



STUDENT'S GUIDE

ARUA CITY AT A GLANCE



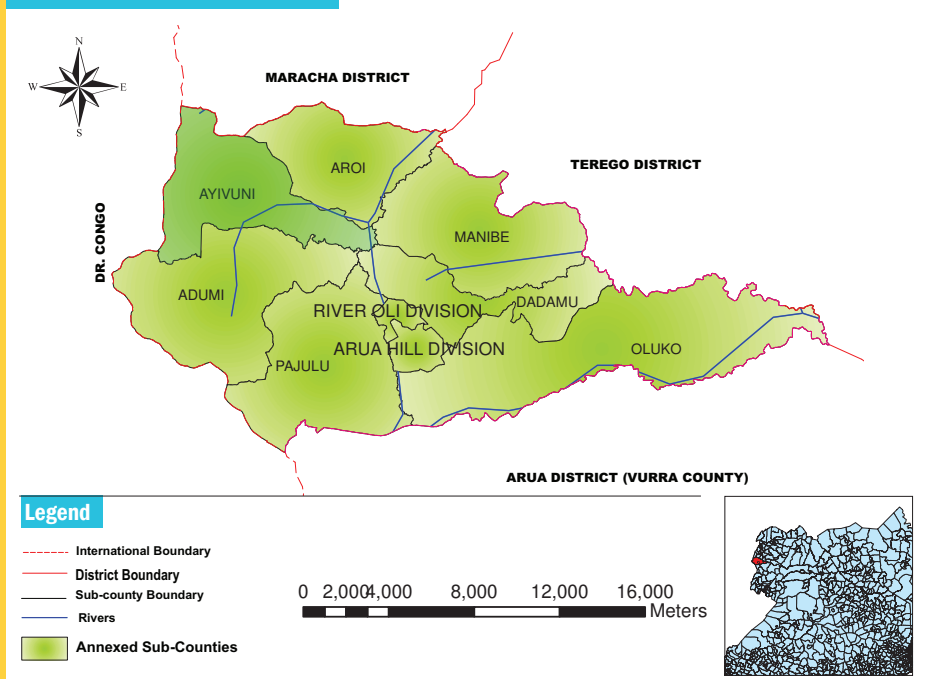
STUDENT'S GUIDE

ARUA CITY AT A GLANCE

Status

Welcome to Arua city, the largest commercial and social coordinating point for the entire West Nile region and the bordering countries of DR Congo and South Sudan. The city is bordered by the Democratic Republic of Congo on the west, Maracha district on the North, Terego district on the East, Vurra County (Residual Arua district) and Madi Okolo district on the South and South-East respectively with a total land area of 403.3 km².

MAP OF ARUA CITY



Distance from Kampala

The distance from the city headquarters to Kampala, Uganda's capital city is 520km. Notably, Arua city is just 75km from South Sudan to the North.

Location of MU Main campus

Muni University campus is located on Muni Hill, about 3.5km south of the city centre.

People

Arua city hosts people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds. However, the indigenous tribes are the Lugbara Speaking People.

Languages spoken

Common languages spoken include; English, Lugbara, Kiswahili, Kakwa, Alur, Ma'di and Arabic.

Climate and Temperatures

Arua has two major seasons; the dry season that runs from December to early March, and the wet season from Mid or sometimes late March to the end of November with sometimes a short dry period in June and July. The temperatures can range from 17-26°C in the wet season, and from 27-35°C in the dry season.

Travel by air

Arua Airport also referred to as Arua Airfield, is the second busiest domestic Airport in the country after Entebbe International Airport, with a recorded monthly average of 180 air traffic movements. According to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the airport is a Category 4C airport, which has a field length of above 1800 metres and can accommodate a plane of wing length of up to 24 metres. International students can therefore connect to Arua city from Entebbe International Airport.

Road Transport

Bus companies such as Nile Coach, Baby Coach, Zwadi coaches, Gaagaa, KK Travelers, Nile Star, YY Coaches, and Friends ply on the Kampala-Arua road on a daily basis. The buses have different boarding stages in Arua and Kampala. There are also commuter taxis and small cars, which operate within the city and beyond. Boda bodas and Tuktuk mostly operate within the city and the neighboring trading centers and villages. You can also ride your bicycle if you have one as most hostels do not have transport facilities.

