



VOYAGES
LONGITUDE 131°

“THE MODEL ECO RESORT: Nine kilometres from sacred Uluru, luxury and exclusivity meet ecotourism best practice. So what makes Longitude 131° the archetypal eco-resort, a model emulated in Australia and around the world? The resort’s design and construction, in such a highly sensitive area, minimises its impact on the environment, while a program of guest activities and tours focuses on the environmental and cultural elements of the landscape.”

Travel + Leisure Australia

ORIENTATION

Luxurious, eco-sensitive and romantic, Voyages Longitude 131° offers immersion in the World Heritage listed wilderness of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, complete with 5-star “plus” luxury and private views of the sun rising and setting over Uluru (Ayers Rock).

Since it opened 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 achieve.

Longitude 131° was approved following extensive consultations with the Central Land Council and Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority that included cultural mapping studies which confirmed 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), Great Desert Skink and Marsupial Mole.

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

Voyages Longitude 131° is arguably one of the finest and most exclusive luxury wilderness camps in the world, offering discerning eco-travellers an experience unlike any other in Australia.

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.

Covering 1,325 square kilometers, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is managed by Parks Australia, a federal government agency, on behalf of Aboriginal people, to whom ownership was officially granted on October 26, 1985.

Tourists first visited the region in the 1950s and since tourist numbers were first recorded in 1962/63 (5,462), the number of visitors has soared to 400,000 in 2005.

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

AT A GLANCE

- Voyages 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/activities
- Voyages Longitude 131° is situated on a secluded sand dune close to the border of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Uluru is approximately 10km away (as the crow flies).
- Table 131 is one of the world's most remarkable hotel dining experiences, located in a desert clearing under a canopy of glittering stars and featuring a "star-talk" after dinner.
- Each tent features a visual narrative that pays homage to an early Australian explorer or pioneer, including Edward John Eyre; John O'Hara Bourke & 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 & Lyn Conway; Peter Severin; Olive Pink; and Bill King.
- Voyages Longitude 131° was one of the first tourism developments to be approved under the Commonwealth Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
- Peak season: July to November (recommended booking period in advance: 3 months)
- Children under 12 years are not catered for at Voyages Longitude 131°.

GETTING THERE

A complimentary return 4wd transfer will take you from Ayers Rock Airport to Voyages Longitude 131°, the short transfer meets every scheduled flight.

Ground access to Longitude 131° is via Ayers Rock Resort, located a short distance away.

The property is located 445 km southwest of Alice Springs; approximately 1 hour flight time and/or 4-5 hours drive.

For full details on getting there, visit www.longitude131.com.au/getting-there

ACCOMMODATION

At Voyages Longitude 131° guests relish unprecedented solitude and serenity. The luxurious tents are a private place to rest, relax and refresh. No expense has been spared in delivering a special experience that nurtures the body, stimulates the mind and liberates the spirit.

A white dome roof and flowing fabric draped from the centre create the illusion of camping. But unlike the early pioneers and explorers, guests revel in sublime comfort.

The flick of a bedside switch is all it takes to raise the blinds and watch the spectacular moods of Uluru at sunrise. Meticulously designed to remain cool in summer and warm in winter, guests savour reverse cycle air-conditioning for complete control over their personal climate.

In order to save precious water in this semi-arid desert environment, Longitude 131° offers shower facilities only, with a spacious vanity basin featuring remarkable views of Uluru thanks to a sliding mirror.

King size beds are positioned in the centre of each tent, directly underneath the white dome and flowing fabric. Adjacent is a day bed and comfortable lounge chair to take in the view, with a small work desk and Bose Wave sound system completing in room amenities.

Design

The inspiration for the property's design was drawn from the successful safari-style camps found in Africa. Aboriginal arts and crafts, and native fauna themes from individual hotel properties at nearby Voyages Ayers Rock Resort were also used to compliment the concept.

In order to achieve a distinct Australian experience and to clearly differentiate Longitude 131° from similar products around the world, each tent enjoys an individual theme, paying homage to the stoic characters that opened up Australia's vast interior and, quite literally, pitched tents in the desert under vast Southern night skies.

Understated, earthy natural finishes, tones and fibres were combined with an eclectic mix of classic colonial pieces and a contemporary twist. Special personal touches were used to inspire an impression of "home" rather than a hotel. All of which communicates a visual narrative of the life and achievements of early Australians and pioneers of Australia's Red Centre.

Authentic artifacts were critical for creating a sense of place 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.

