



Areyonga Central

Community Profile

Pronunciation: Ar-ree-on-ga

Alternate name: Utju

Location: 230km South West of Alice Springs

NT Region: Central

Population: Approx. 235 residents

Access: Road and air

Language groups: Pitjantjarra, Luritja, Pintubi and Western Arrente.

Phone: No phone service

Internet: Limited use of internet in the accommodation



Climate (Central)

Season	Description	Temp. Range
Winter (June to August)	Cooler and dry	-7°C to 32°C
<p>The temperature can drop below 0°C overnight in winter. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes.</p> <p>Humidity Range 20% – 50%</p>	<p>Fine weather with minimal rain is the norm with the possibility of getting quite cold by Territory standards between the June to July period. Spring (Sept-Nov) and Autumn (Mar-May) in Central Australia see warm days and cool evenings.</p>	
Summer (December to February)	Hot and dry	16°C to 45°C
<p>The temperature can rise above 40°C in summer. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes.</p> <p>Humidity Range 30% – 95%</p>	<p>Central Australia has a semi-arid climate. In the summer months, the days are generally hot, sometimes very hot. If rain is to fall, it is more likely in the summer months, which may lead to road closures.</p>	

Infrastructure, facilities and services

Community	Church: Yes Community halls or sheds: Yes Workforce skills or training facilities: No School: Yes Library: No Council Office: Yes Women's Centre: No Childcare Centre: Yes Aged Care Centre: Yes Community Safety: Yes, Community Care Program Banking: Yes Recreational/other facilities: Swimming pool, football oval, basketball court and children playground. There is also a church, childcare centre, and an aged care centre.
Community store	Areyonga Community Store Telephone (08) 8956 7305 Basic fresh fruit, vegetables and frozen meat are available although prices vary due to transportation. There is a limited range of take away food available. It is advisable to bring as much fresh produce as possible and any specialty products required. There is also an ATM available at the store. Opening hours Monday – Saturday 9:00am – 4:30pm Sunday Closed
Other food outlets	Limited takeaway food available through the Community Store.
Food orders	Food orders may be placed online with Coles or Woolworths in Alice Springs. Please check with clinic staff regarding collection/delivery.
Commercial accommodation	Not Available
Fuel	Opal and Diesel fuel is available at the Community Store.
Police station	Haasts Bluff Telephone (08) 8956 4922
Community Safety	MacDonnell Council Community Safety Program
Other police contract	Police assistance line Telephone 131 444
Telephone/internet/mail	
Mobile phone¹/phone	No Phone Service
Internet	Limited use of the internet is available in the accommodation.
Mail	Mail can be lodged via the Health Centre. Please check with the staff. Mail arrives on the mail plane every Wednesday. Please see the Shire office for postal needs.

¹ Telstra 3G/Next G are typically the only mobile services that work in more remote parts of the Northern Territory. See link – <http://telstra.com.au/mobile-phones/coverage-networks/our-coverage/>

Access

Road	Access is by road via Alice Springs. The road is sealed for 185km, followed by a 55km unsealed road. The trip takes approximately 2.5 hours from Alice Springs in dry conditions. A 4WD is required to make the journey after rain. Heavy rain will close the road.
Air	The air strip is situated on the nearest flat land 20km from Areyonga and mainly caters for the mail plane and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The air strip is sealed for all weather conditions however closed during heavy rain. Baggage restrictions apply if traveling with the mail plane.
Regular passenger transport	Centre Bush Bus travels to Areyonga on Monday and Thursday from Alice Springs. Telephone (08) 8953 0127

Health centre

Health service²	Utju Health Service – Central Australia Aboriginal Corporation	Telephone (08) 8956 7308 Web www.caac.org.au Email Areyonga.cnm@caac.org.au
	Opening hours	Monday – Wednesday 8:30am – 12:30pm 1:30pm – 5:00pm Thursday 8:30am – 12:30pm Friday 8:30am – 12:30pm 1:30pm – 5:00pm Saturday – Sunday Closed
	Facilities	Four consulting rooms and one emergency room.
On-call services	Yes, 24/7 on call service	
Medical Records System³	Communicare	
Vehicles	The health centre maintains a Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance. **Note: All Troop Carriers are 4WD, manual and take DIESEL fuel.	
GPs	Yes, a permanent GP is based in the clinic	
Visiting services	Visiting services include Dietetics, Midwifery, Podiatry, Dental health services, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics Specialist, Diabetic Educator, Physiology and Exercise Physiotherapy.	
Acute care	St Johns Ambulance and Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)	
Other	Birthing women birth in Alice Springs	

Alcohol

Alcohol⁴	NT Remote Locum Program advises all health professionals not to consume alcohol whilst on a placement.
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² For more detailed description of the health centre and their services, please contact the Health Service directly.

³ Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community.

⁴ It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory.

Governance

Local Government The local council is MacDonnell Shire Council.
The land council is Central Land Council (CLC).

Outstations None

Other tips and relevant information

Other tips/relevant information Be prepared for the variable standard of accommodation in communities. A sleeping bag sheet insert is a good idea for protection against biting insects.

Whenever possible, avoid being on the road from dusk till dawn. Apart from the unfenced cattle station, the region has a population of feral horses, donkeys, dogs and the occasional camel along with a native population of Kangaroos and Dingoes. All of which are a significant road hazard.

On arrival, please check with the Health Centre to understand any health or social issues within the community. They can also let you know of any sacred sites to avoid.

Disclaimer

This information is prepared in good faith and to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. However, Aboriginal communities, like any community, can change as the population shifts and people move on. Please contact NT Remote Locum Program to confirm any key issues or concerns you may have ahead of your NT Remote Locum Program placement. NT Remote Locum Program also values any input you can provide to improve our Community Profiles.