

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT the CAMP

Where is Balgo

- Balgo is one of Australia's most remote Indigenous communities. It is a small community of 360 Indigenous and 60 Non-Indigenous residents.
- Balgo is on the northern edge of Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert, in the south-eastern Kimberley close to (and half way down) the Western Australian-Northern Territory border. It is on the Tanami Track, approximately 690 km south of Kununurra and 850km north-west of Alice Springs.
- Balgo has an Administration Office (Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation), Balgo Clinic (with Flying Doctor Service) and Palyalatju Maparnpa Health Committee, a great Store (Outback Stores), a Catholic Church (Kutjungka Catholic Parish), a Catholic primary school (Luurnpa), a world-renown Art Centre (Warlayirti Art Centre), and a developing Trade Training Centre (Boystown).

Temperature

- The daytime temperature in Balgo ranges from 9C in July (winter) to 43C in January (summer). The Wet Season is in January through March.

TEMP 2010	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lowest	22	20	19	18	11	10	9	7	11	12	15	19
Highest	43	43	42	41	34	31	32	34	37	40	43	44

For more detailed information go to the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au

Contact with your Families and Friends

- If you have a mobile phone which is Telstra Next G then it will work in Balgo so you may give your phone number to family and friends. Your Next G phone will not work while we are travelling out bush or not in a town while on route to Balgo. If you do not have a Next G phone and you feel that you need to be in contact with your family (children) we can arrange for you to have access to a phone at your cost. We cannot accept incoming calls as there will be no one working in the office for the duration of the Camp.
- Mobile phone use will be restricted to meal times. Land line use between 5pm and 7pm WA times.
- In case of an emergency please arrange for your family to contact you through the Balgo Police at 08-91688978 or 0428938742

Accommodation

- Unless otherwise arranged, you will need to bring your own swag/bedding (including mattress, blankets, sheets, pillows). During the Women's Culture Learning Camp, and before and after setting out to the Women's Law Camp and the Ceremonial Dreaming Track Trek, you will live with the Women Elders on the Kapululangu Women's Law Ground which is just beyond the outskirts of the Balgo township. You will be housed in the Women's Law House on the Women's Law Ground. This is a women-only sacred space. It has a large room to sleep in, a kitchen, shower/toilet and four lockable rooms – the lockable rooms will be used to put your valuable belongings in.

Food

- There will be three meals on most days, except for arrival and departure days. The meals will cater for both meat-eaters, vegetarians and gluten free. If you require any special foods you will need to bring them yourselves (note that this is not covered in the Camp fee and is an additional cost). Meals will be prepared by a designated cook, but participants will be rostered on to assist at meal times. The Elders are given their meals first as a sign of respect. This is part of training in the Art of the Tilitja/Culture Worker.

Banking

There is no banking in Balgo but there is a Bank of Queensland ATM. The ATM often runs dry so it is best that you bring any cash you think you might need with you (minimal).

Store

Balgo Community Store is one of the best shops in the entire south-east Kimberley and has a broader range of goods than any of the Stores in Halls Creek. However, the cost of food is often much higher than Halls Creek and certainly much higher than prices in the cities. Buying from our Store however brings money into our community so we hope that you will use it.