

Utopia Central

Community Profile

Pronunciation: You-toe-pea-yah

Alternate name: Urapuntja and Amengerterneah

Location: 270km north-east of Alice Springs

NT Region: Central

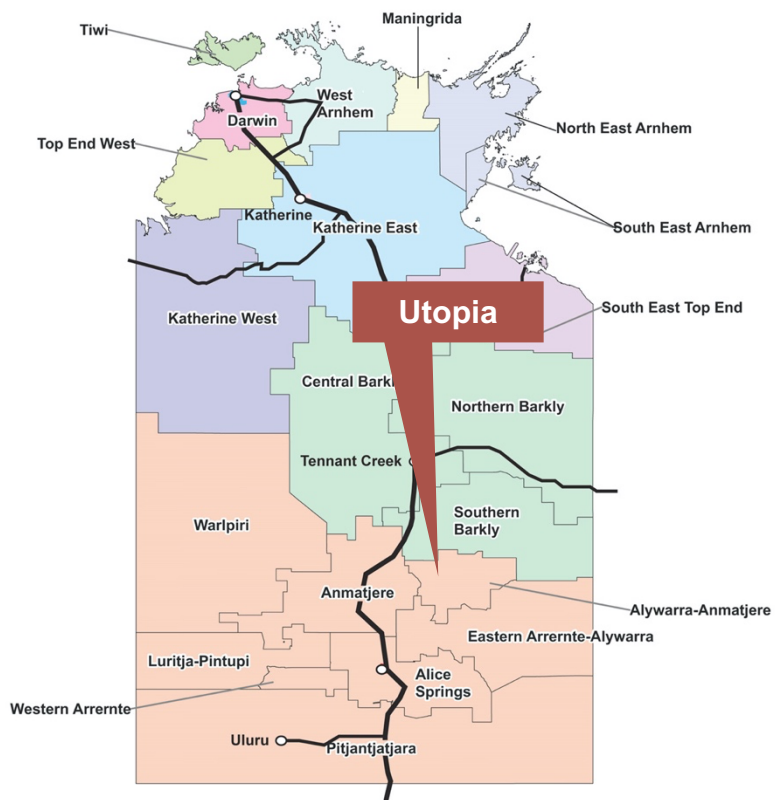
Population: Approx. 500 residents

Access: Road and air

Language groups: Anmatyerre and Alywarra

Phone: 4G Telstra

Internet: Only personal 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	<p>Church: Yes</p> <p>Community halls or sheds: No</p> <p>Workforce skills or training facilities: Yes</p> <p>School: Yes</p> <p>Library: No</p> <p>Council Office: Yes</p> <p>Women's Centre: Yes</p> <p>Childcare Centre: Yes</p> <p>Aged Care Centre: Yes</p> <p>Community Safety: Yes</p> <p>Banking: There is a private ATM located in the Arlparra store.</p> <p>Recreational/other facilities: There is an art centre, football oval and team, and a sports centre.</p>						
Community store	<p>Arlparra Community Store Telephone (08) 8956 9910</p> <p>Some Fresh fruit and vegetables, frozen meat and vegetables are more readily available. Limited perishables range of takeaway food. It is advised to bring specialty products and items required.</p> <p>Opening hours</p> <table><tr><td>Monday – Friday</td><td>9:00am – 12:00pm 2:00pm – 5:00pm</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>9:00am – 12:00pm</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>Closed</td></tr></table>	Monday – Friday	9:00am – 12:00pm 2:00pm – 5:00pm	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00pm	Sunday	Closed
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Saturday	9:00am – 12:00pm						
Sunday	Closed						
Other food outlets	<p>Red-Gum store: Located on Red-Gum Cattle Station, this shop is approximately 60km from the clinic area in Utopia. Red-Gum store is open seven days a week. There is also a store at Three Bores.</p>						
Food orders	<p>Food orders may be placed online with Coles or Woolworths in Alice Springs. Please check with clinic staff regarding collection/delivery</p>						
Commercial accommodation	<p>See Urapuntja Council Telephone (08) 8956 9099</p>						
Fuel	<p>Opal (unleaded) and diesel fuel are available from the Arlparra store</p>						
Police station	<p>Arlparra Police Station Telephone (08) 8956 9164</p>						
Community Safety	<p>Yes, there is a community safety program.</p>						
Other police contract	<p>Police assistance line Telephone 131 444</p>						
Telephone/internet/mail							
Mobile phone¹/phone	<p>4G Telstra</p>						
Internet	<p>Limited use of the internet is available in the accommodation.</p>						
Mail	<p>Mail can be lodged via the Health Centre. Please check with the staff.</p>						

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 Utopia can be accessed via road. It is a 70km drive north from Alice Springs along the Stuart Highway before turning on to the Plenty Highway for 25km (sealed) and then left on to the Sandover Highway. The Sandover Highway is a mixture of corrugated sand and gravel. Some caution is needed due to road trains and wild livestock. The road may become inaccessible during heavy rains and washouts.

Air There is a sealed all-weather airstrip 2km from the Arlparra store.

Regular passenger transport No regular passenger transport to Utopia.

Health centre

Health service² **Urapuntja Health Service (UHS)** **Telephone** (08) 8956 9875
Web www.urapuntja.org.au
Email ceo@urapuntjahealthservice.com.au

Opening hours

Monday – Friday	9:00am – 12:00pm 12:30pm – 5:00pm
Saturday – Sunday	Closed

Facilities

Four consulting rooms, one doctor's room 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 audiology, hearing health services, optometry, ophthalmology, obstetrics, gynaecology, cardiology, podiatry, dental health services, mental health services, women's health professionals and midwifery.

Acute care Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and MRaCC

Other Birthing women birth in Alice Springs.

Alcohol

Alcohol⁴ This community is a dry community, no alcohol is permitted. This applies to everyone, including visitors.

Governance

Local Government The Local Government Authority is the Barkly Regional Council with two elected local authorities Ampilatwatja and Arlparra. The peak body representing the residence is Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation. The land council is Central Land Council CLC.

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.

Outstations

There are 16 outstations in Utopia, they are Ampilatwatja, Irrultja, Arawerr, Irrmarne, Indaringinya, Ngkwarlerlanem, Inkawenyerre, Atnwengerrpe, Amengenterneah (Health Clinic, Urapuntja) Atheley, Iylentye, Artekerr, Inwelaye, Arlparra, Illeuwurru/Iluraharra.

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.