

Milingimbi

Arnhem Region

Community Profile

Pronunciation: Millin-gin-bee

Alternate names: Miningimbi

Location: 440km east of Darwin, and 250km west of Nhulunbuy

NT region: North East Arnhem

Population: 1200 approx.

Access: By air or water

Language groups: Yolngu or Yolŋu



Climate (Top End)

Season	Description	Temp. Range
Dry Season - Winter (May to September)	Cooler and dry	15°C to 33°C
Humidity Range 20% – 50%.	Fine weather with no rain and much lower humidity than wet season and a possibility of becoming cold by Territory standards during June/July.	
Wet Season - Summer (October to April)	Hot and humid	22°C to 35°C
Humidity Range 30% – 95%.	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.	



History

Milingimbi is one of the Crocodile Islands located between the Blyth and the Glyde Rivers and is separated from the mainland by a narrow channel. It is approximately 440km east of Darwin and 250km west of Nhulunbuy. The Island has a land area of 70km/sq although two thirds of the island is below high tide with the highest point on the island only a few metres above sea level.

Milingimbi was chosen as a mission site in 1916 by Rev. James Watson of the Methodist Overseas Mission. Building commenced in 1923. In 1940 the mission undertook a contract to build a landing strip for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) on Milingimbi. As a consequence the mission was bombed by the Japanese on the 9th and 10th of May 1943. One man was killed, and others were wounded.

The raids caused substantial damage.

Milingimbi has a long history of contact and trade with the Maccassans who came each season to collect trepang. Tamarind trees on the beach and surrounding an old Maccassan well are an obvious legacy of this period. Traditionally the name Milingimbi belongs only to a small section of land surrounding this well, now known as Bush Camp.

The church continued to run Milingimbi until 1974. In the mid-1970s the government transferred responsibility for administration to Milingimbi Community Incorporated, which provided local government to the community. In 2008 Milingimbi became part of the East Arnhem Shire Council and the shire took over local government.

Community Life

Description of community:

Milingimbi is an island community just off the coast of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. A number of different clan groups exist among the population of around 1,000 that call Milingimbi home, including surrounding outstations (or homelands).

There is a long tradition of creative and cultural works – bark paintings, carvings and weavings to name the most traditional. Many of Milingimbi's artists both past and present are represented in collections locally and internationally.

Changes in population: Population figures are estimates, as several factors impact on movement. These include seasonal changes and ceremonial activity and movement between outstations.

How is it affected by seasons: Can be quite affected by heavy rains during wet season.

Major landmarks or cultural factors: None.

Local industry/mine: Art and Craft.

Tourism: Milingimbi Art Centre.

Arts/crafts: Milingimbi Art Centre produces paintings, limited edition prints, carving and didgeridoos by Aboriginal artists.

Web: www.milingimbiart.com

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

Governance

Local Government East Arnhem Shire Council **Telephone** (08) 8970 1702
Web www.eastarnhem.nt.gov.au/milingimbi

Community or other governance structures Northern Land Council **Telephone** (08) 8986 8500
Web www.nlc.org.au

Outstations 6 outstations

Permit System¹ All visitors must obtain a permit from the appropriate authority for the duration of their stay. Permits may be required for any person visiting the community including activities such as fishing, camping and visiting certain beaches.

Permit application for Milingimbi is through Northern Land Council (NLC).

Web www.nlc.org.au

Infrastructure, facilities and services

Community

Church: Uniting Church – Church building not used due to damage so church meets in park when pastors come, but not every Sunday.

Community Halls and Sheds: Recreation Hall used for Discos etc, near Bush Camp.

Workforce Skills or Training Facilities: The Shire Council, the school, the health clinic, the MOPRA outstations resource centre, PowerWater and Community Enterprises Australia Ltd (CEA), based in Nhulunbuy and which operates Community Development Education Program (CDEP).

Government Offices: None

Post Office: Yes

Telephone (08) 8987 9073

- **Opening hours** Monday to Friday 8am – 4pm.

School: Milingimbi School, Early to Middle years.

Library: Milingimbi Community Education Centre.

Council Office: Centrelink Agency and East Arnhem Shire Council Office.

Women's Centre: None

Childcare Centre: At recreation hall.

Aged Care Centre: Milingimbi Aged and Disability Service **Telephone** (08) 8970 1780

Banking: Traditional Credit Union, ATM and Eftpos available in the store.

Community store

The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA Store):

Telephone (08) 8987 9901

All freight for the ALPA store is barged to the community on a weekly service. Barge stock is unloaded on a Tuesday. The barge landing is located adjacent to the community.

There is often a good selection of vegetables, and fair selection of fruit. Basic supply of frozen meat.

