

NATIONAL PLACES OF ABORIGINAL SIGNIFICANCE



Uluru

'The Rock' is without doubt the most sacred site in Aboriginal folklore. So sacred, in fact, that the government has banned visitors from climbing it. The hulking sandstone monolith has hosted Indigenous ceremonies for more than 10,000 years and the local Anangu community believe ancestral beings continue to live on at the site.



Kata Tjuta

Also situated within the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is another rock formation that carries spiritual significance for Indigenous people. Kata Tjuta – sometimes known by their English name, the Olgas – are a series of 36 boulders dotted across the ochre-red Central Australian landscape. The domes are shrouded in mysterious Aboriginal myths, including one Dreaming legend about a snake king named Wanambi who lived on the summit of Mount Olga.



Birrarung Marr

This is a traditional meeting place in the heart of Melbourne's inner city. Birrarung Marr on the banks of the Yarra River is a significant ceremonial site for the resident Indigenous population. 'Many Victorian Aboriginal language groups came together when the eels were migrating and also to perform Tanderrum, a large gathering of celebration', explained Wurundjeri woman Mandy Nicholson.



Wilpena Pound

Called 'meeting place' in the regional Adnyamathanha language, Yura Muda folklore believes that Wilpena Pound was created by two Dreaming serpents who ate so many people during a celebration that they became unable to move, their stricken bodies forming this vast mountain range. This 800-million-year-old natural amphitheatre is the highlight of South Australia's Flinders Ranges, about five hours' drive north of Adelaide.



Lake Mungo

The cremated remains of the Mungo Lady and the Mungo Man 50 years ago were a landmark archaeological discovery, proving that Indigenous people had inhabited the Australian continent for more than 40,000 years. The oldest ritual burial site on the face of the Earth, the UNESCO Heritage Listed dunes of Lake Mungo dried up millennia ago, fossilizing evidence of ancient Aboriginal civilization in the remote south-west of New South Wales.



Arnhem Land

The Yolngu people have called this north-east corner of the Northern Territory home for more than 60,000 years, so there's rich Indigenous history all across this untamed terrain. Importantly, Arnhem Land is the birthplace of the didgeridoo, and is also brimming with Dreaming stories, including one about a family feud that ended up with the creation of the jabiru (stork) and the emu.