Security

The security situation is adequate although it is always good to be your first police officer. Remember in Uganda we are still observing the curfew time of 9:00 pm to 6:00 am as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Radio Stations

Radio stations include; Arua One FM 88.7, Voice of Life FM 100.9, Pacis FM 90.9/94.5, Nile FM 94.1 and Access FM 96.3.

What to wear/Carry

Water bottles, umbrellas, bicycles, light wears but not transparent/revealing clothes.

Utilities

Electricity in the city is provided by the West Nile Rural Electrification Company (WenReCo) running a mini hydroelectric power plant. There are plans by the government to extend the National Grid to Arua which will improve the power supply in the city and the region. The main water service provider is the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC). The supply is many times challenged by the low water levels in the dry season.

Religion

Different religious practices exist in Arua besides the religious faiths and groups/denominations nationally recognized by the Ugandan constitution, namely; Anglican Christians, Roman Catholics and Islam. There are other Protestant denominations such as Full Gospel, Baptists, Methodists, Seventh Day Adventists, and Pentecostals.

Worship centers/Headquarters

The three main religious groups that are nationally recognized have their headquarters in Arua city in the following locations; Arua Catholic Diocese has its Cathedral at Ediofe, the Ma'di West Nile Diocese of the Anglican Church of Uganda has its Cathedral at Mvara, and the Islamic main mosque is Riyadh Mosque located on Rhino Camp Road.

Markets

The main city market is under construction and is in its completion stages. Temporarily, the main market is hosted at a place opposite Arua Hill Stadium along the Pakwach-Arua road. Other markets include Awindiriri Market along Pakwach-Arua road, Hardware market along Ediofe Enyau road and Owino market in the city centre along Duka Road; for selling and buying Kitenge and other fabrics.

Common foods in the market

You will find all sorts of common foods in Arua market ranging from beef, pork, fish (dry & fresh), peas, groundnut paste (Binyebwa), odi, honey, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, matooke, ripe bananas, cassava, and a wide range of greens and fruits at affordable prices.

Supermarkets

Several supermarkets and wholesale/retail shops exist in and around Arua town, such as; West Nile supermarket, Dream Shoppers, Chinese Supermarket and others tagged to petrol stations.

Library and book shops

Apart from the University library, there is also the Arua Public Library located near the Post office, opposite Arua Central Police Station. No fees are charged for using the library. There are also many bookshops in the city centre where you can buy a few textbooks and scholastic materials.

Hotels and Restaurants

For your food and accommodation, don't go far! Desert Breeze Hotel has an annex within campus for your convenience. The city has many hotels and restaurants including; the main Desert Breeze Hotel, White Castle, Eripak Resort, Rosevilla, Heritage Courts, Heritage Gardens, Oasis Hotel, Crane Resort, Destiny Court, Hill Top and Hill View, among others. In case your parents visit, they can find decent food and accommodation.

Hangout places in the city

The content will be "There are several places to go to and relax probably after a hectic day. For example, do you need some coffee? Go to Borderland in Mvara on Oluko road and grab your cup of well-brewed and tasty coffee.

Banks

Several banks are in Arua. These include Bank of Uganda, Postbank, Stanbic Bank, Centenary Bank, ABSA Bank, Equity Bank, Bank of Africa, Diamond Trust Bank, FINCA, Finance Trust, Housing Finance and DFCU Bank. There are also several Forex bureaux where you can easily exchange your money.

Sceneries/sites to visit

Arua City hosts the beautiful West Nile Golf Course, Barifa Stadium and Onduparaka Stadium. There is also Miradua falls in the neighbouring Maracha district, about 12 km away from Arua city.

Hospitals

Arua Regional Referral Hospital and Oli Health Center IV are government-aided health facilities. Please make university clinic the first point of entry for health seeking before going to the hospital. Other private health care facilities include; Pioneer hospital, Rhema Hospital, Arua Radiology, Family Care Hospital, Lancet Hospital, MBN Labs, Memorial Clinic and Reproductive Health Uganda; offering youth-friendly services.

For more information, please contact;



MUNI UNIVERSITY

P.O BOX 725 Arua, Uganda

Tel: +256 476 420 314 | **Fax:** +256 476 20 316

Email: info@muni.ac.ug

Website: muni.ac.ug