

Aurukun Accommodation Booklet 2008



Written by
Members of the Local Accommodation Committee
2008

Aurukun

Aurukun is situated on the north west side of Cape York Peninsula. Approximately 1200 people live in the community. Aurukun is surrounded by the Archer, Watson and Ward Rivers. Wik Mungkan is the main language used, though there are several other dialects spoken by different family groups.

The climate revolves around two seasons, the 'wet' and the 'dry'. The wet season usually lasts from November to April. Rain can fall heavily for days in the wet season with evening thunderstorms a regular occurrence. The days can be hot and humid with temperatures in the high thirties. The dry season usually lasts from May to October, and the temperature is milder. It does get a little cooler in winter, so you will need light jackets/jumpers.

Community Services

- Aurukun Store
- Post office
- Bendigo Bank
- Aurukun Shire Council
- Library
- Aurukun Three Rivers Tavern (closed)
- Health Clinic
- Well-being Centre
- Police Station
- Presbyterian/Uniting Church

Aurukun Store

Operating Hours:

Monday to Friday	9.00am - 5.00pm
Closed for lunch	12.00pm - 1.00pm
Saturday	9.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday	9.00am - 12.00pm

The store stocks a moderate range of fresh, frozen and dry grocery goods and general wares such as fishing lines, clothes and toys. The store has EFTPOS facilities for purchases, but does not provide cash out service. The store operates a take-away which sells sandwiches, hamburgers and hot chips which is open until 6.00pm.

During the wet season the store is stocked by the barge, which comes in once a fortnight from Cairns. Fresh food



comes in by plane once a week.

During the dry season the store is stocked by the truck, which comes in once a week from Cairns.

Fuel is purchased through a \$5 fuel card purchased from the shop and topped up with funds to purchase fuel from the tanks at the town entrance. Fuel prices are approximately \$2.50+.

Due to the remote location the cost of grocery items is generally higher. Many people order bulk grocery items from Cairns or Mareeba. Generally, orders need to be placed the week before to ensure they are ready for transportation.

You can organise this by phoning Coles or Woolworths and setting up an account. Divide your order into dry, cold and frozen goods and then fax through your order. The supermarket will pack and send your order. Carriers servicing Aurukun are Bowyers or Tuxworth and Woods transport companies.

* Check with the school regarding goods collection procedures.

Transport Company

Tuxworth and Woods Carriers

Address

25 Redden Street, Cairns 4870.

Contact Details

Telephone: - 07 40 354 022

Fax: - 07 40 354 021



Goods need to be delivered to the Cairns Depot based at 25 Redden Street by your suppliers as follows:

Refrigerator/Freezer Goods –

To Cairns Depot between 7am and 9am each Monday morning only.

Dry Freight

To Cairns depot by Friday and depart by noon on Monday

Private Freight –

Consignment: - \$20.00 Consignment Fee

Dry Freight Rate: - \$0.28 per kilogram

Chiller / Freezer Rate \$0.60 per kilogram

2 Cubic Meters to the tonne

Fuel Levy as at 01/09/2008 is 10%

GST 10%

All the consignment dockets are priced when they leave Cairns, so payment is made by credit card through the Cairns depot.

Freight for the wet season may change to Bowyers Transport company early in 2009. The school will provide you with current transport information as carriers can change.



Post Office

Operating Hours:

Monday to Friday 9.00am — 12.00pm
 1.00pm — 3.30pm

The post office is closed for lunch and also when the plane arrives.

All mail is collected by school personnel and placed in your pigeon nest in the staff room.

Address your mail: name
 c/o Western Cape College
 Aurukun Campus
 Aurukun QLD 4871

Bendigo Bank

Operating Hours:

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm
Closed for lunch 12.00pm—1.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 12.00pm



Bendigo Bank operates an EFTPOS facility, so that you can withdraw money using your regular key card.

Aurukun Primary Health Centre

Operating Hours:

Monday to Sunday 8.30am - 5.00pm

The procedure for after hours emergencies is to press the buzzer which is located near the front door of the clinic.



The clinic is operated by a small and experienced nursing staff. They can provide general medications. However if you have specialist medication organise this before you come. Due to limited staff there are no appointments, rather they treat patients on severity of illness. Sometimes there can be long waiting periods.

