

# Kaltukatjara

## Kaltukatjara (Docker River)

[Northern Territory](#)

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<b>Coordinates</b>	<span><span><span><span><span>24°52′27″S</span> <span>129°05′01″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span>(/</span><span><span>﻿</span></span></span></span>
<b>Population</b>	355 <span> </span> ( <span><span>2006 census</span></span> ) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Established</b>	1968
<b>Postcode(s)</b>	0872
<b>Location</b>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>495<span> </span>km (308<span> </span>mi) by air southwest of <a href="#">Alice Springs</a></li><li>670<span> </span>km (416<span> </span>mi) by road southwest of <a href="#">Alice Springs</a></li><li>7<span> </span>km (4<span> </span>mi) east of <a href="#">Western Australian</a> border</li></ul></div>
<b>LGA(s)</b>	<a href="#">Central Land Council</a>
<b>Territory electorate(s)</b>	<a href="#">Namatjira</a>
<b>Federal division(s)</b>	<a href="#">Lingiari</a>

Mean max temp	Mean min temp	Annual rainfall
37.2 <span> </span> °C 99 <span> </span> °F	6.8 <span> </span> °C 44 <span> </span> °F	284.2 <span> </span> mm 11.2 <span> </span> in

**Kaltukatjara** (*Kaltukatjara*) is a town in the southwest of the [Northern Territory](#) of [Australia](#). It is also called **Docker River** in English. It is about 670 km southwest of [Alice Springs](#), and 8 km from the border with [Western Australia](#).<sup>[2][3]</sup> In the 2006 [census](#), Kaltukatjara had a population of 355.<sup>[1]</sup> All of the residents are either [Pitjantjatjara](#), [Ngaatjatjarra](#) or [Ngaanyatjarra Aboriginal](#) people.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Overview

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Kaltukatjara is located on the western bank of an [ephemeral watercourse](#) called Docker River. It is surrounded by the [Petermann Ranges](#).<sup>[3]</sup> From the town, the [Great Central Road](#) leads eastward to [Yulara](#) (196 km) and westward to [Warburton](#) (288 km).

While the roads in the town are sealed, roads out of the town are [gravel](#) and can be closed for up to a week if it rains. There is an [air strip](#) about 4 km north of the town. Power is supplied by three large [generators](#). The water

supply is pumped from two underground [bores](#) which are about 5 km from the town. Facilities in Kaltukatjara includes both a primary and secondary school, a health clinic, community store, and an old people's home.<sup>[2]</sup> There is also a [Lutheran church](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

## History

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

Kaltukatjara was originally established as an [outstation](#) in 1968.<sup>[5]</sup> It was established so that the Aboriginal people living in [missions](#) such as [Areyonga](#) could live closer to their [homelands](#).<sup>[3][4]</sup> It was also to encourage people to move out of the [Ayers Rock-Mt Olga National Park](#).<sup>[6]</sup> The settlement was named "Docker River" after the [stream](#) that flows through the community. This stream was given its name by the explorer [Ernest Giles](#) when he travelled through the area in 1872.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1976, the [Aboriginal Land Rights Act](#) was passed in the Northern Territory. The Kaltukatjara community was given [freehold title](#) over a large block of land in the Territory's southwest corner (see [Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust](#)). This allowed families living at Kaltukatjara to spread out over the surrounding country and set up smaller camps on their own ancestral homelands. This movement was part of a larger trend called the "[outstation movement](#)". The first two outstations established were Tjuntinanta and Punritjanta. By the end of 1978, a total of 11 outstations had been established. There were 16 by the end of 1981.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Cultural history

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The area in which Kaltukatjara is located is known as *Kikingkura*.<sup>[7][note 1]</sup> It contains several old [sacred sites](#) associated with the *Wintalyka Tjukurpa* (Mulga Seed Dreaming).<sup>[3][8]</sup> Part of this [Tjukurpa](#), which is restricted to men, extends east through [Uluru](#), where the Wintalyka men became involved in a [feud](#) with the [Mala](#) people.<sup>[9]</sup> According to the legend, the Mala had travelled from the north to perform [ceremonies](#) at Uluru with a sacred [artefact](#). On learning of this artefact, the Wintalyka men invited the Mala men to attend ceremonies at Kikingkura, but the Mala refused. Feeling insulted, the Wintalyka decided to punish the Mala by [conjuring](#) an [evil spirit](#) to [haunt](#) them.<sup>[10]</sup> At Pulpaiyala, a [soakage](#) close to what is now Kaltukatjara,<sup>[7]</sup> they conjured *kurpany*, a great and terrifying spirit resembling a [dingo](#).<sup>[note 2]</sup> Kurpany chased the Mala men from Uluru and off across the desert to the south.<sup>[9][11]</sup>

