

**RETRACE THE TRAIL**

The sites of Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, stretching 5,043 miles across nine states, together form a journey of compassion and understanding. The National Park Service administers the trail in partnership with the Trail of Tears Association; the Cherokee Nation; the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; federal, state, county, and local agencies; interested groups; and private landowners. Trail sites are in private, municipal, tribal, federal, or state ownership. Please ask for permission before visiting any trail sites on private lands and check with public sites for visiting hours and regulations. At [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte) click on Plan Your Visit for in-depth travel planning.



George Murrell married a Cherokee woman and journeyed with her to Indian Territory. In 1845 he built this house near Tahlequah.



Elkhorn Tavern (reconstructed) at Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas, witnessed thousands of Cherokee passing by.



Camp Ground Cemetery near Anna, Illinois, is said to contain the graves of Cherokee who camped nearby.



Hikers retrace a portion of the original northern route where it winds through the Crabb Abbott Farm near Grantsburg, Illinois.



Blocked by the icebound Ohio, some 1,700 Cherokee camped near Mantle Rock in Livingston County, Kentucky.



Cherokee James Vann built his house near what is now Dalton, Georgia.

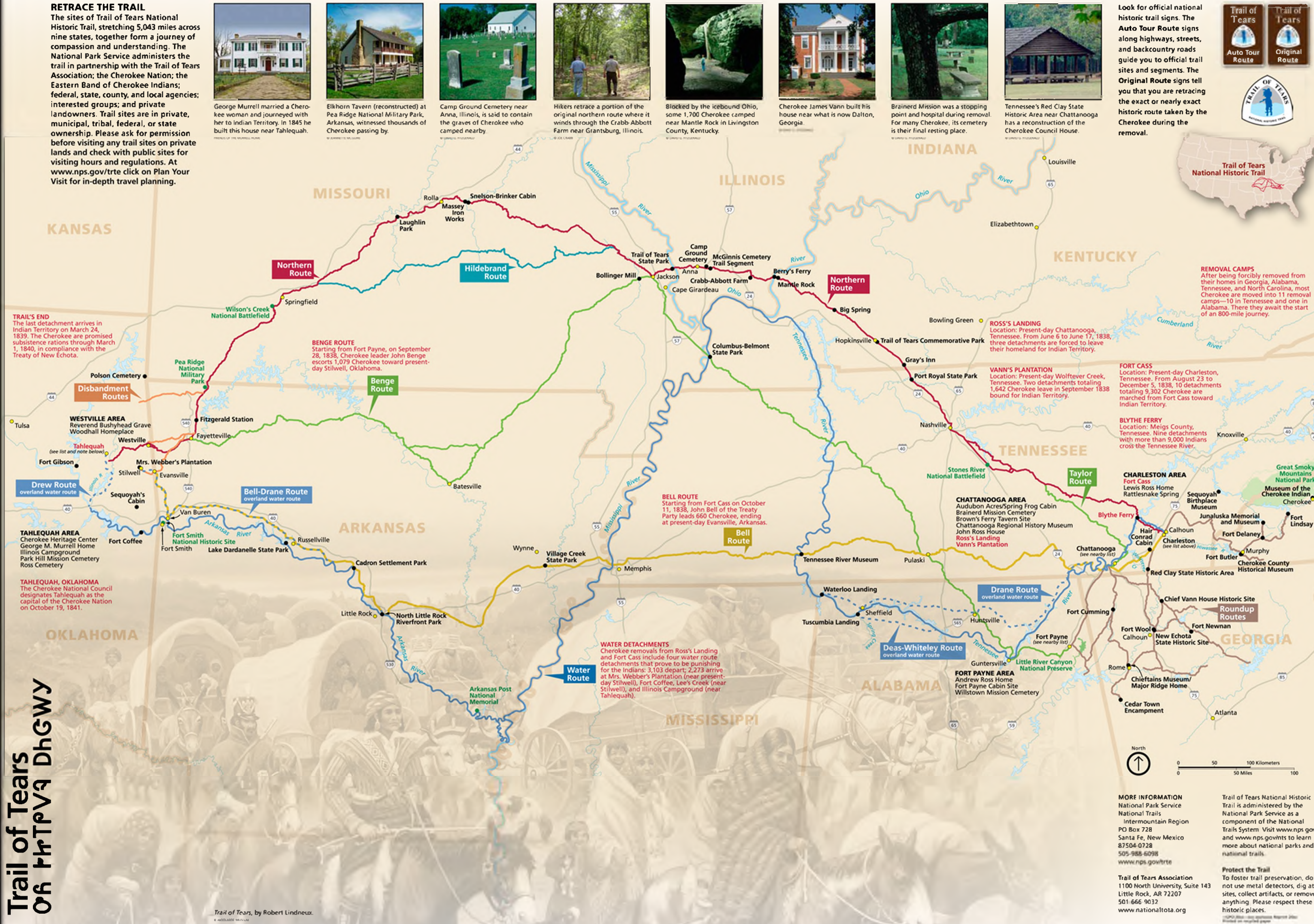


Brainerd Mission was a stopping point and hospital during removal. For many Cherokee, its cemetery is their final resting place.



Tennessee's Red Clay State Historic Area near Chattanooga has a reconstruction of the Cherokee Council House.

Look for official national historic trail signs. The **Auto Tour Route** signs along highways, streets, and backcountry roads guide you to official trail sites and segments. The **Original Route** signs tell you that you are retracing the exact or nearly exact historic route taken by the Cherokee during the removal.



**TRAIL'S END**  
The last detachment arrives in Indian Territory on March 24, 1839. The Cherokee are promised subsistence rations through March 1, 1840, in compliance with the Treaty of New Echota.

**Disbandment Routes**  
Locations: Westville, Fayetteville, Van Buren, Russellville, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Riverfront Park.

**WESTVILLE AREA**  
Reverend Bushyhead Grave, Woodhall Homeplace, Tahlequah (see list and note below).

**Drew Route**  
overland water route

**Tahlequah Area**  
Cherokee Heritage Center, George M. Murrell Home, Illinois Campground, Park Hill Mission Cemetery, Ross Cemetery.

**Tahlequah, Oklahoma**  
The Cherokee National Council designates Tahlequah as the capital of the Cherokee Nation on October 19, 1841.