The flying doctor operates from the clinic each week, Tuesday to Thursday. Check with the clinic regarding specialist visits.

Aurukun Three Rivers Tavern

The tavern is currently closed.

Aurukun has an alcohol management plan, which means there are severe fines for the carriage or transportation of alcohol to and within the community.



Library

The library is open several days a week. Open hours may fluctuate. Internet access may be available. Books and other items may be borrowed when the library is attended by staff.

Religion

There is a Presbyterian/Uniting Church in Aurukun. It is located on Kang Kang Road. Sunday services are at 9.00am and 7.00pm.

Police Station

The local number for the police station is 4083 4999.
The local phone number can be used or 000 for emergencies.
The station is opened from 8.30 am until 4.00 pm.
Licensing and registration operates on Fridays.

After hours calls are diverted to Cairns Police Station and a message is sent to the local police.



Aurukun Shire Council

Contact Details:

39 Kang Kang Road

Phone — 4060 6800



Garbage Collection

Monday to Wednesday and Friday.

Just leave your bin out and it will be

collected. Avoid leaving your bin out over night, as the dogs may disrupt it.

Traveling to Aurukun

Skytrans is the operating airline servicing Aurukun. Flight times are approximately 90 minutes from Cairns to Aurukun. Skytrans flies from the Cairns domestic Airport. There are no flights on the weekends.

The Dash 8 aircraft servicing Aurukun, restricts luggage to 16 kg.

Luggage over this amount will be charged \$4.00 per extra kilogram. If you are transferring in, keep your receipts and you will be able to claim back this charge.

Full fare return airfares are about \$806. But there are a limited number of local flights available at a discounted rate. So remember to ask for a local flight when making a booking. Some flights go via Lockhart River, so can make for a longer journey. Call Skytrans to check flight times and availability.

If you are traveling with your pet you can hire pet containers from Dogtainers. See Important Phone Numbers attached.

Alternatives

QANTAS Link services Weipa daily and takes approximately 90 minutes to travel to Cairns.

Charter flights can be arranged through several different carriers. This allows you to fly to Weipa and connect with the QANTAS Link flight to Cairns. Groups of at least 6 make this economical.

Flight time to Weipa is approximately 15 minutes.

Aurukun Teacher Accommodation

- * Res 1
four bedroom house



- * Res 2A and 2B
2 two bedroom duplexes



- * Res 3A and 3B
2 two bedroom duplexes



- * Res 6
3 bedroom house



- * Res 13
3 bedroom house



- * Res 15
3 bedroom house



- * Res 14A and 14B
2 two bedroom duplex



- * Res 12A and 12B
2 two bedroom duplex



Housing

All housing is equipped with a fridge, chest freezer and a washing machine. Some houses have basic furniture, such as a dining table and chairs, a lounge, and bookshelves. So you will need to bring a full kitchen set up, some furniture, bed and bedding and a TV and DVD player. It is important to pack all items that you think will make your new a house a home. (note; beds are available for staff who come on short term contracts).

**** You will need to contact the Local Accommodation Officer, before you arrive, to find out exactly what furniture is in your house. ****

Gas

Some of the staff accommodation have gas hot water systems. All of the accommodation have gas cookers. Gas bottles can be purchased from the store for \$175. Take your receipt to the Works Depot, at the Weipa end of Kang Kang Road, and they will deliver and install the gas. **Staff living in multi-tenancy housing remember to keep your receipts, as the cost of gas is reimbursed through Central Housing.**

Solar Heaters

A number of staff houses are fitted with Solar water heaters. During the wet season when there may be little or no sun to heat the water, you may need to switch on the hot water booster for a short period of time. These booster switches are usually located in the kitchen.

Electricity

All houses are equipped with power boxes. You will need to buy power cards from the store for your electricity. They come in a \$20 or \$50 dollar card. **Staff living in multi-tenancy housing remember to keep your Receipts, as the cost of electricity is reimbursed through Central Housing.**

Television

All houses have an AUSTAR dish installed. So you can connect the service if you wish. Otherwise, ABC, Imparja (a mix of channel 9 & 10), channel 7 and SBS are the channels available. Many teachers have good DVD collections.

