

## Longitude 131° | An Introduction

Timeless and enriching, Baillie Lodges' Longitude 131° offers guests immersion in the World Heritage listed wilderness of Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park, complete with earthy luxury and private views of Uluru (Ayers Rock).

Since initially opening under Voyages management in June 2002, Longitude 131° has attracted widespread international and domestic acclaim. It was one of the first developments approved under the Commonwealth Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act and has established world best practices that ecotourism operators around the world now strive to match.

Longitude 131° was approved following extensive consultations with the Central Land Council and Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority that included cultural mapping studies to confirm there were no sacred sites in the area. In depth flora and fauna surveys were also undertaken to protect vulnerable species such as the Mulgara (a small native marsupial), the Great Desert Skink and the Marsupial Mole.

Devastated by bushfires in October 2003, the property was re-built with meticulous attention to detail. In particular, the use and transport of prefabricated structures and light-weight machinery minimised impacts on the delicate ecology, which was in a vital stage of regeneration.

Longitude 131° is arguably one of the finest and most exclusive luxury wilderness camps in the world, offering discerning travellers an experience unlike any other in Australia. It is also accredited as 'Advanced ecoCERTIFIED' under Ecotourism Australia's internationally recognised certification program.

Longitude 131° joined the Baillie Lodges portfolio of luxury lodges in 2013, as a sister to Capella Lodge, Lord Howe Island and Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island.

## Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park

Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa 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 Tjuṭa, commonly known as The Olgas.

Covering 1,325 square kilometres, Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa 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.

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

## At a Glance

-  Longitude 131° offers 15 luxury "tents", each with their own private view of Uluru.
-  The Dune House is the property's communal dining and lounge facility.
-  All inclusive tariff, minimum two night stay.
-  An exclusive touring program is available to all guests, as well as private touring alternatives.

For more information, visit [www.longitude131.com.au/experience](http://www.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 al fresco dining with local flavours in a private desert clearing under a canopy of glittering stars and accompanied by indigenous entertainment and an interpretive "star-talk".
-  Each tent plays a visual narrative that pays homage to a notable Australian explorer or pioneer, including Edward John Eyre; John O'Hara Bourke and William John Wills; John McDouall Stuart; Ernest Giles; William Christie Goss; Sir Sidney Kidman; John Flynn; Jane Webb; Bill Harney; Len Tuit; EJ Connellan; Ian and Lyn Conway; Peter Severin; Olive Pink; and Bill King.
-  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

Just three hours' flight from most Australian capital cities, 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 Ayres Rock Airport on selected days. Qantas operates daily flights to Ayres 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 [www.longitude131.com.au/destination/getting-there](http://www.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

At Longitude 131° guests enjoy rare solitude and serenity. Luxurious tents are a private retreat to rest, relax and refresh. Personal attention is dedicated to ensure guests an unforgettable experience that nurtures the body, stimulates the mind and liberates the spirit.

A white domed roof crowns a palatial interior, complete with modern luxuries and comforts. The flick of a bedside switch raises the blinds to reveal the spectacular moods of Uluru at sunrise, whilst air conditioning allows guests to remain cool in summer and warm in winter.

With a commitment to conserve precious water in this desert environment, Longitude 131° features a generous shower (rather than a bath) with spacious vanity basin and sliding mirror offering remarkable views of Uluru.

King beds are centrally positioned beneath the tent's apex. A sumptuous day bed and lounge chair

offer new perspectives to drink in the view, and a small desk equipped with iPad and MP3 input for entertainment 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'.

Each guest tent features its own theme, paying homage to the stoic characters that challenged Australia's vast interior and originally pitched tents in the desert under vast Southern night skies.

Understated, earthy finishes, tones and fabrics are combined with classic colonial pieces and contemporary comforts, while personal touches inspire an impression of "home" and communicate a visual narrative of the life and achievements of the early Australian pioneers.

Authentic artefacts have always been critical in creating a sense of place and history for guests. Items relating to the pioneers and explorers were found from individual collectors and antique dealers across Australia. Telescopes, compasses, magnifying glasses and the like added to the authenticity of an outback camping experience.

