



PLEASE DON'T CLIMB

'That's a really important sacred thing that you are climbing. You shouldn't climb. It's not the real thing about this place. The real thing is listening to everything' - Traditional owner.

Anangu traditional owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park have a responsibility to teach and safeguard visitors to our land. We feel great sadness when a person dies or is hurt on our land. We would like to educate people on the reasons we ask you not to climb and if you choose to climb, we ask that you do so safely.

Cultural reasons

We ask visitors not to climb Uluru because of its spiritual significance as the traditional route of the ancestral Mala men on their arrival at Uluru. We prefer that visitors explore Uluru through the wide range of guided walks and interpretive attractions on offer in the park. At the Cultural Centre you will learn more about these, and about the significance of Uluru in *Anangu* culture.

Safety reasons

The climb is physically demanding and can be dangerous. At least 35 people have died while attempting to climb Uluru and many others have been injured. At 348 metres, Uluru is higher than the Eiffel Tower, as high as a 95-storey building. The climb is very steep and can be very slippery. It can be very hot at any time of the year and strong wind gusts can hit the summit or slopes at any time. Every year people are rescued by park rangers, many suffering serious injuries such as broken bones, heat exhaustion and extreme dehydration.

Environmental reasons

There are also significant environmental impacts of climbing Uluru. If you have a close look you can see the path is smooth from millions of footsteps since the 1950s. This erosion is changing the face of Uluru.

Also, there are no toilet facilities on top of Uluru, and no soil to dig a hole. You can imagine what happens many times a day when the climb is open. When it rains, everything gets washed off the rock and into the waterholes where precious reptiles, birds, animals and frogs live and depend on that water.

Fewer people are climbing

Most of the people who visit Uluru today choose not to climb. They choose not to climb for many reasons, including their own fitness, but most people tell us it is out of respect for *Anangu*. Other reasons people don't climb is lack of interest, safety concerns and fear of heights. We encourage all our visitors to think about the other great ways to experience Uluru – taking our daily ranger-guided walk, a cultural tour or dot painting workshop, discover the many surprising wonders of this landscape by taking our base walk right around Uluru, or taking on the challenge of the Valley of the Winds walk out at Kata Tjuta.



Alternative walking opportunities

Alternative walking opportunities in the park include the Uluru Base walk, the Kuniya walk which takes you to Mutitjulu Waterhole, and the ranger-guided Mala walk each day at 8.00 am - October to April and 10.00 am - May to September. There are also two walks at Kata Tjuta, the Valley of the Winds walk and Walpa Gorge walk.

The Base walk takes you around the perimeter of Uluru, this walk is 10.6 kilometres in length and an easy grade, and the Kuniya walk takes you into Mutitjulu Waterhole, an easy walk of one kilometre return.

Risks and safety precautions

If you choose to climb, please be aware of the following risks and safety precautions. Do not attempt to climb Uluru if you have high or low blood pressure, heart problems, breathing problems, a fear of heights, or if you are elderly, a young child, or not reasonably fit.

For your safety the climb is always closed:

- OVER NIGHT - from 5.00 pm
- SUMMER - from 8.00 am during December, January and February
- HEAT - from 8.00 am if the temperature forecast (at 5.00 pm the day before) is 36 degrees Celsius or above*

The climb is also closed with little or no notice due to:

- HEAT - if the actual temperature at Yulara reaches 36 degrees Celsius or above*
- RAIN - when there is greater than 20 per cent chance of rain within three hours*
- STORMS - when there is greater than 5 per cent chance of thunderstorms within three hours*
- WIND - if the estimated wind speed at the summit reaches 25 knots or above*
- WET - when more than 20 per cent of the rock surface is wet after rain
- CLOUD - when cloud descends below the summit
- RESCUE - during rock rescue operations
- CULTURE - if the traditional owners request closure for a significant cultural reason, such as a period of mourning for an important traditional owner

(* in consultation with the Bureau of Meteorology)

Safety precautions – don't risk your life!

- Carry and drink one litre of water per person for every hour (it takes roughly three hours to climb Uluru)
- Wear sturdy, rubber-soled boots or shoes, a hat with a secure strap, a long sleeve shirt and maximum protection sunscreen
- Do not try to retrieve items that have dropped or blown away from the climbing track
- Do not drink alcohol or eat a large meal before climbing
- Walk in the cooler part of the day (before 11.00 am)

