



LEETON

This information is intended as a guide only. Please check websites.

Location:

Leeton is a city in an area of southern NSW called the Riverina.

It is 584km from Sydney, 470km from Melbourne and 371km from Canberra.

Leeton is 61km from Griffith and 125km from the major regional centre, Wagga Wagga. Other towns close to Leeton are Narrandera and Darlington Point.



Overview:

While Leeton is technically a 'city', it is much smaller than the neighbouring cities of Griffith and Wagga Wagga and is often called a 'town'. This being said, Leeton presents itself as one of the most innovative, inclusive and progressive places in regional Australia.

Leeton supports one of the most productive farming regions of NSW which has citrus, rice, grapes and wheat farms. There are also various factories linked to the farms such as SunRice and Berri Juices.

Like Griffith, Leeton is purpose-built town. It was founded when the government decided to build the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area in the early 1900s and the plan for the town was designed by Walter Burley Griffin who also designed Canberra and Griffith. Like these other cities, central Leeton has a distinctive circular road structure.

Leeton has separate commercial, administrative, health, residential, industrial and recreational areas and is considered a very 'well organised' place to live.

Like many regional centres, Leeton hosts many events including an annual band festival and agricultural show and every two years there is the SunRice Festival and the Art Deco Festival.

Leeton Shire Council has declared the area a Refugee Welcome Zone. This means that it has made a commitment to welcoming refugees into the community. There are refugee support groups in Leeton and programs to help refugees.

Who lives there:

The population of Leeton is approximately 11,600.

A number of Afghan asylum seekers have been living in Leeton for the last few years. There are also significant numbers from India and the Philippines.

How to get there:

It takes approximately 6 hours to drive from Sydney to Leeton.

Some ways to get to Leeton by public transport involve going to Wagga Wagga (by bus or train) and then catching a bus.

The cheapest way to get to Leeton by public transport is by bus (via Wagga Wagga) and this costs about \$57.

You can also get to Leeton by first catching a train to Wagga Wagga (prices for a one way ticket start at \$45 if you have a concession card and \$62 for an adult fare) and then a connecting bus to Leeton.

You can also fly to Leeton (the airport is called Narrandera-Leeton) on Rex Airlines. There are several daily flights to/from Sydney. One way prices start at \$170. Leeton Radio Cabs offer a daily taxi service to connect airport passengers requiring public transport to and from Leeton and can be contacted on (02) 6953 3555 for bookings.

Employment:

The economy in Leeton is strong and there are job opportunities for both unskilled and skilled workers in Leeton and the surrounding area.

Most of the unskilled jobs are linked to the local farms, the abattoirs (Rockdale Beef at nearby Yanko and JBS Riverina Beef) and food processing factories:

- SunRice
- Coprice
- Pacific Fresh
- The Leeton Juicing Co
- Freedom Foods
- Walnuts Australia
- United World Enterprises (UWE)
- Southern Cotton.

There are fewer skilled employment opportunities in the factories. Other areas of skilled employment include:

- health;
- trades (mechanics, fitters, welders, plasterers, machinists and cooks).

There are websites you can look at to find employment:

- The Irrigator (local paper): www.irrigator.com.au/jobs/
- Seek: www.seek.com.au/jobs/in-Leeton.

You might also like to make contact with:

Refugee Talent: specialises in linking refugees and employers (www.refugeetalent.com)

Thrive Refugee Enterprise: supports refugees to establish small businesses and provides access to micro-finance (www.thriverefugeeenterprise.org.au).

Education and training:

For adults:

- AMEP (English classes): NEW AMES (at TAFE)
- Vocational training: TAFE NSW Riverina Institute - Leeton Campus (Palm Avenue)
- Vocational and recreational courses: Riverina Community College (in Griffith).

For children:

- There are many primary and secondary schools in Leeton that have experience supporting students from other countries.
- There are facilities for pre-school aged children.

Accommodation:

The median weekly cost of renting a one bedroom apartment in Leeton is \$140 per week and \$180 for a 2 bedroom unit. Median weekly rent for a 3 bedroom house is \$260 and \$320 for a 4 bedroom house.

There are very few one bedroom rental options. If you are by yourself, it is much more economical to share a property with other people.

Websites you can look at to find rental accommodation include:

Realestate.com: www.realestate.com.au/rent/in-leeton,+nsw+2750/list-1

Domain: www.domain.com.au/rent/leeton-nsw-2705/

Amato Real Estate: www.leetonrealestate.com.au

Short term budget accommodation options include:

Leeton Caravan Park: lodge accommodation for \$35 to \$45 per night and self contained cabins from \$110 per night. www.leetoncaravanpark.com.au

Health Services:

The main hospital in Leeton is Leeton District Hospital (114 Wade Avenue).

Leeton Community Health Centre is located at the hospital.

The service that provides trauma counselling (STARTTS) is located in Wagga Wagga but visits Leeton. Phone the Wagga Wagga office on (02) 6921 4403 to make an appointment.

Places of worship:

There are many Christian churches in Leeton. Details can be found at the local Council or Library.

To find out about worship for Muslims, contact Riaz Ahmad on riazahmed1264@hotmail.com or via 24 Bella Vista Drive, Leeton.

Local transport:

In Leeton there is a Community Transport Program that provides transport support for many groups including those who are transport disadvantaged. To find out about this, contact the Council's Community Transport Coordinator on (02) 6953 6999 or email council@leeton.nsw.gov.au

Leeton Radio Cabs also offer a daily taxi service and can be contacted on (02) 6953 3555 for bookings.

Sport and recreation:

Like most regional centres, Leeton has a number of sporting teams and recreational options. Good places to find out about things to do are:

- Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library (Sycamore Street, corner Dooley Lane), www.leetonlibrary.com.au
- Leeton Visitors Information Centre (10 Yanco Avenue), www.leetontourism.com.au.

Shopping and food:

Leeton has a variety of shops but many people also travel to Griffith or Wagga Wagga to buy larger or more specialist items.

Both Woolworths Leeton and the Golden Apple Supermarket offer a limited range of halal food options within their stores. Local restaurants and pubs can accommodate halal food options on a prior request basis. The larger regional centres of Griffith and Wagga offer a wider range of halal grocery options.

Who can help you:

Leeton Multicultural Group: central point where new Leeton multicultural residents can go for help and friendship. It is run by a group of volunteers. The group is led by Paul Maytom and Susie Rowe www.facebook.com/Leeton-Multicultural-Group-665685743559908/.

Leeton Family Support Service- located out of the Leeton Multipurpose Centre on Wade Avenue (Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am to 4pm, Thursday 9am to 3pm)- (02) 6953 2952

Leeton Women's Conversation Group: led by Susie Rowe, a member of the Leeton Multicultural Group.

Where to get more information:

Leeton Shire Council: www.leeton.nsw.gov.au

Leeton Tourism: www.leetontourism.com.au

For general information in community languages about services available to people holding a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) or Temporary Protection Visa (TPV), see the DSS Fact Sheet: www.dss.gov.au/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/programs-policy/australian-government-support