# Outstations

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Kaltukatjara is governed by Kaltukatjara Community Council, a [local government](#) council with 12 members.<sup>[4]</sup> The community also serves about 30 [outstations](#), most of which are not permanently occupied. They are spread over a large area around the Petermann Ranges.<sup>[12]</sup> Only two outstations are funded by the council: Tjauwata, about 5 km to the east, and Kunapula, about 46 km southeast.<sup>[2]</sup> Most of the outstations on the eastern side of the border are owned by Pitjantjatjara families. Those in Western Australia are mostly owned by Ngaanyatjarra people.<sup>[5]</sup>

Main surrounding outstations

Outstation	Est.	Distance from Kaltukatjara	Coordinates	Notes
Amputjuta	1978	11 km (6.8 mi) south	<a href="#">24°55′S</a> <a href="#">129°7′E</a>	Located on the banks of the Docker River, in the Learmonth Park catchment area.
Eagle Valley	?	7 km (4.3 mi) south	<a href="#">24°55′S</a> <a href="#">129°5′E</a>	Located near the banks of the Docker River, in the Learmonth Park catchment area. Also known as "Kulail".
Kulang	1984	20 km (12 mi) north	<a href="#">24°42′S</a> <a href="#">129°0′E</a>	Located on the banks of the Docker River, where it passes through the <a href="#">Bloods Range</a> and into Western Australia.
Kunapula	1978	46 km (29 mi) south	<a href="#">25°9′S</a> <a href="#">129°14′E</a>	
Kurkatingara	1983	65 km (40 mi) south	<a href="#">25°16′S</a> <a href="#">129°10′E</a>	Located on the track south towards <a href="#">Kalka</a> . Also written as "Kutjurntari". Located in Western Australia, near to <a href="#">Gill Pinnacle</a> and where the highway crosses Rebecca Creek. Belongs to Ngaanyatjarra people.
<a href="#">Kutjuntari</a>	1979	40 km (25 mi) southwest	<a href="#">24°55′S</a> <a href="#">128°48′E</a>	
Mantapayika	?	200 km (120 mi) southeast	<a href="#">25°28′S</a> <a href="#">130°13′E</a>	
<a href="#">Mantarur</a>	?			

		210 km (130 mi) southeast	<a href="#">25°35′S</a> <a href="#">130°13′E</a>	Also written as "Mantarurr" or "Mantaru". Located at a <a href="#">rockhole</a> in the western slopes of Butler Dome and Foster Cliff.
Mulga Green	?	60 km (37 mi) southeast	<a href="#">25°15′S</a> <a href="#">129°25′E</a>	
Oondaloo	?	4 km (2.5 mi) west	<a href="#">24°53′S</a> <a href="#">129°3′E</a>	Also written as "Undooloo". Located just outside town, in the valley between the Hope and Dean Ranges.
Petalu	1981	100 km (62 mi) southeast	<a href="#">25°15′S</a> <a href="#">129°30′E</a>	Also written as "Pitalu" or "Petjalu".
Pilakatal	1981	130 km (81 mi) southeast	<a href="#">25°21′S</a> <a href="#">129°48′E</a>	Located in the southern end of the Pottoyu Hills, near the Armstrong Creek.
<a href="#">Pirrulpakalarintja</a>	1983	200 km (120 mi) southeast	<a href="#">25°18′S</a> <a href="#">130°6′E</a>	Also written as "Pirurpakalarintja" or "Pimpakalarinytja".
Punritjanta	1976	31 km (19 mi) northeast	<a href="#">24°40′S</a> <a href="#">129°17′E</a>	Located on the banks of the Hull River, where it passes through the Bloods Range.
Puta Puta	1977	70 km (43 mi) southeast	<a href="#">25°4′S</a> <a href="#">129°38′E</a>	Also written as "Putaputa". An old <a href="#">soakage</a> located near to where the highway crosses the Chirnside Creek. <sup>[7]</sup>
Tjauwata	?	5 km (3.1 mi) southeast	<a href="#">24°54′S</a> <a href="#">129°7′E</a>	Also written as "Tjawata" or "Tjanwata". Located at the catchment <a href="#">delta</a> of the Docker River, on the south side of the gap in the Dean Range.
<a href="#">Tjunti</a>	1977	38 km (24 mi) east	<a href="#">25°1′S</a> <a href="#">129°24′E</a>	Located on the banks of the Hull River, between the Mannanana and <a href="#">Curdie Ranges</a> .
Tjuntinanta	1976	15 km (9.3 mi) east	<a href="#">24°51′S</a> <a href="#">129°13′E</a>	Located off the north side of the highway, on