The choice of furniture also reflected the pioneering and exploring concept. Wardrobe doors have an iron bark timber frame with metal mesh insert panels that reflect the old food and meat 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 at the foot of each bed, as well as coffee tables in the Dune House, are the same design as wooden trunks used by early settlers migrating to Australia. Rugs in the Dune House mirror the surrounding desert landscape, including ripples in the red sand due to wind, the honeycomb weathering in rock formations, and rain drops in pond water.

ACTIVITIES

At Voyages Longitude 131° guests take the road less travelled, sharing exclusive and authentic experiences with only a few others. Together, they explore the living and cultural landscapes of Uluru and Kata Tjuta. The exceptional touring program has been designed exclusively for guests and is included in the Longitude 131° experience (or tariff).

Uluru Sunrise Walk

Experience the remarkable changing colours of the entire desert landscape and the spectacular sight of Uluru and Kata Tjuta at dawn. Departing Voyages Longitude 131° before sunrise, guests are transported to the Uluru base walk.

To climb the world's largest monolith is against the wishes of Traditional Aboriginal Owners because the path you would otherwise follow is the traditional route taken by their ancestral Mala (rufous hare-wallaby men) on their arrival at this sacred place. A base walk will, however, offer you a deeply personal, moving and lasting experience.

As the sun slowly rises, guests will hear the dawn chorus of birdcalls greeting the sun, and discover the prints of animals that have foraged during the night. As day breaks over Australia's heartland, the guide discusses the history of this unique area, including the plights of early explorers and their interactions with Anangu, the Aboriginal people of this spectacular wilderness.

With a greater understanding of one of the world's truly ancient cultures, guests walk around the base of Uluru and see for themselves the sites which are so sacred to the Traditional Owners. A walk into the Mutitjulu waterhole 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 Anangu and the early explorers.

A sumptuous hot breakfast awaits upon return to Longitude 131° approximately three hours after departure.

Kata Tjuṯa & Waḷpa Gorge

Departing Longitude 131 after a buffet breakfast (at approx. 7.30am - subject to season), this experience heads to Kata Tjuṯa, also known as the Olgas and comprising 36 majestic domes. Along the way the tour will briefly visit the Kata Tjuṯa Viewing Area for another “postcard” photo opportunity, with expert commentary of the ecology, fire management, flora and fauna of the area.

From the viewing platform guests continue their journey to Waḷpa Gorge where the natural history of Kata Tjuṯa is explained in great detail, learning how eons of weathering and continental upheaval have created what is seen today, as well as how these discoveries were made and the dynamic interaction between the stark landscape and ecology.

The approximate duration of this tour is four hours and includes a morning tea and bathroom stop before returning to Longitude 131° at approximately 11.15am for a delicious gourmet lunch.

Table 131 - Dining Under the Stars

Dine out on sumptuous outback fare and discover the wonders of the southern night sky. Guests congregate on the dune top lookout behind the Dune House, enjoying stunning 360° views of Uluru and Kata Tjuṯa while enjoying pre-dinner champagne and canapés.

From there, guests are taken to an exclusive desert setting where an intimate dinner will be served under a glittering canopy of stars. As darkness falls, sit back and savour three delicious courses complemented with the finest Australian wines, and served by attentive staff. In winter, a warm fire glows under the spectacular night sky.

After dinner a resident star-talker regales guests with tales of the constellations.

Uluru & Kaṁtju Gorge Sunset

Departing Longitude 131° two and a half hours before sunset, guests will travel into Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park and stop at the sunrise viewing platform for that “post-card” photo opportunity. As they drive around Uluru their guide will explain the World Heritage values, as well as the geology and tourism history of the region.

Walking along the Mala Walk from the Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park Cultural Centre and as day transforms into night, guests enter Kaṁtju Gorge to witness the gorge walls ablaze with the light of the setting sun.

For thousands of years Kaṁtju Gorge has been a place of quiet. Respect is paid to local customs and the peace of Kaṁtju Gorge remains paramount throughout this tour. Guests will hear birds in their last flurries before the sounds of frogs and other insects erupt throughout the gorge as night closes in.

Vivid colours remain on the vast gorge walls in a vision that only Longitude 131° guests can experience. Sipping champagne and nibbling on canapés, guests enjoy the silence and solitude of Kaṁtju Gorge as the sun slowly disappears for the day.

Guests arrive back at Longitude 131° approximately 30 minutes after sunset.

