



Ayres Rock, Northern Territory Australia

As the "Rock" came into sight, I began feeling the energy from this ancient monolith, which was formed from a featureless landscape during the Tjukurpa, or creation. As the bus approached Uluru, I began to wonder what adventure awaited me.

The "Rock" became a very impressive sight, rising from the floor of the outback. It was the only object to be seen for miles!

To Aborigines, Uluru is a Cathedral and though the outside form is visible, the underlying spiritual concepts are not a matter of public record. It is a living reminder of the Dreamtime struggle. The stories which relate to every aspect of its extraordinary form carry clear moral codes, good prevailing over evil. The spiritual over the physical, the importance of hospitality and the maintenance of the law.

If I was to climb this monolith, it would be very difficult as my right arm was still very weak from my motorcycle accident three months earlier. The way to the top was very steep and the only way was to pull oneself up by a large chain that had been provided. I almost quit climbing twice.

I had to do it, several months earlier I had felt the need to climb to the top and find a man sized pit surrounded by three circular ones, this was one of the reasons I had come to the Land of Oz.

Intuition had told me to leave my forty pounds of camera equipment in the bus, I didn't do it, the reason became apparent, myself and some of the other photographers had extreme difficulty. Our light meters would not give a correct reading. After I had returned home and had the slides developed, they were all black! Whatever energy that emits from this shrine had played havoc with the electronics in our cameras. I encountered the same problem in Egypt, as I had to replace some of the electronics in my camera after trying to photograph the step pyramid.

Arriving at the top I immediately found the pit and three circles that had been carved into the stone many ages ago.

As I Lay in the pit I could only imagine what ancient ceremonies had taken place here.

It was very beautiful, standing on top of this ancient landmark, with the Australian plain stretching out before me, I could see forever.

After several minutes of contemplating the wonder of being in this great place, it was

time to start the trip down the side of the "rock". The trip down was a lot easier, as the old saying goes, it's all downhill from here.

By the time everyone reached the bus it was nearing sunset, so we raced to get a photo of Uluru as the sun sat behind us. As the sun raced down, the sky changes from blue to orange and back to purple, the color fading as darkness descended upon us.

Time to eat!! Time for a tinnie (can of beer) , our dinner of steak, shrimp , beans and potato was being prepared on the barbie! It doesn't get any better than this!!

The weather was turning cold, we were headed for a record low of twenty degrees F, it would be a long night with only my light jacket and an uninsulated swag to sleep in!!

The effects of the tinnies and long necks were being felt, three o'clock in the morning and it was time for a bathroom call, freezing, I made the long trip to the latrine, being chilled to the bone, there would be no sleep the rest of the night.