

# ULURU



Uluru is a giant rock in the southwestern part of **Australia's Northern Territory**.

Uluru is the Aboriginal name for the rock. When Europeans first saw it they called it Ayers Rock.

The rock is made of sandstone, which appears to change color depending on how the sun shines on it. Uluru/Ayers Rock is most impressive at sunset, when it takes on a fiery orange-red color.

The rock is in the middle of a desert area. It rises 335 meters above the surrounding desert plain. It is 3.6 kilometers long by 2 kilometers wide.

Aboriginal peoples have lived in the area around Uluru/Ayers Rock for thousands of years, but the first Europeans did not arrive until the 1870s. An explorer named William Gosse saw the rock in 1873. He named it Ayers Rock in honor of an Australian government official.

In 1920 part of the land was declared an Aboriginal Reserve. This was land set aside for the Aboriginal peoples to live on.

In 1985 the government gave the Aboriginal peoples official ownership of Ayers Rock. In 1993 the name of the park was changed to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

Today Uluru is one of Australia's main tourist destinations.