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, 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 reconstructed their lives and rebuilt their nation, proving resilience. This is a story of racial injustice, intolerance, and suffering, but it is also one of Indian tenacity and survival.
Retrace the Trail

The sites along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, stretching 5,043 miles across nine states, 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 click Plan Your Visit and then Places To Go.

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