Urilpila	1984	130 km (81 mi) southeast	<a href="#">25°13′S</a> <a href="#">130°4′E</a>	the banks of the Hull River. Located on the banks of the Armstrong Creek, south of the highway.
Walka	1979	40 km (25 mi) south	<a href="#">25°1′S</a> <a href="#">129°11′E</a>	Located on the banks of Giles Creek.
Walu	1984	41 km (25 mi) northeast	<a href="#">24°44′S</a> <a href="#">129°31′E</a>	Located on the track northeast towards the Bloods Range.
Wangkari	1977	46 km (29 mi) south	<a href="#">25°7′S</a> <a href="#">129°1′E</a>	Also written as "Wankari". Located on the banks of Giles Creek.
Warapura	1977	50 km (31 mi) southwest	<a href="#">24°54′S</a> <a href="#">128°44′E</a>	Also written as "Warrapura". Located in Western Australia, southwest of Gill Pinnacle. On Ngaanyatjarra land.
Wataru	?	4 km (2.5 mi) west	<a href="#">24°51′S</a> <a href="#">129°3′E</a>	Also written as "Wataroo". Located just outside town, off the north side of the highway.

Main sources for the statistics: [\[5\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

## Footnotes

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

- [↑](#) Also spelled *Kikingura*, *Kikingurra* or *Kikinkura*.[\[7\]](#)
- [↑](#) The name of the spirit has also been known as *kurrpannga*, *kurrpanngu*, *kulpunya* or *kuapunnn*.

## References

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

- [↑](#) [1.0](#) [1.1](#) [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) (25 October 2007). "[Kaltukatjara \(Docker River\) \(L\) \(Urban Centre/Locality\)](#)". *2006 Census QuickStats*. Retrieved 19 December 2011.
- [↑](#) [2.0](#) [2.1](#) [2.2](#) [2.3](#) "[Kaltukatjara / Docker River - MacDonnell Shire](#)". *macdonnell.nt.gov.au*. 2012. Archived from [the original](#) on 10 April 2013. Retrieved 29 October 2012.

3. ↑ [3.0 3.1 3.2 3.3](#) Ian Howie-Willis (1994). "Docker River". In David Horton (ed.). *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture*. Vol. 1. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. p. 296. [ISBN 978-0-85575-249-1](#).
4. ↑ [4.0 4.1 4.2 4.3](#) "[Community Profile: Kaltukatjarra](#)" (PDF). Darwin: General Practice Network, Northern Territory. 1 October 2010. Archived from [the original](#) (PDF) on 10 April 2013. Retrieved 13 April 2013.
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8. ↑ William Edward Harney (1963). *To Ayers Rock and Beyond*. Robert Hale Limited. pp. 175–180. [ISBN 978-1-8628-0003-8](#).
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10. ↑ Ken Crispin (2013). *The Chamberlain Case: The Legal Saga that Transfixed the Nation*. Scribe Publications. p. 8. [ISBN 978-1-921942-86-0](#).
11. ↑ Charles W. Moore; William J. Mitchell and William Turnbull, Jr. (1993). *The Poetics of Gardens*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. p. 53. [ISBN 978-0-262-63153-2](#).
12. ↑ "[Central Australian Health Planning Study](#)" (PDF). Plan Health Pty Ltd. July 1997. p. 78–79.
13. ↑ Dick L. Japanangka; Pam Nathan (1983). *Settle Down Country / Mere Arltyewele*. Alice Springs: Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. pp. 138–140. [ISBN 978-0-908150-05-2](#).

## Other websites

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [Community profile Archived](#) 2012-10-21 at the [Wayback Machine](#) from PY Media
- [Satellite image of Katukatjara](#) at Google Maps

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