

WEATHER

Uluru is in the semi-arid zone of Central Australia at 131 degrees east and 25 degrees south and is 500 metres above sea level. The weather is extreme and difficult to predict and the seasons are diverse.

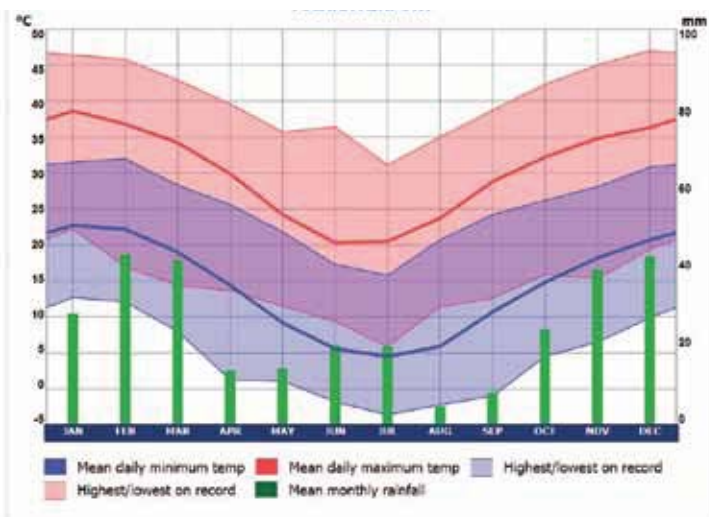
Temperature

Uluru's temperature is not moderated by clouds or the ocean, which is over 1000 kilometres away in any direction. This results in considerable heating of the land surface during the day and cooling at night, leading to significant daily temperature ranges. The highest temperature recorded by the weather station was 46.4 degrees Celsius on 28 January 2011. Between October and April, there are an average of 43 days above 40 degrees Celsius. High temperatures in summer often cause considerable stress to visitors moving about the park, so we advise you to undertake your activities in the early morning or late afternoon. In winter, the overnight minimum sometimes falls below zero degrees Celsius and the average temperature range is between 14 to 30 degrees Celsius.

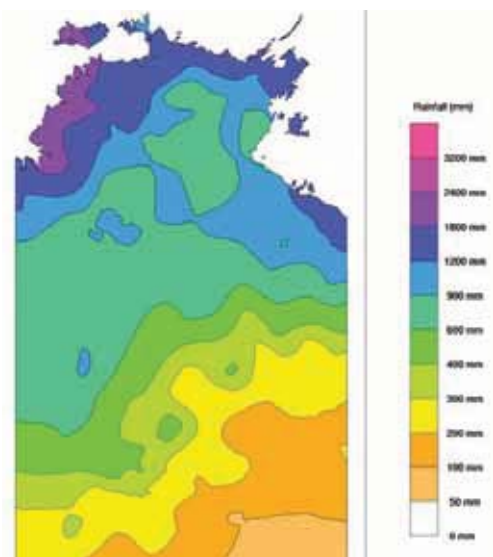
Rainfall

About 70 per cent of the Australian continent is arid. Uluru is located roughly near the middle of the semi-arid zone. The long-term average annual rainfall at Uluru is about 291 millimetres, yet seasonal and annual rainfalls are extremely variable. While rain may fall at any time of the year, heavy rains are more likely between November and March. At this time of year, large tropical depressions may move across the continent causing heavy rains to sweep inland across the arid zone.

The average annual evaporation rate is high at approximately 280 centimetres. In such a dry environment, prolonged droughts may be frequent and extreme. The longest drought on record ended in 1965 and lasted six and a half years. The lowest recorded annual rainfall was 82 millimetres in 1965 and the highest 935 millimetres in 1974.



Annual Rain and Temperature Graph for Yulara (Weather Zone)



Rainfall for Northern Territory - 1 April 2013 to 30 April 2014

Frosts

Frosts can occur during winter when high pressure systems move through, combining cooler dry air with nocturnal radiation. The frosts cure the grasses, drying and preserving them, and this dry fuel feeds fires which may ignite during the early summer.

Humidity

The average relative humidity throughout the Red Centre is markedly lower than in coastal zones.

Seasonally, humidity is almost the inverse of temperature - highest in winter and lowest in summer. The air is usually very dry. Humidity normally drops as the temperature rises, helping to cool the body but requiring the body to use a great deal of fluid.

Visitors need to drink enough water (at least one litre of water per person every hour) and eat regularly to replace fluid used when participating in a strenuous activity such as walking.

Winds

Winds at Uluru come predominantly from the southeast and are at their strongest from September to November.

At the top of Uluru, winds are invariably much stronger than at ground level. Wind speeds of up to 90 kilometres per hour have been recorded in the region.

Visitors must take care to avoid hypothermia when strong winds accompany cold weather, by wearing suitable clothing.

Storms

The general flow of the weather is from west to east. Storms can come from other directions, with an approaching change frequently steering from the north-west. Puffy clouds appear on the western horizon and move east, quickly covering the sky.

About 10 minutes before a storm hits, the wind picks up and the temperature drops. Storm conditions and lightning are most common from October to February and stormy weather is often preceded by strong, dry and dusty winds.

The daily weather forecast is available at the Cultural Centre.

