

AUSTRALIA'S WORLD HERITAGE PLACES

ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK



Quick Facts

- This national park is famous for Uluru, the enormous red stone rock formation and Kata Tjuta, a series of dome shaped rock formations.
- The Traditional Owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta are known as Anangu and these amazing rock formations are integral to their belief system.
- Anangu believe that all the features of the landscape were made by their ancestors who travelled the earth in creation times
- Each of Australia's 17 World Heritage Places are also on Australia's National Heritage List.

Why is Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park of World Heritage value?

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

Natural values:

- **Continuing geological processes**
The Uluru and Kata Tjuta you see today are the remains of erosion that began around 500 million years ago.
- **Outstanding and rare natural beauty**
In different weather and lighting, Uluru seems to change colour. At sunset, it glows an extraordinary red and during rainy times it turns a silvery-grey colour, with waterfalls sometimes cascading over the rock.

Cultural values:

- **How traditional humans used the land**
Anangu traditionally lived a nomadic life, travelling in small family groups, hunting and gathering from the land and living according to the seasons and weather patterns. The ecosystems and species show evidence of having been modified and sustained by Anangu land management.
- **Living traditions and beliefs of interest to the world**
The huge rock formations and the surrounding country are extremely important places to Anangu and many areas are sacred. Anangu believe that all the features of the landscape were made by their ancestors who travelled the earth in creation times. These heroic beings also created Anangu law (Tjukurpa), rules for living that are still followed today.



Australian Government
Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts



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Challenges and Management

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is jointly managed by the Board of Management which has an Aboriginal majority representing traditional owners and by Parks Australia (a division of Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts) on behalf of the Director of National Parks.

Challenges	Management
Traditional art	<p>Rock paintings around the park are extremely fragile. They can be damaged by vandalism and natural elements like water, salt and lichen growth which cause them to fade or flake off.</p> <p>Viewing platforms have been built so people can see the art but not touch it. These platforms also reduce the amount of dust stirred up. Paintings vulnerable to water damage have silicon drip lines which change the path of water away from the paintings.</p>
Cultural considerations	<p>Respect of Anangu beliefs and traditions is of fundamental importance. To uphold this, roads and buildings are situated away from important cultural sites, special areas are restricted, the park is closed overnight and photography of sacred sites is not permitted. Anangu would like the waterholes around Uluru to be safe enough to drink from, and for this reason tourists are not allowed to swim in them. Visitors are encouraged to visit the cultural centre to understand how to respect the Anangu belief system.</p>
Native animals	<p>The park contains a rich variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. Surveys show a decline in the distribution and number of some species. Several are now extinct, either in the Northern Territory or on the Australian mainland. A program has reintroduced the locally extinct rufous hare-wallaby into the park, with the aim of re-establishing a permanent population.</p>
Weed management	<p>Many introduced plant species have been recorded. The most threatening is buffel grass which competes with native plants, 'chokes' drainage lines and causes erosion. To help control this problem, staff are trained to identify weeds and may use low toxicity herbicides where appropriate.</p>

Read more

www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/uluru/index.html

www.environment.gov.au/parks/uluru/index.html



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