

The climbing of Australia's Uluru now banned

26th October, 2019



People are now banned from climbing one of the most sacred sites in indigenous Australian culture. The world's largest monolith, the giant Uluru in the desert of Australia's Northern Territory,

is now officially off-limits to tourists and climbers. It will be closed from October 25 in recognition of the site's cultural significance to the local Anangu traditional owners. The giant site was once known as Ayers Rock, before it reverted to its historic name of Uluru. It has been a major attraction for decades. Tourists from around the world have flocked there in droves to climb the rock. However, it is a sacred site in Anangu culture. The Anangu custodians of the rock have long campaigned for the ban.

The ban was initially announced in 2017 and most visitors complied with it. Australia's tourist association said that only 16 per cent of visitors have actually climbed the rock since 2017. Local Anangu man Rameth Thomas, who grew up in a tiny community near Uluru, explained to the BBC how important the rock is to his people. He said: "That place is a very sacred place. That's like our church. I've been telling them since I was a little boy: 'We don't want you to climb the rock.'" He added: "All of our stories are on the rock. People right around the world come just to climb it. They've got no respect." Another resident said: "If I tried to climb on top of that parliament house at Canberra, they wouldn't let me in."

Sources: bbc.com / canberratimes.com / sbs.co.au

Writing

All tourism should be reduced to limit the impact on local cultures. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

climbing / indigenous / culture / desert / significance / attraction / decades / ban / initially / tourist / association / community / rock / sacred / resident / parliament

True / False

- a) Only local people can climb Uluru after October 25. T / F
- b) Uluru is now off-limits to tourists and climbers. T / F
- c) The site Uluru was once known as Uluru Rock. T / F
- d) The Anangu people refused to take part in a campaign to ban climbing. T / F
- e) The first Uluru climbing ban was issued in 2017. T / F
- f) Sixteen per cent of visitors have climbed Uluru since 2017. T / F
- g) A local man said all his people's stories are written on Uluru. T / F
- h) Another local man said he had climbed Australia's parliament building. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. banned | a. citizen |
| 2. sacred | b. returned |
| 3. off limits | c. followed |
| 4. reverted | d. hallowed |
| 5. campaigned | e. first |
| 6. initially | f. scale |
| 7. complied with | g. prohibited |
| 8. community | h. fought |
| 9. climb | i. neighborhood |
| 10. resident | j. out of bounds |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Should giant rocks belong to a community?
- c) How important is it to protect indigenous culture?
- d) Where is your most sacred place?
- e) How can we understand more about the culture of places we visit?
- f) What three words best describe this story?
- g) What things have you climbed in your life?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the Anangu people?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. People are now banned | a. is to his people |
| 2. one of the most sacred | b. name of Uluru |
| 3. The world's largest monolith, | c. house |
| 4. before it reverted to its historic | d. sites |
| 5. flocked there in | e. the rock |
| 6. The ban was initially | f. from climbing |
| 7. grew up in a tiny | g. droves |
| 8. how important the rock | h. community |
| 9. All of our stories are on | i. the giant Uluru |
| 10. on top of that parliament | j. announced in 2017 |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Uluru?
- Should Uluru be respected and not climbed?
- What is the most important site in your country?
- What do you think of sacred sites?
- What makes something sacred?
- Do you prefer the name Ayers Rock or Uluru?
- What things are sacred in your culture?
- Have you ever campaigned for something?

Spelling

- in osnngaiudi Australian culture
- now flciyolafi off-limits
- the site's cultural sagcfciniie
- it rvteered to its historic name
- sstoaiundc of the rock
- anamidecgp for the ban
- The ban was ilailytni announced in 2017
- most visitors eopcmild with it
- tourist ssiotcaanio
- grew up in a tiny ciotmunmy
- another serndtie
- amenrlpita house

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. e	7. c	8. i	9. f	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Uluru

You think Uluru is the best site in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Fuji, the Pyramids or the Eiffel Tower.

Role B – Mount Fuji

You think Mount Fuji is the best site in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Uluru, the Pyramids or the Eiffel Tower.

Role C – The Pyramids

You think the Pyramids is the best site in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Fuji, Uluru or the Eiffel Tower.

Role D – The Eiffel Tower

You think the Eiffel Tower is the best site in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Fuji, the Pyramids or Uluru.

Speaking – World Sites

Rank these with your partner. Put the best sites at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| • The Great Wall of China | • Uluru |
| • Taj Mahal | • Eiffel Tower |
| • The Pyramids | • Table Mountain |
| • Copacabana Beach | • Mount Fuji |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.