

The outback and Uluru

Uluru

- Uluru, also called Ayers Rock, is the name given to a huge rock near Alice Springs in the Australian outback. This is a holy place for Australians. It is in the Western Desert, in the middle of Australia. It was listed as a World Heritage site in 1987 because of its geology. In 1997 it was again listed as a World Heritage site because of its importance to the Anangu people.



History of Uluru

- The Anangu people believe that Uluru, and the rest of Central Australia, was formed by ancestral creatures. They are directly descended from these ancestors.
- Modern science shows that they have lived around Uluru for more than 40,000 years. They continued to live their traditional life until the 1930s. This was a nomadic life, moving around to hunt and gather food according to the seasons. They have a complex ceremonial life based around Uluru. They are one of the oldest human societies on earth.
- The first Europeans to see Uluru were explorers led by William Christie Gosse. He saw Uluru on 19 July 1873 and named it Ayers Rock after Sir Henry Ayers, who was Chief Secretary of South Australia.
- The land was too dry and remote for farming, and very few people came to Uluru until the mid 20th century.

Outback

- The term "outback" is generally used to refer to locations that are comparatively more remote than those areas named "the bush" which, colloquially, can refer to any lands outside the main urban areas.

- the outback is extremely rich in iron, aluminium and other minerals
- It also contains major deposits of gold
- because of its size, the value of mining is considerable

- A large amount of people live in the bush, the Australian coastal portion. A little part of indigenous Australian people called aborigines live in the Outback.

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