


CHEROKEE
north carolina





DISCOVER CHEROKEE'S HISTORY.

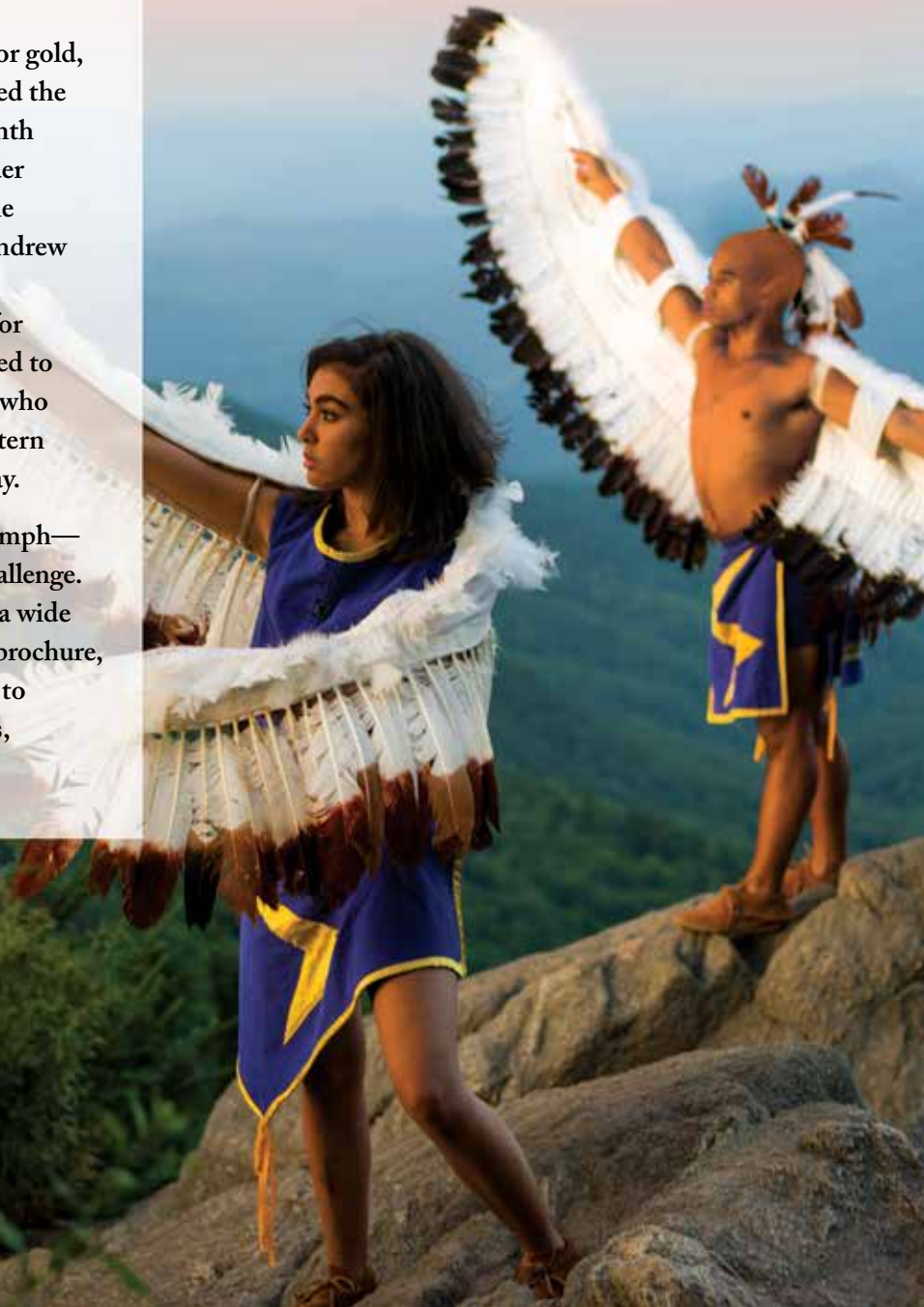
In Cherokee, history flows through each and every adventure. As you explore, you'll find that the spot you're on likely comes with a story, a belief, or a historical event that's meaningful to the Cherokees. From Judaculla the giant's stomping grounds to a turn in the Oconaluftee River where Uktena the snake may have lived, history is everywhere.

A look back begins in 2000 B.C., when Cherokee's ancestors were hunters and gatherers, often sharing their beliefs through storytelling, ceremonies, and dance. They would soon develop a sophisticated culture, however. In fact, by the time the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto first encountered Cherokees in 1540 A.D., they already had an agricultural system and peaceful self-government.

NOW, AS IT WAS THEN.

De Soto and his explorers came looking for gold, carrying with them diseases that devastated the Cherokee population. By the late eighteenth century, the Cherokees' land was also under attack, leading to the tragedy known as the "Trail of Tears." In 1830, US President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, moving the Cherokees west in exchange for their homeland. The 1,200-mile journey led to more than 4,000 Cherokee deaths. Those who escaped and remained behind are the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians you know today.

The modern Cherokee story is one of triumph—a strong people built on a history full of challenge. Today, you can experience that history in a wide variety of adventures. As you explore this brochure, create your own itinerary, and then head to VisitCherokeeNC.com for tickets, times, and ways to join us.



ENTER THE MUSEUM OF THE CHEROKEE INDIAN.

You begin at the beginning, naturally—in the Story Lodge, watching wide-eyed as an animation of Cherokee's creation story plays. You're introduced to key figures like the Great Buzzard and Water Beetle before moving on to explore ancient villages. A hologram of a medicine man surprises you, as does the interactive display of Cherokee's writing system. You learn about its author, Sequoyah, and his impressive accomplishments. Later, by adding a Cherokee Experience to your visit, you make a fire with a Tribal member. You've just packed nearly 12,000 years into a single afternoon.