**Water Detachments**  
Cherokee removals from Ross's Landing and Fort Cass include four water route detachments that prove to be punishing for the Indians: 3,103 depart; 2,273 arrive at Mrs. Webber's Plantation (near present-day Stilwell), Fort Coffee, Lee's Creek (near Stilwell), and Illinois Campground (near Tahlequah).

**BELLE ROUTE**  
Starting from Fort Cass on October 11, 1838, John Bell of the Treaty Party leads 660 Cherokee, ending at present-day Evansville, Arkansas.

**BENGE ROUTE**  
Starting from Fort Payne, on September 28, 1838, Cherokee leader John Bengé escorts 1,079 Cherokee toward present-day Stilwell, Oklahoma.

**BELL ROUTE**  
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**ROSS'S LANDING**  
Location: Present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee. From June 6 to June 17, 1838, three detachments are forced to leave their homeland for Indian Territory.

**VANN'S PLANTATION**  
Location: Present-day Wolfcreek, Tennessee. Two detachments totaling 1,642 Cherokee leave in September 1838 bound for Indian Territory.

**FORT CASS**  
Location: Present-day Charleston, Tennessee. From August 23 to December 5, 1838, 10 detachments totaling 9,302 Cherokee are marched from Fort Cass toward Indian Territory.

**BLYTHE FERRY**  
Location: Meigs County, Tennessee. Nine detachments with more than 9,000 Indians cross the Tennessee River.

**CHATTANOOGA AREA**  
Audubon Acres/Spring Frog Cabin, Brainerd Mission Cemetery, Brown's Ferry Tavern Site, Chattanooga Regional History Museum, John Ross House, Ross's Landing, Vann's Plantation.

**FORT PAYNE AREA**  
Andrew Ross Home, Fort Payne Cabin Site, Willstown Mission Cemetery.

**CHARLESTON AREA**  
Fort Cass, Lewis Ross Home, Rattlesnake Spring, Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, Junaluska Memorial and Museum, Fort Delaney, Fort Butler, Fort Murphy, Cherokee County Historical Museum, Red Clay State Historic Area, Chief Vann House Historic Site, Roundup Routes, Fort Newnan, Fort Wool, Calhoun, New Echota State Historic Site, Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, Cedar Town Encampment, Atlanta.

**Trail of Tears**  
OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS

Trail of Tears, by Robert Lindneux.

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**MORE INFORMATION**  
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Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is administered by the National Park Service as a component of the National Trails System. Visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte) to learn more about national parks and national trails.

**Protect the Trail**  
To foster trail preservation, do not use metal detectors, dig at sites, collect artifacts, or remove anything. Please respect these historic places.