Guest furniture also reflects the pioneering theme; wardrobes are created from iron bark with mesh panels to resemble the original food chests used in colonial Australia. The long porcelain vanity basin is reflective of original concrete water troughs still found (and used) throughout rural Australia.

Blanket boxes found at the foot of each guest bed and the tables in the Dune House are designed to resemble wooden trunks used by early settlers migrating to Australia. Floor coverings in the Dune House bring the surrounding desert landscape in and feature wind ripples in the red sand, rain drops hitting the earth, and honeycomb markings seen in nearby rock formations.

## 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 Tjuṭa. The exceptional touring program at Longitude 131° has been designed exclusively for guests and is included in the tariff.

### Uluru Sunrise Walk

An early start rewards as guests experience the changing colours of the desert landscape and the spectacular sight of Uluru and Kata Tjuṭa at dawn, from Longitude's private dune top lookout. Guests are then transported to the Mutitjulu Waterhole before beginning the walk to the sacred site of Kuniya Piti, during which time the guide will share the Kuniya Liru Story.

A short drive to the Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park Cultural Centre follows where there is time for guests to take a leisurely walk through the interpretive displays to learn the cultural and spiritual meanings of Uluru and Kata Tjuṭa, with opportunity to purchase some local aboriginal art works and souvenirs.

### Kata Tjuṭa & Walpa Gorge

This experience heads to Kata Tjuṭa, also known as the Olgas and comprising 36 majestic dome-like rock formations. Along the way the tour calls briefly at the Kata Tjuṭa Viewing Area for a longer distance perspective and photo opportunity, with expert commentary describing ecology and indigenous significance of the area.

From the viewing platform guests continue their journey to Walpa Gorge where the natural history of Kata Tjuṭa is explained in detail, and discover how eons of weathering and continental upheaval have created today's landscape and ecology.

## Table 131°- Dining Under the Stars

Guests dine outdoors with an unforgettable outback-themed dinner and discover the wonders of the southern night sky. As darkness falls, a four-course dinner with matched Australian wines is served by personal staff. In the cool season, a warm fire sparks under the spectacular night sky. Indigenous performers mesmerise with the movement and songs of their ancient culture and after dinner, Longitude's resident astronomer regales guests with tales of the Southerly constellations.

## Uluru & Kantju Gorge Sunset

Departing Longitude 131° prior to sunset, guests travel into Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park for a drive around the base of Uluru whilst the guide explains the relevant World Heritage criteria, as well as the geology and tourism history of the region. With a new understanding of one of the world's most ancient living cultures, guests explore Uluru and see the sites that are so sacred to the traditional indigenous owners.

The short journey along the Mala Walk offers each guest a unique insight into the sheer physical and spiritual enormity of Uluru. During the walk, the guide will point 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.

For thousands of years Kantju Gorge has been a place of quiet. Respect is offered to local customs and Kantju Gorge's peaceful state remains sacred throughout this tour. Guests will hear birds call in their last flurries to nest before the sounds of frogs and other insects erupt throughout the gorge as night closes in.

Vivid colours linger on the vast gorge walls in a vision that only Longitude 131° guests can experience. Enjoying sunset drinks and canapés, guests revel in the silence and solitude of Kantju Gorge.

## Private Touring

Many guests value the option of private touring in a luxury 4WD in the company of travelling companions and a personal guide.

Guests may follow the program outlined above, 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 [www.longitude131.com.au/experience](http://www.longitude131.com.au/experience)

## Optional Experiences

An additional menu of Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park experiences and beyond offers the chance to tailor a special interest itinerary. An amazing helicopter flight over Uluru or Kata Tjuṭa 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 Tjuṭa change colour as the sun rises or sets. Activities operate on a limited share basis and charges apply.

