**THE GIANT RED ROCK**

There is one rock in Australia that really rocks. Uluru is such a mammoth slab of red rock that you can hardly miss it, or can you? In 2006 one man, who was just 100m (330ft) away from it, waved down some passing police officers to ask for directions to it! The early European explorer Ernest Giles, who first saw the rock from a distance in 1872, described it as 'the remarkable pebble'. But one explorer who did see its mighty height up close was William Gosse. He named it 'Ayers Rock', and in 1873 became the first European to rock up to the top.

**To climb or not to climb?**
The Indigenous owners of Uluru ask that people do not climb the rock because it is sacred, but they do not stop people from doing so. One of the recommendations, though, is that people who are scared of heights do not attempt the climb. Sensible advice. Uluru is the height of a 95-storey building!

**LIGHTING UP THE ROCK**
The giant rock may have eroded and changed over millions of years, but the light can make its colour change throughout the day. It can alter from its famous red to appear orange or purple at sunset. It can also look silvery grey in the rain.

**Ant trails**
People look like tiny ants beside towering rocks. The local Indigenous people call the thousands of tourists who come to admire the rocks in the region 'minga', or ants?

**Up and under**
Ever heard of an iceberg in a desert? Uluru is like an iceberg because the rock that is visible above the ground is just part of the entire rock. About two-thirds of it lies underground.

**WHERE THE DEVIL DO THOSE ANTS GO?**

**A rocky road**
These lizards are little devils, at least that is what all the ants at Uluru think. Thorny devils stalk ant trails and snap up the ants (the six-legged ants, that is) as they march past.

**Uluru who?**
In 1993 its official name became Ayers Rock/Uluru. Then in 2002 it became Uluru/Ayers Rock. Good to get that settled.

**WANT MORE?**
www.environment.gov.au/parks/uluru

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park