandstone to be coarse, each grain approximately 2-4 mm in diameter.

The type of Arkose which composes Uluru is consisted of approximately 50% feldspar, 25 % quartz and up to 25% rock fragments.



One advantage to being almost entirely composed of Arkose is its special qualities – It changes colour under the sunlight. This gives Uluru a colour of 'flaming red' at sunset and 'brilliant gold' under the sunrise. Interestingly, Kata Tjuta is composed of a separate material to Uluru, being dominantly composed of Conglomerate.



Flora and Fauna



Historically, there were 46 species of mammal which have lived near the Uluru area. However according to recent studies, there are only 21 species left of the original count and effort has

been place to re-introduce the area extinct mammals back to their natural habitats.

Thorny Devil

The Thorny Devil is a well known Australian Lizard famous for their extremely unique appearance of having 'thorns' all over their body. Its name is completed as the two thorns on either side of its head give it an illusion of a 'devil'.



The first recorded flora count was 34 when the first Europeans arrived. However since then due to the damage of erosion and foreign plants, the count has reduced significantly especially due to weeds which have invaded water and nutrient rich soil.

Largely there are 4 categories of plants which live within the Uluru-Kata Tjuta national park.

Punu – Tree

Puti – Shrub

Tjulpun-tjulpunpa – Flower

Ukiri – Grasse

Kaliny - "Sweetshops"

Although these plants are widely known for their spectacular flowers, in the desert, they play a far more important role than simply looking beautiful. They are full of sweet nectar and therefore hundreds of insects and birds feed on them every day.



Human Environment

From the time of listing as a World Heritage Site, Uluru-Kata Tjuta has strived in tourism and now is one of the most popular tourist destinations. With over 400,000 annual visitors, naturally it this has led to multiple activities which have been created for tourism purposes such as bush tracks and helicopter rides lasting anywhere between 30 minutes and several hours. While tourism and recreation had been existent from 1950's, the first accommodation had been constructed in 1970's, only to be relocated outside of the national park in 1975 with additional constructed transport options including an airport. This was known as Yulara.



Although the majority of facilities around Uluru-Kata Tjuta are based in Yulara, there are still a small number of available tourism facilities within the Park itself. An example of a building inside the Park is the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Cultural Centre, located inside the Park on the main road to Uluru. It introduces visitors to the 'Tjukurpa', Anangu art, Anangu way of life, history, language and wildlife of the Park. Aside from the above, other human built environments within the park includes -



Roads have been constructed to aid the visitors within the park

Walking Tracks are readily available for tourists who wish to walk on foot and witness the national park first hand. It also holds the purpose of disallowing sacred sites to be accessed without permission.

Picnic Areas have been added to benefit the visitors so they can enjoy their lunch

Other facilities including toilets, drinking water stations, emergency radios and car parks are all built human environments available within the park.

Human Interactions

Aside from being largest monolith, Uluru-Kata Tjuta is also famous for its ever changing colour in conjunction to the sunlight.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta is popular for its unique geographical formation and its natural environment but is also famous for the beautiful sunset and the flora and fauna. One example of this is the sunset tour which occurs every day with most travel companies. Other tourist attractions include a helicopter ride for all those who would wish to gain an aerial view of its magnificent beauty and a motor bike ride around Uluru and Kata Tjuta for the motor bike enthusiasts. It should be noted whilst climbing is not banned, due to cultural reasons of the native aboriginal tribe the 'Anangu', it is not advisable to climb Uluru-Kata Tjuta.



Before Uluru-Kata Tjuta was listed as a World Heritage Site, it was famous for being the largest monolith in the World and was still subject to minor tourism from European visitors and settlers. Aside from this Uluru-Kata Tjuta still plays an important role in Aboriginal culture and is the



host of rituals and painting on the walls can be found.

About 25 km from Uluru is another sacred rock

formation known as Kata Tjuta (many heads). Viewing areas with constructed road and parking has been created to give tourists the views of both sites during the day and especially dawn and dusk to witness its true beauty. The Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park also includes a Cultural Center, from which one may learn more about Aboriginal culture.

Aboriginal heritage

Uluru–Kata Tjuta is a component of a widespread Aboriginal cultural landscape that stretches across the entire Australian continent. According to ancient legend, ancestral beings named ‘Tjukuritja’ emerged from a void of emptiness and created all living things and the features of the desert landscape we see today. The people of Anangu are said to be the descendants of these ancestral beings and therefore are believed to be responsible for looking after the landscape via the utilisation of traditional Anangu methods that were governed by *Tjukurpa* (also known as the Anangu Law).



Tjukurpa is what governs all features of life for the Anangu people, from social relationships and personally identity to foraging behaviour and management of the landscape to. This is expressed in numerous cultural methods, ranging from *inma* (song cycles) and verbal narratives to art and the landscape itself. The *Tjukurpa* is regarded as the narrative, songs and art for the Anangu.

