ULURU

“The red heart of Australia” is a rock monolith rising spectacularly from the desert plain. Ayers Rock has officially been known as Uluru since it was returned to the Anangu, the Aboriginal owners, in 1985. This place is one of Australia's most famous landmarks and is the country's most visited sight. Besides, it is a World Heritage Site for UNESCO.

The rock is 450 km west of Alice Springs (Northern Territory) in the [Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park](http://www.auinfo.com/aboutayresrock.html) which covers over 132 000 ha. This National Park is the location for both Uluru and Kata Tjuta which is now has name Olgas which are another unique rock formation 30 km from Uluru.

Uluru is 348 metres high, 3.6 kilometres long, 1.9 kilometres wide, and is 9.4 kilometres around. It is the largest rock monolith in the world. The red colour of Uluru is due to iron minerals in the surface rocks oxidising with the air. As you approach Uluru, it can change colour, the sandstone taking on various hues of red, purple, orange, grey and yellow, depending on weather conditions and your distance from it.

Uluru is considered sacred to the Aboriginals and visitors should respect this. Visitors are only the guests of the Aboriginal people and are present only with their permission. Though climbing is allowed, the Anangu people (traditional owners) prefer that people do not climb.

Those visitors who try to take mementoes from the place, sand or pieces of rock for example, are reported to have bad luck; returning the mementoes is supposed to restore normality.

1. Why Uluru is called “The red heart of Australia”?
2. Who are the owners of this place?
3. Wher is Uluru situated?
4. What other famous rocks are located in that region?
5. Why does Uluru looks red?
6. Can tourists make tours around this place freely?
7. What is not allowed to do in this place?