Ascolta e leggi i brani.

Crazy climates

The Land of the Midnight Sun

I live in the city of Tromsø in the north of Norway. This part of Norway is very famous … and very unusual. People call it the Land of the Midnight Sun. This is because the sun never sets during summer; from about 21st May to 21st July it is never completely dark!

Summer is my favourite season. I often go fishing with my friends late at night. The weather is changeable but it isn’t very cold, even at midnight. Today is 20th June, the day of the famous Midnight Marathon. My dad is running in it today. The race starts in the evening and continues all night, but it’s daylight!

The long, dark winter in Tromsø is very different to the summer. From 21st November to 21st January, there is no sun (or very little) for 24 hours a day! This is a Polar Night. In December, if it isn’t cloudy, there are strange and beautiful colours in the sky. They are the famous Northern Lights which many tourists come and see. There is a lot of snow here in winter and it is very cold. I go skiing and snowboarding, and it’s great.

Erik
Living in the Outback

I live in Alice Springs, in the dry centre of Australia, called the Outback. It’s a very isolated area about 1,500 km from other cities and 1,200 km from the sea!

Our seasons are different to seasons in Europe. Summer runs from October to March. It is usually very hot. The temperature is always over 30° in the day, often it’s over 40°. It doesn’t rain very often here, but there are sometimes thunderstorms. When there is a storm, the temperature can fall 20° in ten minutes!

Winter is in July and August. It is warm in the day (usually 20° to 30°), but very cold at night. This is a surprise to tourists because they think it is never cold here. A lot of tourists are staying in Alice Springs at the moment to visit Uluru (Ayers Rock). That’s an enormous rock in the desert and it’s a sacred place for Aboriginal people. It’s very famous and it isn’t very far from Alice Springs – ‘only’ 450 km!

Jane