Private touring

Imagine experiencing Australia's heartland in the company of a personal guide and travelling in a luxury 4WD with just you and your partner, or in the company of a select few?

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 recommended.

Half or full day private touring is available at an additional cost.

For full list of activities, **visit** www.longitude131.com.au/activities

FOOD & WINE

Voyages Longitude 131° offers the best of contemporary Australian cuisine, emphasising fresh, quality produce to mirror the tranquil, spiritual surrounds. The menu changes daily, according to the seasons, however, here's a taste of what guests savour...

For breakfast, there is the choice of the continental buffet or selecting a dish from the à la carte menu. The continental buffet may feature a selection of chilled melons, assorted cold cuts, muffins, pastries, and cereals with home-made preserved fruits. Highlights of the à la carte menu can include Buckwheat pancakes with fresh berry compote and maple syrup or one of Chef's famous three-egg omelettes.

At lunch, guests could find a buffet of twice cooked duck terrine, ham encroute Hungarian salami and Emu Prosciutto. The cold meats would be complemented by an array of homemade gourmet salads including roasted duck with baby spinach and macadamia dressing, rocket with blistered tomatoes and parmesan, and mixed summer greens with wood aged balsamic.

Morning and afternoon tea is included in the Longitude 131° dining experience with a selection of gourmet cakes accompanied with fine teas or espresso coffee.

Dinner may comprise a three-course set menu featuring modern French cooking methods with fresh, Australian produce such as Morton Bay Bugs, Kangaroo and Barramundi which are enhanced by indigenous flavours such as lemon aspen and mountain pepper leaf.

From the revered Bin 407 by Penfolds, to Rosemont Estate Merlot, Coldstream Hills Pinot Noir, Adelaide Hills Semillon or Annies Lane Riesling, the Longitude 131° wine list features varietals from Australia's finest wine regions.

All meals and beverages are included in the tariff. Special dietary requirements or food preferences can be catered for.

COMMONWEALTH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION & BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT

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

- provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects of the environment that are matters of national environmental significance;
- promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources;
- promote the conservation of 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**
<http://www.deh.gov.au/epbc/about/index.html>

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Voyages Longitude 131° was designed by renowned Australian architect Philip Cox (who was also responsible for designing the Yulara resort development that is now Voyages Ayers Rock Resort). Construction was managed by Bovis Lend Lease.

Roads and pathways were marked out, fenced and screened and the entire construction process used only these marked out areas. This was done 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 access to the site by heavy concrete trucks, tents were prefabricated and assembled like a jig saw puzzle. The largest vehicle acceptable on site was a utility. Therefore, component parts were limited in size to those that could be loaded onto a utility.

A special screw pile construction was employed utilising hole diggers and pile applicators attached to the end of a telescopic arm. In this way, no damage would be done to any area other than where the foundation pile was being inserted.

The tents are designed to "float" above the sand dune. 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 being returned to the exact state it was in before development.

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

The latest energy efficient design and construction was employed. Each tent has a fully glazed end wall facing Uluru. Guests have the option of sleeping with the wall entirely open, with the protection of electronically controlled fly screen only, or sleeping behind full block-out electronic roman 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. Extensive solar panels cover part of the roof not covered by sail structure, providing heated water for the kitchens and pool.

The tents themselves are made up of three separate layers of fabric to enhance thermal and acoustic insulation qualities and accelerate the expulsion of hot air build up. The sides of the tent include a 2 inch layer of insulation material sandwiched between the exterior mini-orb wall and the interior wall.

The floors are insulated and covered in natural stone to enhance cooling in summer and provide insulation against heat loss 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

Voyages 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 Tjuṯa National Park.

In keeping with Voyages' obligations under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, a host of measures were undertaken to protect the unique environmental and cultural heritage of the area.

Approval to develop Longitude 131° was received by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and the Central Land Council, following in depth assessments as well as an independent cultural mapping study by Dr Goff Letts (who also conducted the cultural mapping of the area for the Yulara resort development that is now Voyages Ayers Rock Resort).

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 land area managed by Voyages.

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 Tjuṯa National Park and NT Parks and Wildlife. A 12 sq. km. area of freehold land was set aside as a Mulgara conservation reserve to protect the core habitats for these species.

A Great Desert Skink warren was discovered during the threatened species study, with the warren marked and an exclusion zone established. The intended road into Longitude 131 was relocated to minimise disturbance and protect the warren.

