

# Watarrka (Kings Canyon)

## Central Region

### Community Profile

**Pronunciation:** What-tar-ka

**Alternate name:** Kings Canyon

**Location:** 300km southwest of Alice Springs and 180km north of Yulara

**NT Region:** Central

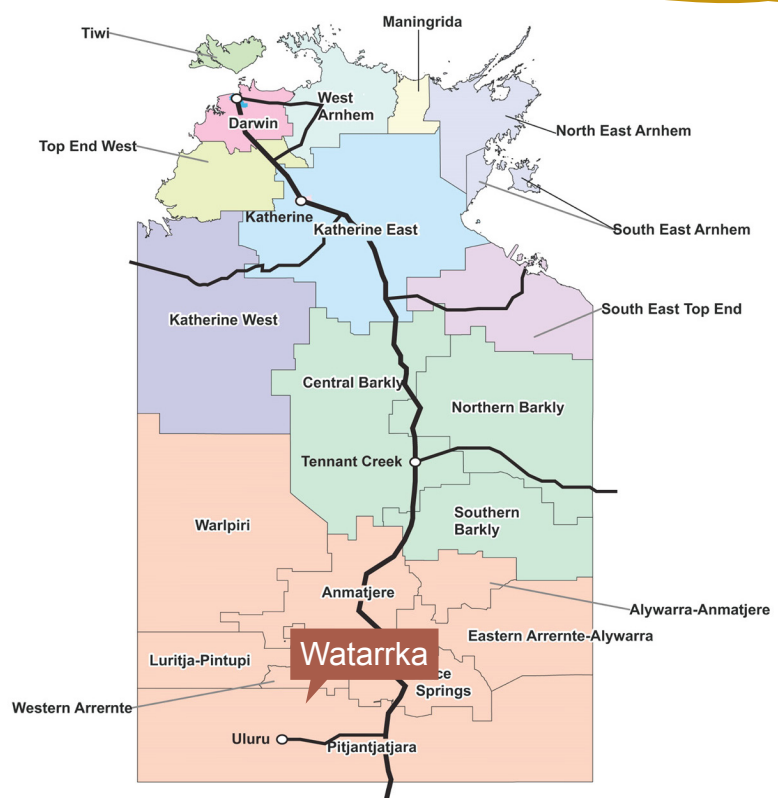
**Population:** The population can vary to 400

**Access:** Road and air

**Language groups:** Luritja, Pitjantjatjara, Ngaatjatjarra, and Arrernte

**Phone:** 4G Telstra

**Internet:** Yes, there is internet for personal use



*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 (Central)

Season	Description	Temp. Range
<b>Winter (June to August)</b>	<b>Cooler and dry</b>	<b>-7°C to 32°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 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>		
<b>Summer (December to February)</b>	<b>Hot and dry</b>	<b>16°C to 45°C</b>
<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

<b>Community</b>	<p><b>Church:</b> No</p> <p><b>Community halls or sheds:</b> No</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> No</p> <p><b>Women's Centre:</b> No</p> <p><b>Childcare Centre:</b> No</p> <p><b>Aged Care Centre:</b> No</p> <p><b>Community Safety:</b> No</p> <p><b>Banking:</b> Yes, there is an ATM at the Kings Canyon service station.</p> <p><b>Recreational/other facilities:</b> Watarrka offers many recreational facilities as it is a National Park. There are bush-walking tracks with guided walks, helicopter services for aerial sightseeing, a restaurant and swimming pool, BBQ facilities and picnic areas.</p>	
<b>Community store</b>	<b>Kings Canyon Resort Service Station Store</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 7442
	The store has very limited produce, stocking some fresh fruit and vegetables along with a variety of cold drinks and snacks. It is recommended to bring supplies from Alice Springs.	
	<b>Opening hours</b>	Monday – Sunday 8:00am – 5:00pm
<b>Other food outlets</b>	<b>Kings Canyon Resort Fuel Station and Desert Oaks Bar and Bistro</b>	
	<b>Opening hours</b>	Monday – Sunday 5:30pm – 8:30pm
<b>Food orders</b>	<b>Woolworths</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8958 6575
	<b>Coles</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8952 4575
	<b>Toll Transport</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8959 4900
	Toll delivers to Kings Canyon Resort every Thursday.	
<b>Commercial accommodation</b>	<b>Kings Canyon Resort and Caravan Park</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 7442
	Luritja Road, Petermann NT 0872	
<b>Fuel</b>	<b>Kings Canyon Resort Fuel Station</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 7442
	The fuel station is open from 8:00am – 5:00pm, seven days a week.	
<b>Police station</b>	No police station in community	
<b>Community Safety</b>	Watarrka National Park Rangers patrol the safety of the region and NTES.	
<b>Other police contract</b>	Police assistance line	<b>Telephone</b> 131 444

