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CHECK IN: LONGITUDE 131°

# QNEWS.



A front-row seat to Uluru: the new Dune Pavilion suite at Longitude 131°



## Check in

# Longitude 131°

A multimillion-dollar refurb has given this luxury bush camp a uniquely Australian take on five-star style, writes **Emma Mulholland**.

## The hotel

Longitude 131° is one of the few stays where you get views of Uluru from your room. And what a view it is: red dust and spinifex are all that lie between that massive monolith and the double day-bed on your balcony. It's also the region's most indulgent accommodation, with first-name service, dinners in the desert and tent-style lodgings fit for a future king (guests have included Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge). But nothing beats the nightly turndown service, where nightcaps are left by the outdoor fire and a swag is rolled out on the day bed – perfect for stargazing.

## The room

Not a happy camper? Well, this is camping done right – like glamping, without the flies and shared shower facilities. Instead, there's a flyscreen that drops at the flick of a switch, a complimentary minibar stocked with ice-cold champagne and – hallelujah! – a bathroom. Truth be told, the Luxury Tents are tents in name only. Each comes equipped with aircon, a Bose sound system and a Nespresso machine, plus there's twice-daily housekeeping. The environmentally sensitive tents have the feel of a safari lodge with a splash of the Red Centre, including original works by Indigenous artists.



A Luxury Tent (top); kangaroo carpaccio by Dune House (below)

## The lowdown

**Number of guestrooms** 15 Luxury Tents, plus the new two-bedroom premier suite, Dune Pavilion

**Check in/out** 2pm/10.30am, though times are flexible

**Food and drink** The tariff includes meals and beverages, from four-course dinners around the camp fire to saltbush cocktails by the pool and breakfasts and lunches at the Dune House restaurant.

**Wellness** Inspired by a traditional Aboriginal shelter, the new spa has floor-to-ceiling desert views and Indigenous-inspired treatments. For shampoo-ad shine, try the quandong hair mask.

**Business facilities** Leave the laptop at home. There's a desk and "bush wi-fi" but that's about it.

**Minibar** It's free for the taking, including Louis Roederer champagne, local beer and wine, the makings of a cheese platter and just-baked jam drops.

**Water** There's a ceramic water purifier, plus mineral water and coconut water in the minibar.

**Pillow menu** Goose down, feather, microfibre and latex

**Bathtub** For a soak, you'll have to upgrade to the Dune Pavilion.

**Bathrobe** An earthy-brown number that resembles a drapery Driza-Bone

**The housekeeping test** Toothpaste and sunscreen requested at 6am were delivered in eight minutes and 25 seconds.

**The concierge test** Enquiring about where I could buy sparkling Evian in remote Yulara, the desk staff responded – very gently – that the brand only does still water (oops). The receptionist checked with the service station and IGA but there was nothing from the French Alps in town.

**Amenities** Plant-based products from skincare company Nya feature Australian sandalwood, Ligurian honey and the like.



**Room service** Not offered so make do with that great minibar.

**TV and movies** Watching the ever-changing colours of Uluru will have to suffice, unless you're in the Dune Pavilion, which has Apple TV, Foxtel and Australian films on DVD.

**Parking** To avoid traffic noise, guests park at a nearby resort and are transferred from there.

**Price** From \$1400 per person, per night (includes meals, drinks, tours and transfers) with a minimum two-night stay.

**Ask for...** the most secluded suite, Luxury Tent 1. Or splurge on the Dune Pavilion (\$2400 per person per night) for a view of Kata Tjuta, too. But plan ahead – tents book out three months in advance.

**Our rating** ★★★★★