## Food & Wine

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

Dine and relax in the earth-toned Dune House, the heart of Longitude 131°, with its panoramic views and cantilevered roof. Enjoy an outback sundowner at the convivial open bar and savour world class cuisine celebrating a fusion of modern and indigenous flavours. Dine under the stars at Table 131°, listen to the sounds of the desert and be mesmerised by the movement and songs of an ancient culture by firelight.

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 [www.deh.gov.au/epbc/about/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/epbc/about/index.html)

### 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 was 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 strong 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° is accredited as 'Advanced ecoCERTIFIED' under Ecotourism Australia's internationally recognised program that recognises and endorses the economic, environmental and social policies and practices employed by Baillie Lodges to operate the property.

For more information on the Eco Certification Program, visit [www.ecotourism.org.au/eco\\_certification.asp](http://www.ecotourism.org.au/eco_certification.asp)

## 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

Any 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 [www.environment.gov.au/parks/uluru](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/uluru)

### Image Library

A comprehensive selection of destination and lodge imagery is available for download in high resolution, visit: [www.longitude131.com.au/about-us/image-library](http://www.longitude131.com.au/about-us/image-library) 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 [www.images.australia.com](http://www.images.australia.com) or [www.imagegallery.tourismnt.com.au](http://www.imagegallery.tourismnt.com.au)

## Weather Conditions

Guests can expect a desert climate with average daytime temperatures ranging from approximately 22 degrees Celsius (72 degrees Fahrenheit) in winter to 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) in

summer. Daytime temperatures during summer can exceed 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

Morning and nighttime 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.

Remember that you're travelling in a harsh, semi arid desert region and that no matter what time of year, drinking plenty of water is a must! For the current weather, visit [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.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 Tjuṭa National Park is located in what has traditionally been the territory of Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people.

The 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 Tjuṭa were greatly affected by the activity of powerful ancestor beings. Because of the connections to important and secret ritual ceremonies that all Anangu men must 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 scared place. A base circumference walk offers a spiritually rewarding alternative.

Source: *Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park Tour Operator Workbook, Environment Australia & Mutitjulu Community Inc, 2002.*

For more information, visit [www.deh.gov.au/parks/uluru/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/uluru/index.html)

## Flora

As its World Heritage listing indicates, Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa 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 - *Sloanea petrophilum*) which have distinctive yellow stamens that stand erect 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 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 Tjuṭa 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 Tjuṭa 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 Tjuṭa 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 tourists visited Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park in 1962/63. In 2005 this number reached 400,000.
-  Geologists have dated the underground water table and found that some parts/sources 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.

## Rates & Packages

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

Classic Uluru rates are available for stays of 3 nights or more and offer a quintessential outback experience. For full list of rates and packages, visit [www.longitude131.com.au/rates](http://www.longitude131.com.au/rates)

Longitude 131° welcomes children over the age of 10.

## Baillie Lodges

Baillie Lodges is an Australian collection of intimate luxury lodges designed to blend with destinations of unique cultural and natural significance, appealing to the discerning global traveller. The celebrated portfolio of properties includes Capella Lodge on World Heritage listed Lord Howe Island, globally acclaimed Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island and Longitude 131° overlooking fabled icon Uluru, in the spirited heart of Australia. Combining standout locations with organic luxury, contemporary design, locally sourced cuisine and first-name service, together the lodges create a soul-inspiring

experience of place. Baillie Lodges is Australian luxury travel defined.

## Luxury Lodges of Australia

Luxury Lodges of Australia is a collection of independent luxury lodges and camps offering unforgettable experiences in Australia's most inspiring and extraordinary locations. Capella Lodge, Longitude 131° 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.

## Reservations

### Baillie Lodges | Sydney

Telephone +61 2 9918 4355

Fax +61 2 9918 4381

Email [reserve@baillielodges.com.au](mailto:reserve@baillielodges.com.au)

Web [www.longitude131.com.au](http://www.longitude131.com.au)

## Press Contacts

### Alison Richards | Marketing Manager, Baillie Lodges

Telephone +61 2 9918 4355

Email [media@baillielodges.com.au](mailto:media@baillielodges.com.au)