Community Profile

Pronunciation: Lar-jar-marnoo
Alternate names: Hooker Creek
Location: 560km south-west of Katherine
Population: 700 approximately
Access: By road from Katherine
Language groups: Warlipiri and Gurundji

Climate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Temp. Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter dry season (May to September)</td>
<td>Cooler and dry</td>
<td>15°C to 33°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The temperature can drop below 0°C overnight in winter. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity 20% - 50%.</td>
<td>Fine weather with no rain and much lower humidity than Wet Season and a possibility of becoming cold by Territory standards during June / July.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer wet season (October to April)</td>
<td>Hot and humid</td>
<td>22°C to 35°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humidity can rise to 95%. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity 30% - 95%.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Governance

**Local Government**
Central Desert Regional Council (CDRC)  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 0886  
**Web** [www.centraldesert.nt.gov.au](http://www.centraldesert.nt.gov.au)

### Outstations
Mirririnyungu, Jiwaranpa, Lul-tju Mungurrupa, Parnta, Parrulyu, Tjabalajabala, Pinja, Jangalpangalpa, Ngarnka, Yartalu Yartalu and Green Swamp Hills.

### Permit System¹
A permit is required for all visitors to the community who are not on official government business. Government workers (and contractors to government) do not require a permit, this includes all RAHC staff. Permit application forms are available through Central Land Council (CLC).  
**Web** [www.clc.org.au](http://www.clc.org.au)

### Infrastructure, facilities and services

| Community | **Post Office:** Lot 238 Desert track, Lajamanu NT 0852  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 0886  
Monday - Friday, 9am to 3pm | **School:** Yes  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 0946 | **Library:** Yes  
**Banking:** Commonwealth Bank Agency. Two ATMs are located at the Lajamanu Store. One is operated by Traditional Credit Union and the other by Firstpoint. There are full Eftpos and credit card facilities in the store ad service station. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Community store** | **Lajamanu Store:**  
The Lajamanu Progress Aboriginal Corporation owns and operates a modern supermarket which has a full range of fresh, frozen chilled and dry goods available, as well as hardware, clothing and takeaway food. Fresh meat comes from Kalkarindji.  
**Opening hours** Monday to Friday 9am – 12pm and 1.30pm – 5pm  
Saturday 9.30am – 12pm, Sunday closed | **Woolworths Katherine:**  
**Telephone** (08) 8934 8100 | **Recreational facilities**  
Football oval, Basketball courts, camping, fishing and swimming |
| **Other food outlets** | There is a takeaway store | **Food orders**  
Bush orders can be arranged from Katherine Woolworths | **Commercial accommodation**  
Longhouse – Central Desert Regional Council. The Longhouse has six rooms, all with shared bathrooms, lounge and kitchen. Bookings can be made through the CDRC office in Lajamanu. All forms of payment are accepted. |
| **Police station** | Two-post Police Station and accommodation  
**Telephone** (08) 8975 0622 | **Alt. police contact**  
Emergency only  
**Telephone** 000 | **Other**  
Community Night Patrol  
**Telephone** 131 444 |

### Telephone/internet/mail

| **Mobile phone**² / Phone | Telstra 3G coverage available. Please check with your mobile provider before heading out bush. Landlines available for usage in staff accommodation. |

---

¹ RAHC HPs are not required to obtain permits for their placement as they are exempt under legislation related to the Emergency Response  
**Internet**
Internet access at clinic is minimal. Please check with HCM.

**Mail**
One mail flight per week is conducted in the community aircraft which is owned by the Lajamanu Progress Association and is operated on their behalf by Chartair.

**Alcohol**
Lajamanu is a dry community. This applies to everyone, including visitors.

**Access**

**Road**
Darwin (9 hours\(^1\)): 880 km sealed and dirt road from Darwin via Katherine.
Katherine (6 hours\(^2\)): The town is located approximately 450 kms south west of Katherine, on the northern edge of the Tanami Desert. Access is west on the Victoria Hwy, approximately 120 kms then south onto the Buntine Highway (sealed), approximately 150 kms to Top Springs. Continue west on the Buntine Hwy 180 kms (sealed road). Access can also be made from Alice Springs utilising the Tanami Road, which is unsealed and often in poor repair.

The Bodhi Bus

**Air**
Facilities: Flights take 1-2 hours from Katherine and 2.5 hours from Darwin. The air strip is an all-weather sealed runway which closes occasionally following very heavy rains. Charters: Charter flights are available in and out of the community by Chartair in conjunction with locally owned Lajamanu Air Pty Ltd. Katherine Aviation also flies from Katherine to Lajamanu.

**Health Centre**

**Health service**
Katherine West Health Board (KWHB)

**Telephone** (08) 8975 0870


**Email** lajamanuadmin@kwhb.com.au

**Staff**

(when fully staffed)

- Manager 1
- Remote Area Nurses 3
- Medical Practitioners 1
- Aboriginal Health Workers 2-6
- Aboriginal Community Worker 0
- Administration Officers 0
- Drivers/Gardeners/Cleaners 1
- Other -

**Facilities**
Nine consult rooms and one emergency room

**Operating hours**
Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

**On call**
RN 1st and 2nd on-call roster managed by HCM

**Vehicles**
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.

No vehicle is provided for personal use. As per KWHB vehicle policy document.

**GP**
One permanent GP

---

\(^1\) It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory

\(^2\) Approximate travel time one-way
Medical Records System

Communicare (training should be arranged before your arrival in the community)

Visiting services

- Dentist
- Dental therapist
- Physician
- Paediatrics
- Ear, nose and throat
- Ophthalmology
- Optometrist
- Physiotherapy
- Dietitian
- Occupational therapist
- Audiologist
- Mental health
- AIDS/STD screening
- Adult assessment and coordination team
- Family youth and community services
- Environment Health Officers.

Acute care

Careflight evacuates to Katherine or Darwin depending on the situation

Other

Pregnant women birth in Katherine or Darwin depending on the situation.

Accommodation

Housing

One bedroom secure units or two-bedroom secure house.

**Note: Sharing of facilities may be required

Facilities

Fully self contained. Linen provided.

What to pack for placement

Clothes

For advice on what to wear while on placement, please refer to


Supplies

Bring any specialty foods and a small quantity of fresh food.

**Note: Please be mindful of weight restrictions on plane travel

Other tips or relevant information

Other tips/relevant information

Be prepared for variable standard of accommodation in communities. A sleeping bag sheet insert is a good idea for protection against biting insects. Bring a hat, sturdy shoes, insect repellent and sunscreen.

**Please check with the health clinic on arrival for sacred sites to avoid and health or social issues to be aware of.

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 and up to date information or photos you can provide to improve our Community Profiles. Updated May 2017.