

# Yirrkala

## Top End Region

### Community Profile

**Pronunciation:** Yirr-Kala

**Alternate name:** None

**Location:** 18kms southeast of Nhulunbuy

**NT Region:** Top End

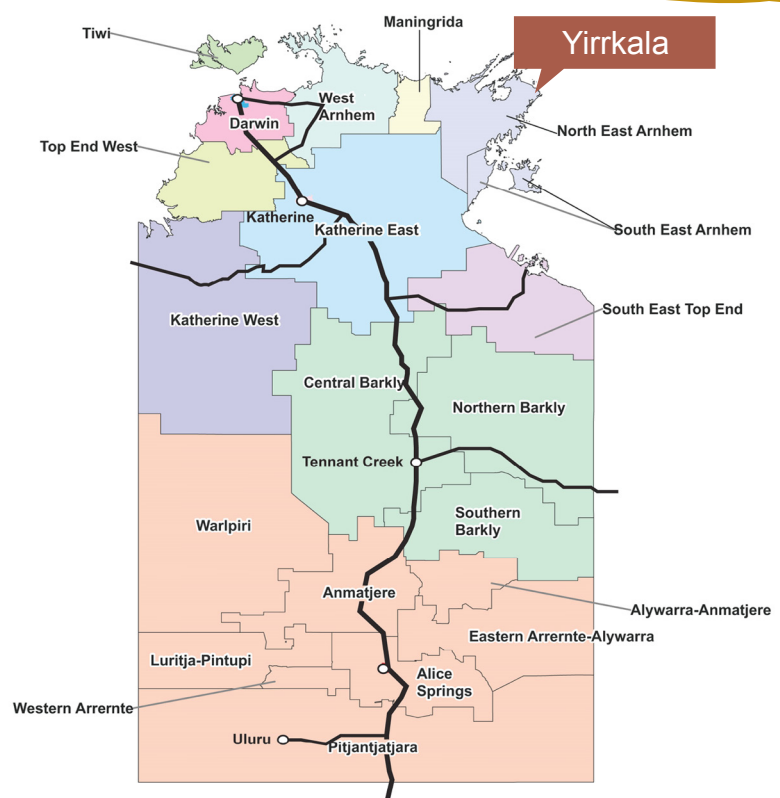
**Population:** Approx. 950 residents

**Access:** Road and air

**Language groups:** Yolngu Matha

**Phone:** 4G Telstra

**Internet:** Only personal use of internet in the accommodation



*This map of the Northern Territory, divided into regions, has been adapted from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) Program Management and Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory*

### Climate (Top End)

Season	Description	Temp. Range
<b>Winter (June to August)</b>	<b>Cooler and dry</b>	<b>6°C to 19°C</b>
<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 and the possibility of getting quite cold by Territory standards during June/July.</p>		
<b>Summer (December to February)</b>	<b>Hot and humid</b>	<b>25°C to 38°C</b>
<p>The temperature can rise above 40°C during the day in summer. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes.</p> <p>Humidity Range 30% – 95%.</p> <p>The build-up occurs from September with building humidity, intermittent lightning storms and downpours. Rains typically arrive December/January with regular heavy downpours and the possibility of cyclones.</p>		

## Infrastructure, facilities, and services

Community	<p><b>Church:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Community halls or sheds:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Workforce skills or training facilities:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>School:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Library:</b> No</p> <p><b>Council Office:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Women’s Centre:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Childcare Centre:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Aged Care Centre:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Community Safety:</b> Yes, Community Care Program.</p> <p><b>Banking:</b> No</p> <p><b>Recreational/other facilities:</b> Yirrkala Art Centre and Museum, guided bush walking and 4WD driving, camping and fishing. The community also has a sports facility for football and seasonal sports.</p>		
Community store	Yirrkala Community Store	Telephone (08) 8987 3112	
	The Yirrkala Store provides fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh meat, dairy, dry and refrigerated goods, snacks, cold drinks, household goods and some takeaway foods.		
	Opening hours	Monday – Saturday Sunday	8:00am – 7:00pm 9:00am – 12:00pm
Food orders	Woolworths	Telephone (08) 8965 2000	
	Opening hours	Monday – Sunday	8:00am – 8:00pm
	Woolworths is located on Endeavour Square, approximately 500m from the centre of Nhulunbuy, 20 minutes’ drive from Yirrkala.		
Commercial accommodation	Yirrkala Guest House	Telephone (08) 8987 1701 Email <a href="mailto:guesthouse@yirrkala.com">guesthouse@yirrkala.com</a>	
Community Safety	There is a Community Safety Program		
Other police contract	Police assistance line	Telephone 131 444	
Telephone/internet/mail			
Mobile phone <sup>1</sup> /phone	4G Telstra		
Internet	Yes, personal use is available.		
Mail	Yirrkala CPA	Telephone (08) 8939 2404	
	East Arnhem Shire Council, Lot 81 Galpu Road, Yirrkala, NT, 0880.		

<sup>1</sup> 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	Yirrkala is 18km southeast of Nhulunbuy by road via the Central Arnhem Road, which takes approximately 15 minutes.	
Air	Gove Airport is a sealed airstrip 13km west of Yirrkala, and is accessible all year round.	
Regular passenger transport	<b>Airnorth</b>  Airnorth provides regular passenger flights to Nhulunbuy from Darwin Airport.  <b>Gove Peninsula Bus</b>	<b>Telephone</b> 1800 627 474  <b>Telephone</b> (08) 8987 0900
Health Centre		
Health service <sup>2</sup>	<b>Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation Yirrkala</b>  144 Rankine Road, Yirrkala, NT, 0880  <b>Operating hours</b>  <b>Facilities</b> One emergency room, one dental room and four consult rooms.	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8987 2650 <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:execsec@miwatj.com.au">execsec@miwatj.com.au</a> <b>Web</b> <a href="http://www.miwatj.com.au">www.miwatj.com.au</a>  Monday – Friday 08:30am – 4:30pm Saturday – Sunday Closed
On-call services	No.	
Medical Records System <sup>3</sup>	Communicare	
Vehicles	The health centre maintains a Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance. <b>**Note: All Troop Carriers are 4WD, manual and take DIESEL fuel.</b>	
GPs	Yes, there is a permanent GP is based in the clinic.	
Visiting services	Visiting services include Dietetics, Midwifery, Podiatry, Dental Health, Women's Health Professionals, Mental Health Professionals, ENT Nutritionist, Gynaecology, and Hearing Health.	
Acute care	St Johns Ambulance and Care Flight	
Other	Birthing women birth in Gove or Katherine.	
Alcohol		
Alcohol <sup>4</sup>	This community is a dry community, no alcohol is permitted. This applies to everyone, including visitors.	
Governance		
Local Government	Local Council is the East Arnhem. Land Council is the Northern Lands Council NLC.	
Outstations	None.	

<sup>2</sup> For more detailed description of the health centre and their services, please contact the Health Service directly.

<sup>3</sup> Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community.

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

## 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.

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#### 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 the RAHC Regional Coordinator or the Health Centre Manager to confirm any key issues or concerns you may have ahead of your RAHC placement. RAHC also values any input you can provide to improve our Community Profiles.*

#### Darwin Office

Level 4, Darwin Central Offices, 21 Knuckey Street, Darwin NT 0800

#### Canberra Office

Unit 34, 2 King St, Deakin ACT 2600

#### Alice Springs Office

Centre for Remote Health, Cnr Simpson & Skinner St, Alice Springs 0870

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