Telephone and Internet

Next G is the mobile phone network. Once you know your address you can organise the connection of your home telephone before you arrive. Next G wireless or dialup are available for internet connection. The service is provided through Telstra and requires a modem (\$270) and possibly a 12 month plan. Contact Telstra for the different packages available.

Housing

Mosquitoes/Sand flies

All houses are fully screened, but bring plenty of mosquito repellent. During the build up and throughout the wet season mosquitoes abound. No aerosols are permitted in the uplift containers, so pump sprays or roll on repellents are recommended.

Pest control

Due to the climate, pests (rats & weevils) can be a nuisance. It is recommended that you bring adequate storage containers as most dry foods are best kept in the fridge or freezer. Also pest control products such as cockroach baits are a good idea.

Pets

If you have a dog you would like to bring, organise for it to come on the plane with you through Dogtainers. However it is important to remember that you may be sharing a house or yard with someone who may not be an animal lover. So you may need to be prepared to provide your own dividing fence.

The closest place to buy pet food is Weipa, so bring as much as you can in your uplift. Also there isn't a vet in town, so bring all tablets etc that your pet may need. There are a lot of dogs within the community, so a walking leash for your dog is necessary.

The Aurukun Council requires that you register your dog which does involve a small fee.

If bringing pets, please discuss it with the local accommodation officer.

Insurance

As most holidays you maybe away from your residence in Aurukun, it is highly recommended that you have home contents insurance.

Uplift

We highly recommend that you purchase as much non-perishable food, Non-flammable cleaning products, toilet paper, tissues, health items and toiletries as you can to include in your uplift. (Check your uplift information for detail regarding soap powders and other 'dangerous goods' prior to your purchasing these for uplift.) This will save you a lot in initial freight costs on your shopping. Also as there are a limited amount of brands available at the Aurukun store. This bulk shopping can cost up to \$1000, but it is a good idea to have a full pantry.

You may have to wait a few weeks for your uplift to arrive, so you should arrive with a basic kit of sheets, pillow, towel and toiletries.

The LAC will provide you with a basic kitchen set, until your uplift arrives.

You are entitled to a second uplift in the first 6 months.
Please discuss with administration.

What to bring in your uplift

Health

It is highly recommended that you have your hepatitis shots before you come to Aurukun. Present teachers suggest that you bring the following.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| * Worming tablets | * Disprin | THESE PRODUCTS
ARE NOT AVAILABE
OVER THE COUNTER
IN AURUKUN |
| * Head lice treatment | * Aspirin | |
| * A good antiseptic | * Cold & Flu tablets | |
| * First Aid Kit | * Vitamins | |
| * Sunscreen | * Some contraception pills not available here | |

Footwear

Sturdy footwear is a must due to the wet and the bauxite. You will also need open shoes because of the heat. It is highly recommended that you always have shoes on because there are diseases in the soil. For school workplace health and safety, professional footwear is required.

Kitchen

- * water purifier (not necessary but a good idea)
- * microwave, toaster and kettle

What to bring in your uplift

Miscellaneous

Torch and batteries (on rare occasions the power may go out, so you will need a torch handy)

Mop and bucket, broom and dust pan and a bin.

Camping gear and an esky

Personal school resources

But don't worry if you forget anything, as online shopping will become the normal way of shopping.

Some Useful Websites:

Personal School Resources

EDSCO, Brisbane:

www.edsco.com.au

Harleys Educational Supplies, Cairns:

www.harleyseducational.com.au

Two Dollar Shop: This is like Crazy Clark's online, so a good place to buy prizes for your classroom.

www.twodollars.com.au

Health Care

OnLine Pharmacy:

www.onlinepharmacy.com.au

ePharmacy:

www.epharmacy.com.au

General Household Items

K-Mart Online

www.kmart.com.au

Deals Direct

www.dealsdirect.com.au

Living in Aurukun

Transport

A four-wheel drive vehicle is highly recommended. **Vehicles need to be well maintained and reliable**, as the closest mechanic is in Weipa. The road to Weipa is mostly unsealed and it is approximately a 3 hour drive. The drive to Cairns will take about 10 hours. The roads are closed during the wet season.

