

# Trail of Tears

## National Historic Trail



Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama,  
Kentucky, Illinois, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma



## A Journey of Injustice

In 1838, the United States government forcibly removed about 15,000 Cherokee people from their homelands in Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia, and sent them to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma.

*The soldiers came and took us from our home. They first surrounded our house and took the mare while we were at work in the fields...and [they] did not permit us to take anything with us, not even a second change of clothes. - Ooloo-Cha, widow of Sweet Water*

Hundreds of Cherokee died in removal camps, on flat bed boats, and during the 800-mile walk west. Harsh weather, poor food supplies, and the spread of sickness affected these traveling parties. But once in Indian Territory, the Cherokee proved resilient; they reconstructed their lives and rebuilt their nation. This is a story of racial injustice, intolerance, and suffering, but it is also one of tenacity and survival.

Walking the Trail of Tears near Camp Ground Church in Illinois



## Retrace the Trail

Stretching 5,043 miles across nine states, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail offers sites that together form a journey of compassion and understanding. Visiting these sites takes in-depth trip planning. Sites are in private, municipal, tribal, federal, and state ownership. Check private sites for access. Check public sites for hours. Be sure to pick up local maps. At [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte) click Plan Your Visit, Places To Go.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
National Park Service  
[www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte)  
505-988-6098  
Trail of Tears Association  
[www.nationaltota.org](http://www.nationaltota.org)  
501-666-9032

Follow highway signs to Trail of Tears sites and trail segments.



Scan this code for [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte)