The Museum's exhibits, artwork, and hands-on technology bring Cherokee history to life—in ways history books simply aren't capable of.

For tickets and times: 828.497.3481
or CherokeeMuseum.org



UNLEASH YOUR WILD SIDE.

You've never been this close to a live elk herd before. As they thunder across the meadow from the mouth of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, it's intoxicating. Just like the feeling of the waterfalls, Mingo and Soco, you hiked to this morning. Their power was mysterious—the opposite of how relaxed you felt tubing yesterday. That was more like the warmth of last night's bonfire, as the Cherokee storyteller explained how the bear lost his tail.

And that's how it happens. Cherokee's outdoor adventures roll from one right into the next. Here, camping and hiking quickly become birding expeditions, and peaceful drives on the Blue Ridge Parkway suddenly find you in pursuit of Cherokee legends. So plan on one night, but pack for two.

Choose your outdoor adventures: 800.438.1601
or VisitCherokeeNC.com



EXPLORE THE OCONALUFTEE INDIAN VILLAGE.

The smell of wood smoke hits your nose first. It's sweet; welcoming. Around you, a Cherokee village winds through the old forest, the day already busy. Your heart races a beat as a Cherokee warrior nearby you practices a blowgun. Veering down a wooded path, you see two women making stunning beaded belts. But suddenly, there's a commotion: it's the "Time of War." The peaceful day ends, a ceremony begins, and you and the entire village prepare for battle.

The Oconaluftee Indian Village is an authentic re-creation of historic Cherokee life, down to the last detail. From the art of burning out a canoe to ceremonial dances you can participate in, this is ancient Cherokee—today, just as it was then.

For tickets and times: 828.497.2111
or CherokeeHistorical.org



FISH CHEROKEE. AND CATCH SOME HISTORY.

The sun's just peeking through the canopy of oak and sycamore, and around your waders is the beginning of thirty miles of freestone streams—arguably the longest stretch of managed private waters in the eastern United States, and full of nearly every variety of trout. You wonder if you can keep your spot a secret as the first strike of the morning hits.

Fishing is allowed from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Catch-and-release fly-fishing is open and available year-round across 2.2 miles of water designated exclusively for that style. The catch-and-keep Enterprise Waters are closed to all anglers March 14, 2020 to March 27, 2020, and officially open March 28, 2020.

For licenses and tournament registration:
828.359.6110 or FishCherokee.com





SHOP QUALLA ARTS AND CRAFTS MUTUAL, INC.

It all begins with a basket. As you turn it over in your hands, a kind voice mentions it is made from hundreds of strands of river cane. Each strand was cut, scraped, and worked with while damp—a Cherokee technique thousands of years old. You note the tag with the artist's name, which leads to the artist's story. And that leads to the Bird Clan mask carved in buckeye. And the etched pottery made from local clay.

Part shopping experience, part gallery dedicated to the preservation of Cherokee's craftsmanship and skill, Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc. promotes the work of over 350 Cherokee artisan members. Since 1946, Cherokee's artistry has been evident on every shelf and in every display.

Shop authentically: 828.497.3103
or QuallaArtsAndCrafts.com


RIDE THE FIRE MOUNTAIN TRAILS.

The woods are a blur as you catch your first cool mountain air of the day. Kicking out to correct, you lean in hard as you bang through a short flat. Then it's a little more air before sliding into a dipping, steep right-hander. Now it's up a slight rise, until over your breathing you hear...a Cherokee war cry? Whatever it was, it's inspiring, and you finish the Kessel Run with a personal best.

If you like your trails with a nice flow of features like steep berms, tables, rock gardens, and blinds, Fire Mountain has a variety of routes that are smooth, fast, and fun. The trails are designed for mountain biking, trail running, and walking, and you decide how hot the adventure gets. Each speed is free to you and your family.

For trail maps go to VisitCherokeeNC.com





SEE THE OUTDOOR DRAMA “UNTO THESE HILLS.”

Twinkling stars begin to emerge just as Hernando de Soto, the Spanish conquistador, first meets the Cherokees. Sensing trouble, you pull your blanket tighter, amazed as Yonaguska, the Cherokee leader, navigates the oncoming New World. You nearly cry out during the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, and you’ve almost recomposed yourself when the “Trail of Tears” begins. That, coupled with Tsali’s great sacrifice, leaves you reaching for the tissues. During the explosive, upbeat ending, you realize this play has covered the period from 1780 to today’s Cherokee—and nearly your entire emotional range. “Unto These Hills,” the original Kermit Hunter version of the outdoor drama, portrays the incredible story of the Cherokee people. It’s performed nightly at 8 p.m. throughout the season, except Sundays, and only at Cherokee’s Mountainside Theatre.

For tickets: 866.554.4557
or CherokeeHistorical.org

PLAY SEQUOYAH NATIONAL GOLF CLUB.

You take a last practice stroke over a ticklish downhill five-footer. You're on Sequoyah National's 16th hole, called *Selu* for the Cherokee corn goddess, and this is for three skins and a better-tasting dinner at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort tonight. As your putt begins its short journey on this immaculate bentgrass green, you offer a silent "thank you" to the greenskeeper, with your ball hanging on the top edge—before trickling in. You can't remember having this much fun taking your buddies' money.

Robert Trent Jones II has seldom had a better assignment than building this 6,600-yard Cherokee track. With its views of the Great Smoky Mountains, and flowered valleys tucked into a blanket of oaks and firs, keeping your head down is a near impossibility.

Book your tee time at 828.497.3000 or SequoyahNational.com






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How will Cherokee affect you?

Visit CherokeeNC.com | 800.438.1601