A dynamic 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, including:

- 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.
- Despite the cost, waste-water is pumped 2 km back to the main resort sewerage plant, to avoid the development of non-native green spots in the pristine desert environment.

Ongoing environmental management and development of sustainable options is provided by a qualified and experienced Environment Manager. Environmental performance is ingrained in the duties of all staff, with any specific duties related to the environment included in operational running sheets, and staff are also encouraged to provide feedback on improving environmental practices.

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY

The sublime quality of light in the Red Centre stuns many professionals. Following sunrise the colour washes rapidly, however, sunset offers lingering qualities of light that can suit an array of still photography or filming requirements.

Allow for at least 90 minutes before sunset or sunrise to prepare your equipment and join your scheduled tour, or to drive to your 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 intimate knowledge of the National Park's Commercial Film & Photography Guidelines.

Resort Film & Photography Guidelines

Strict guidelines apply for media capturing images of Voyages Longitude 131°. Whilst shooting, photographers and/or film crews must be accompanied at all times by a member of the Resort Public Relations team.

Filming and/or still photography of the Table 131 dining experience is only permitted before/during sunset: when guests are enjoying drinks and canapés on the dune top lookout.

Approved film crews will use private tour guides and vehicles to shoot the exclusive Longitude 131° touring program.

Guest disruptions will not be tolerated and we ask that professional photographers allow time for capturing still images without compromising guest experiences.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Film & Photography Guidelines

Under Australian law, 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

Image Library

For images please go to www.voyages.com.au/corporate/images/ You will be required to register, but it is a quick process and will give you access to all our high resolution images, free of charge and suitable for publishing. All we ask is that you credit the image appropriately, either as "Courtesy of Voyages Hotels & Resorts" or with the property name, such as "Voyages Longitude 131°."

To order high resolution image files from the Tourism NT website, **visit** <http://imagegallery.tourismnt.com.au/>

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Desert climate with average temperatures ranging from approximately 22 degrees Celsius (72 degrees Fahrenheit) in winter to 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) in summer.

Nights and mornings during winter can be very cold and reach freezing point, and guests should pack appropriate warm clothing.

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

Regardless of the time of year, guests should ensure they pack sunscreen and a hat.

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

Average monthly maximum temperatures for Voyages Longitude 131°:
(degree Celsius and Fahrenheit)

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

CULTURE

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

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is located in what has traditionally been the territory of Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people.

The traditional owners of the Park call themselves Anangu or Pitjantjatjara people. Anangu life revolves around the Tjukurpa. Tjukurpa, sometimes inaccurately translated as 'Dreamtime' or 'Dreaming', is the word that Anangu use to refer the ancestral time when the world was being formed by heroic beings.

In the Tjukurpa, these 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 (poisonous snakes). All three groups of ancestors travelled thousands of kilometres before and after they came to Uluru.

Like Uluru, the landscape of Kata Tjuta was 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 tourist.

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 the proper ways of doing things originated. It contains the way that the social and physical world came into being, and the form of the land and human relationships in the beginning. This provides Anangu with their explanation of how these things are.

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

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

For more information, visit www.deh.gov.au/parks/uluru/index.html

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 an adult form spreading 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 stand erect from the fused pentagon of purple petals.

WILDLIFE

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, which has been extinct in the region since the mid 1900s.

Anangu and Parks Australia have completed the construction of a 170 hectare 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, another 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, and into Ayers Rock Resort. 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 abundant 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, killing by severing the neck of their prey with one powerful bite.

Also located in the rocky habitats are *Patupiri* (fairy martins) and their bottle-shaped mud-nests in caves. You are more likely to see them in flight displaying their white rumps. Little woodswallows 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's Centrepoint 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).
- The colour changes of Uluru result from the filtering affect of the earth's atmosphere on the sun's rays.
- 5,462 tourists visited Uluru-Kata Tjuta 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.

WHO ARE OUR GUESTS?

- Couples and friends seeking a unique cultural, environmental and personal Red Centre experience away from the crowd
- Special occasions such as honeymoons, birthdays and anniversaries
Incentive and/or exclusive use groups

RATES & PACKAGES

For full list of rates and packages, visit www.longitude131.com.au/pricing

Please note: Children under 12 are not catered for.

Voyages Longitude 131° packages are a minimum two night stay and inclusive of all meals, a selected range of premium alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, an exclusive touring program, and luxury 4WD airport transfers.

CONSUMER BOOKINGS

Voyages Travel Centre (Sydney Corporate Office):

Phone: 1300 134 044 (within Australia only)
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