The Anangu lived according to the traditional methods of life even until the 1930's, roaming around in family groups and gathering food either by hunting or collecting food from the ground. These people had been the guardians of Uluru-Kata Tjuta by performing ceremonies, conserving water and teaching their knowledge of the land to their younger generations so it wouldn't be lost.

Even today, there is still a significant amount of Aboriginal heritage available to use from the Anangu. Uluru-Kata Tjuta is the physical heritage which is available to us from the Aboriginal beliefs. In addition, their traditional language still exists, the *Pitjantjatara* and there is a tourism company which is led by the Anangu.

Sketch



Uluru-Kata Tjuta

Bibliography

Websites (information)

Ayers Rock, Uluru. 2011. *Ayers Rock, Uluru*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.crystalinks.com/ayersrock.html>. [Accessed 12 August 2011]

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Australia. 2011. *Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Australia*. [ONLINE] Available at: http://www.eoearth.org/article/Uluru-Kata_Tjuta_National_Park,_Australia. [Accessed 12 August 2011]

Uluru - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 2011. *Uluru - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uluru>. [Accessed 15 August 2011]

Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park Note - Weather. 2011. *Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park Note - Weather*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/uluru/pn-weather.html>. [Accessed 16 August 2011]

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. 2011. *Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/uluru/index.html>. [Accessed 15 August 2011]

Things to Do in Ayres Rock - Activities, Tours & Tourist Attractions in Ayres Rock, NT. 2011. *Things to Do in Ayres Rock - Activities, Tours & Tourist Attractions in Ayres Rock, NT*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.stayz.com.au/accommodation/nt/northern-territory/ayres-rock/activities>. [Accessed 18 August 2011]

Anangu - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 2011. *Anangu - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anangu>. [Accessed 25 August 2011]

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara. 2011. *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.anangu.com.au/>. [Accessed 25 August 2011]

Websites (images)

Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park Note - Weather. 2011. *Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park Note - Weather*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/uluru/pn-weather.html>. [Accessed 12 August 2011] – Title page, first picture used in introduction, pictures used in flora and fauna, picture of wall painting under Human Interactions

Uluru Climate. 2011. *Uluru Climate*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://uluru.com/uluruclimate.html>. [Accessed 15 August 2011] – Temperature table

Climate of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas). 2011. *Climate of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas)*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.ayersrockresort.com.au/climate/>. [Accessed 15 August 2011] – Climate Graph

File:Thorny devil pale.jpg - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 2011. *File:Thorny devil pale.jpg - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. [ONLINE] Available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Thorny_devil_pale.jpg. [Accessed 15 August 2011] – Picture of Thorny Devil

2011. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.plaincook.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/kata-tjuta-the-olgas-at-sunset-uluru-kata-tjuta-national-park-australia.jpg>. [Accessed 18 August 2011] – Picture of Uluru-Kata Tjuta under Human Interactions

2011. [ONLINE] Available at: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/66/Yulara_from_helicopter_%28August_2004%29.jpg/270px-Yulara_from_helicopter_%28August_2004%29.jpg. [Accessed 18 August 2011] – First picture under 'Human Environment'

2011. [ONLINE] Available at: http://www.delivery.superstock.com/WI/223/4028/PreviewComp/SuperStock_4028-1183.jpg. [Accessed 23 August 2011] – Second picture under 'Human Environment'

2011. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.australiantraveller.com/images/imported/desert-tracks-025.jpg>. [Accessed 25 August 2011] – Second picture under 'Aboriginal Heritage'

Anangu dance | Flickr - Photo Sharing!. 2011. *Anangu dance | Flickr - Photo Sharing!*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/villinikon/221219093/>. [Accessed 25 August 2011] – First picture under 'Aboriginal Heritage'

Books

Breeden, Stanley (2000) [1994]. *Uluru: Looking After Uluru – Kata Tjuta, the Anangu Way*. Roseville Chase, NSW: Simon & Schuster Australia. ISBN 0-73180-359-0. OCLC 32470148. [Accessed 15 August 2011]

Mountford, Charles P. (1977) [1965]. *Ayers Rock: Its People, Their Beliefs and Their Art*. Adelaide: Rigby Publishing. ISBN 0-7270-0215-5. OCLC 6844898. [Accessed 15 August 2011]

News Paper Articles

Uluru being 'used as a toilet' - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation). 2011. *Uluru being 'used as a toilet' - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2009-09-08/uluru-being-used-as-a-toilet/1420964>. [Accessed 26 August 2011] – News Paper Article A

Tourist faeces 'killed off rare Uluru shrimp' | News.com.au. 2011. *Tourist faeces 'killed off rare Uluru shrimp' | News.com.au*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.news.com.au/travel/news/tourist-faeces-killed-off-rare-uluru-shrimp/story-e6frfq80-1225781024819>. [Accessed 26 August 2011] – News Paper Article B

<http://uluru-katatjuta.weebly.com> – My URL