



AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE in GEORGIA

TRAIL OF TEARS The New Echota Treaty of 1835 relinquished Cherokee claims to land east of the Mississippi River. While the majority of Cherokee people considered the treaty fraudulent, on May 26, 1838 the United States government and the State of Georgia began the forced removal of the Cherokee from New Echota. More than 16,000 were relocated to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). Their ordeal became known as the Cherokee Trail of Tears - *nunahi-duna-dlo-hilu-i* - the trail where they cried.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Several Georgia sites are included in the official Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. An interactive map on the National Park Service website provides all the details and suggested travel routes. <http://www.nps.gov/trte/planyourvisit/places-to-go-in-georgia.htm>

The Vann Cabin in Cave Spring was recently discovered when work began to dismantle an old building, only to find an even older building underneath that has been officially documented as a Cherokee cabin. Restoration efforts are under way, but visitors can easily view the progress from the sidewalk in downtown Cave Spring. <http://www.cavespringhistoricalsociety.com/cabin>

THE CHEROKEE

- **New Echota, Capital of the Cherokee Nation** from 1825 to 1838 and Cradle of the Trail of Tears - A State Historic site near Calhoun - tour the museum, historic and reconstructed buildings including the phoenix Print Shop, a Court House, County House, the home of missionary Samuel Worcester, Vann's Tavern and several homes and farm buildings associated with the early 19th century Cherokee lifestyle.

www.gastateparks.org

- **Chieftain's Museum** - tells the story of Major Ridge, the prominent Cherokee leader who was assassinated by his people for signing the Treaty of New Echota, which led to the Trail of Tears.

www.chieftainsmuseum.org

- **Funk Heritage Center** - interprets the story through interactive displays, artifacts and exhibits of contemporary Native American art. On the museum's grounds is a recreated early 19th century settlers' village. A display documents the 1838 forced removal of the Cherokees from Georgia to Oklahoma.

www.reinhardt.edu/funkheritage

- Efforts continue to certify **Cherokee removal fort sites**. There are 15 Trail of Tears removal fort sites in Georgia; three have been verified and certification is underway. www.GATrailofTears.org

- **Northeast Georgia History Center Cherokee Garden & Cooking School** - Visit Cherokee Chief Whitepath's restored cabin and learn firsthand what life was like for these Native Americans. The new Cherokee Garden features plantings identical to those used for food and medicinal purposes during this time.

www.negahc.com

- **Chief Vann House**—Showplace of the Cherokee Nation - The two-story Federal brick home was built in 1804 by Chief James Vann. Vann helped to establish a Moravian mission in 1801, making a significant contribution to the education of young Indians. www.gastateparks.org



OTHER INDIAN GROUPS

- **McIntosh Reserve** – site of Creek Indian Chief William McIntosh’s plantation. It was here on the morning of May 1, 1825, that Upper Creek Indian warriors, carried out the Creek National Council’s orders of “Fire and Blood.” They killed McIntosh and another chief, burned the plantation, destroyed what stock they could not carry off, but spared the lives of all women and children and one white man. www.carrollcountyga.com/pages/mcintosh_reserve_park
- A rock wall, measuring 855 feet long, zigzags along the highest point on **Fort Mountain**. High atop a wind-swept summit stand the ruins of an ancient stone wall whose prehistoric origins remain steeped in mystery and legend. Many believe the wall was built by Indians ceremonial purposes during the Woodland Period at least 1,000 years ago. The park is situated in the Chattahoochee National Forest 8 miles from Chatsworth. www.gastateparks.org
- **Etowah Indian Mounds**, the Native American ceremonial center of North Georgia from 900-1500 AD - The flat-topped earthen knolls, the largest standing 63 acres, served as temple platforms for the “Priest-Chief” and as burial sites for nobility. It is the most intact Mississippian Cultures site in the southeastern United States. The site is located in Cartersville. www.gastateparks.org
- Restored ceremonial earth lodge, **Ocmulgee National Monument** - Located near Macon, the modern center introduces the visitor to the native culture that thrived here from 900-1150 AD. Displays trace human occupation from Ice Age Hunters, to the Creek Indians, to the establishment of an English Trading Post in 1690. www.nps.gov/ocmu

- Seven Mounds preserved at **Kolomoki Mounds State Park** Located near Blakely, the mounds thrived between 1000-1300 A.D. The mounds include Georgia’s oldest great temple mound, two burial mounds, and four ceremonial mounds. Mound E was excavated and lies exposed in the west end of the museum. www.gastateparks.org
- **Fort King Georgia Historic Site** positioned on a river bluff in Darien, had been used by Indians for over 10,000 years. The lower bluff on the Altamaha River was occupied by a succession of Indian groups, was later inhabited by the Spanish missionaries, and eventually became a British fortified outpost in 1721. The museum at the site relates the story of the Indian, as well as the Spanish, British, and Scottish generations of Americans. www.gastateparks.org
- **August Museum of History** – Includes prehistoric artifacts and Native American culture of the Stallings Island area. www.augustamuseum.org
- **Scull Shoals** – Native Americans lived around Scull Shoals for at least 10,000 years. Excavations have produced spear points, scrapers, and other stone tools dating to the Early Archaic Period (8,000-1,000 B.C.) Pottery and stone tools from the Woodland (1,000 BC-AD900) and Mississippi (AD 900-1540) periods are also frequently found in the area. www.scullshoals.org

Chieftains Trail

Explore the history of three distinct Native American cultures: the prehistoric Mississippian, the Creeks, and the Cherokees. This scenic 150-mile auto route in Northwest Georgia tells the story of the Native American Indians who once lived in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. www.chieftaintrail.com

WHO WAS STAN WAITE (Cherokee name “Dagataga”)?

He was born in Oothcaloga, Cherokee Nation (now Calhoun, Georgia) on December 12, 1806, the son of Uwatie, a full-blood Cherokee, and Susanna Reese, daughter of a white father and Cherokee mother. Stan Waite’s Cherokee name meant “stand firm.” Stan Waite was a leader of the Cherokee Nation and a brigadier general of the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War. He commanded the Confederate Indian cavalry of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi, made up mostly of Cherokee, Muskogee and Seminole, and was the final Confederate general in the field to surrender at war’s end. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stand_Waite

EVENTS

Visit www.exploregeorgia.org for a listing of events in Georgia

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