Mountain bikes are an excellent form of transport around the community. Most facilities are within a few hundred metres of your accommodation. Bring a tyre repair kit and/or spare tubes and pump. All roads in town are sealed. Bring a lock and chain in order to secure your bike.

Camping

Camping out on the weekends and holidays is very popular. It is really only a dry season past-time as you cannot traverse the roads out of the community in the wet. You should always let someone know exactly where you will be and when you will return.

Permission to camp must be given by the traditional land owners and or the council. Staff at the school will help you with this information.

Sporting Facilities

Aurukun has a 25m salt water pool and a tennis court at the recreation centre. These are operational when the Sport and Recreation Officers are in town. The school has a basketball / tennis court.

Beaches

The closest beach is Obon and it is approximately a 10 minute drive from the community in the dry season. Obon is at the junction of the Ward River and the Archer River.

A popular beach is Amban and it is approximately an hour's drive north of the community. Amban is on Aurukun land, however it is leased by Comalco. You need to get permission from Comalco and the traditional owners before you go to Amban. If you have a boat you can access many isolated beaches.

It is not recommended that you swim anywhere in the Cape because of salt water crocodiles, and in the summer months, marine stingers.

Fishing

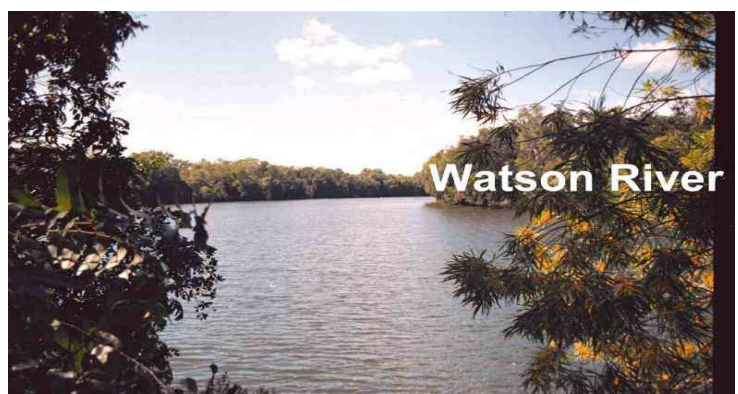


Fishing is an important part of daily life in the community.

If you have a boat, it can be included in your uplift. A 12ft boat will get you to most places on the river. There is scattered reef close to the mouth of the Archer river, and others further away.

It is recommended that you get your license BEFORE you arrive. Though on occasion Cape Fisheries staff visit Aurukun.

If you don't have a boat, then you can fish from the landing or at Obon.



Important Phone Numbers

Local Accommodation Officer (School)	07 4060 6127
Tuxworth and Woods Carriers	07 4035 4022 fax 07 4035 4021
Sky Trans	1800 818 405 07 4046 2462
Coles Mareeba	07 4092 2566 fax 07 4092 4131
Coles Westcourt Cairns	07 40518766 fax 07 40513828
Woolworths - Abbot St, Cairns	07 4051 2015 fax 07 4052 1023
Marlin Coast Vet Clinic	07 40576033
Airport Vet (will deliver goods to airport)	07 4053 3977 fax 07 4053 1772
Malanda Tablelands Vet (This vet visits Weipa fortnightly)	07 4096 7500 fax 07 4096 5064
Edge Hill Butchery	07 4053 1526 fax 07 4053 3080
Donaghy Butchers	07 4055 4253 fax same as phone
Mo Tackle	02 6652 4611
Northern Angler	07 4055 4117
Whitworths Marine & Leisure	07 4035 5933
Dogtainers Cairns	07 4055 2511 fax 07 4058 1333

Multi-tenant residences

You can claim back your electricity and gas costs if you are living in a multi-tenant residence.

You need to fill out a Goods and Services Voucher form, which you will find in the administration office. Along with the form you must send the original receipts from your electricity and gas purchases.

Receipts must be sent within 6 months of the purchase date, or they will not be paid.

It is also important to keep a photocopy of all forms and receipts for your records.

Send the Good and Services Voucher and the receipts to :

Sara Sanderson
Central Housing Services
PO Box 15033
City East
QLD. 4002

Any questions regarding this matter please call:

Sara Sanderson
Phone 1800 677 580

Thank you from the LAC Committee

**We hope you have found this
information helpful.**