Telephone/internet/mail		
<b>Mobile phone<sup>1</sup>/phone</b>	Optus 4G Network	
<b>Internet</b>	Limited use of the internet is available in the clinic. There is Wi-Fi available at the resort.	
<b>Mail</b>	<b>Kings Canyon Resort</b>  Luritja Rd, Petermann NT 0872  Mail is delivered to Kings Creek Station every Wednesday by the Mail plane and then delivered to Kings Canyon Resort.	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 89567442
Access		
<b>Road</b>	Watarrka is accessible by sealed and unsealed roads. By road Kings Canyon Clinic is approx. 500kms via the Stuart Highway, Lasseter Hwy and the Luritja Road. Alternative access is via the Ernest Giles dirt road linking the Stuart and Luritja to shorten the drive by 200km, however it can become impassable during heavy rains.	
<b>Air</b>	The Airstrip is located 50km or 30 minutes' drive from the clinic on Kings Creek Station. The airstrip is equipped with lights and an airconditioned room for patients waiting for the RFDS.	
<b>Regular passenger transport</b>	<b>AAT Kings Transfer Company</b>  For transfers between Alice Springs - Ayers Rock and Kings Canyon.	<b>Telephone</b> 1300 228 546
Health centre		
<b>Health service<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Kings Canyon Medical Centre</b> Department of Health  Kings Canyon, Lot 0001, Watarrka Community, Petermann, NT, 0872  <b>Operating hours</b> Monday – Friday                      08:00am – 5:00pm Saturday – Sunday                      Closed  <b>Facilities</b> One consulting room and one emergency room.	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 7807 <b>Email</b> watarrka.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au <b>Web</b> www.health.nt.gov.au
<b>On-call services</b>	Yes, 24/7 on-call service.	
<b>Medical Records System<sup>3</sup></b>	PCIS	
<b>Vehicles</b>	The health centre maintains two Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance. Personal use not available. <b>**Note: All Troop Carriers are 4WD, manual and take DIESEL fuel.</b>	
<b>GPs</b>	GPs are a visiting service.	
<b>Visiting services</b>	Visiting services include a Dietician, Midwife, Podiatry, Optometry, Dental Teams, Women's Health Professionals, Mental Health Professionals and Paediatric Services.	

<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/>

<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.

<b>Acute care</b>	RFDS and MRaCC
<b>Other</b>	Birth of women in Alice Springs
<b>Alcohol</b>	
<b>Alcohol<sup>4</sup></b>	The outstations of this region are dry communities and alcohol is not permitted.
<b>Governance</b>	
<b>Local Government</b>	Local Council is the MacDonnell Shire Council. Land Council is the Central Lands Council CLC.
<b>Outstations</b>	There are three outstations in the Watarrka/Kings Canyon National Park region Wanmarra, Lilla and Upanyali.
<b>Other tips and relevant information</b>	
<b>Other tips/relevant information</b>	<p>Be prepared for the variable standard of accommodation in communities. A sleeping bag sheet insert is a good idea for protection against biting insects.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

*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.*

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

**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