- **Opening hours**

Monday and Tuesday	9am – 5pm
Wednesday to Saturday	9am – 7.30pm
Sunday	12pm – 5pm

Other food outlets

Takeaway is part of the shop.

¹ RAHC HPs are not required to obtain permits for their placement as they are exempt under legislation related to the Emergency Response.

Food orders	Bush Orders from Woolworths in Darwin.	Telephone (08) 8919 8308
Recreational facilities	Sports oval and fishing available.	
Commercial accommodation	Rulku Lodge Milingimbi Web www.apac.littlehotelier.com/properties/milingimbi-guest-house	Mobile 0488 094 597
Fuel	Opal and Diesel sold from the council workshop.	
Mechanic	East Arnhem Shire Council (EASC) Mechanical Workshop.	
Police station	In Ramingining (32km south).	Telephone (08) 8979 7858
Alt. police contact	Emergency only	Telephone 000
Other	Community Night Patrol	Telephone Check with Police
Telephone/internet/mail		
Mobile phone ²	Telstra 3G service is available. Please check with your provider before heading out to community.	
Internet	Clinic computers can be used for personal usage after hours.	
Mail	Can use work computers for personal use after hours.	
Other	Landlines are provided in staff accommodation.	
Alcohol		
Alcohol – not allowed ³	Milingimbi is a dry community. This applies to everyone, including visitors.	
Access		
Road	None	
Air	<p>Facilities: The Airport is sealed all weather strip with electric lighting, shelter and toilets.</p> <p>Charters: From Darwin and Nhulunbuy. Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and Air Frontier provide charter services:</p> <p>Web www.maf.org.au www.airfrontier.com.au</p>	
Regular passenger transport	Airnorth flies to Milingimbi daily.	Web www.airnorth.com.au

² 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/>

³ It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory

Health Centre

Health service

Department of Health
(DoH)

Telephone (08) 8987 9903

Web www.health.nt.gov.au

Email milingimbi.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au

Staff

- Manager 1
- Remote Area Nurses 4-5
- Medical Practitioners Visiting SRMO
- Aboriginal Health Workers 1.5
- Aboriginal Community Workers 0
- Administration Officers 0.5
- Drivers/Gardeners/Cleaners 3
- Others 2 strong female workers.

Facilities

Emergency room with one bed, ultrasound machine, dialysis chair, eight consult rooms.

Operating hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday 8.30am – 12pm

On call

On call service for emergencies. Staffed by two nurses, first on call and back up second on call. Local doctors do not do call. Roster organised in advance, published, swapping possible.

Services

- Women's Health
- Children's Health
- Men's Health
- Palliative Care
- Mental Health
- Chronic Disease Management
- Antenatal Care
- Sexual Health Care.

Medical Records System⁴

Communicare

Vehicles

The health centre maintains a Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance. There are also two 4 door utilities maintained by the clinic and another troop carrier with seats for patient transport.

****Note: All Troop Carriers are 4WD, manual and take diesel fuel.**

GP

By locum GP's and a SRMO from Darwin two days a fortnight.

⁴Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community



Visiting services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral Health• Audiologist• Optometrist• Paediatrician• Obstetrician and Gynaecologist• Cardiologist• Paediatrician• Mental Health Team• Aged and Disability Services• Ophthalmologist• Diabetic Nurse Educator• Podiatrist• Cardiac Nurse Educator• Women’s Health Outreach Nurse• Chronic Disease Outreach Nurse• Midwifery Outreach.
Acute care	Care Flight evacuate to Gove or Darwin. Mostly Gove unless there is a specific reason to send them to Darwin.
Other	Majority of women birth in Gove, unless unable to be managed and moved to Darwin.
Accommodation	
Accommodation	Either a freestanding house or single occupancy demountable “Donga” style. **Note: Sharing of facilities may be required.
Facilities	Usual domestic amenities including microwave, fridge, oven/stove, washing machine, TV and split system air-conditioning.
Linen	Provided
Vehicles	
Vehicle	No vehicle is provided for personal use.
Policy	NT DoH has a strict policy on vehicle use. Any non-clinical use is not acceptable.
What to pack for placement	
Clothes	Possibility of cool nights in middle of year, so light warm clothing is useful. In Wet Season (October – April), clothing for very hot, humid days – loose cotton clothing. Best protection against midges in the evening and night is a long sleeved light shirt and light weight long trousers. Please refer to this website for information on appropriate clothing to wear whilst out in a community. http://ntgpe.org/wp_site/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Appropriate-Clothing-2.pdf
Supplies	Bring any specialty foods and a small quantity of fresh food. **Note: Please be mindful of weight restrictions on plane travel.

Personal effects

Bring a hat, sturdy shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen and toiletries.

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.

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 November 2014.

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Darwin Office

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